How **birth order** influences your personality

Nowadays, it is an accepted fact that our position in the family – that is, whether we're an oldest child, a middle child, a youngest child, or an only child – is possibly the strongest influence there is on our character and personality. So what influence does it have?

The oldest child

Firstborn children often have to look after their younger brothers and sisters, so they're usually sensible and responsible as adults. They also tend to be ambitious and they make good leaders. On the negative side, oldest children can be insecure and anxious. This is because [1] *H*.

The middle child

Middle children are more relaxed than the oldest children, probably because [2] ___. They're usually very sociable – the kind of people who get on with everybody. They are also usually sensitive to what other people need, because [3] ___. For the same reason, they're often quite good at sorting out arguments, and they're always sympathetic to the ones on the losing side, or in general, to people who are having problems. On the other hand, middle children can sometimes be unambitious, and they can lack direction in life.

The youngest child

Youngest children are often very outgoing and charming. This is the way they try to get the attention of both their parents and their older brothers and sisters. They are often more rebellious, and this is probably because [4] ___. They can also be immature and disorganized, and they often depend too much on other people, because [5] ___.

The only child

Only children usually do very well at school, because they have a lot of contact with adults. They get a lot of love and attention from their parents, so they're typically self-confident. They're also independent, as they spend so much time by themselves. And because [6] ___, they're often very organized. Only children can sometimes be spoilt, because [7] ___ by their parents. They can also be quite selfish and get impatient, especially when things go wrong. This is because [8] ___.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

I Read the article again and complete it with reasons A–H.

A they grew up between older and younger brothers and sisters

B it's easier for them to break the rules – by the time they were born, their parents were more relaxed about discipline

C their parents were more relaxed themselves by the time the second child arrived

D they are given everything they ask for

E they have always been the baby of the family

F they spend a lot of time with adults

G they've never had to sort out problems with other brothers and sisters

H ~~when the second child was born, they lost some of their parents' attention, and maybe they felt rejected~~

LIVEWORKSHEETS