



Extra Training

Use of English Task 1612

Read the text. Some sentences are missing. Match the sentences (1-12) to the gaps (A-J).

There are two extra sentences.

My relationship with Mike is founded on admiration and envy. (A) ___. I think it's to do with him being an intellectual. He can explain philosophical dialogue as though he's talking about marmalade.

When I came back from Guyana to London at the age of seven, everyone was a stranger. (B) ___. Incredibly beautiful women floated in and out of his room, like Hilary and Valerie, who looked like the two women from *Abba*, with flowing hair and high boots. Mike had one foot in our mundane working-class world and the other in this exotic world of glamorous women and books. (C) ____.

At 13 I went back to a school in the West Indies, and when I returned to London at 17, Mike was the only person I knew. On my first night we went to the Chelsea Drug Store. (D) ___. Wow! I couldn't believe it.

After I'd graduated, I went into television, through a programme called *Skin* that was set up to answer some of the criticism that London Weekend Television wasn't covering black and Asian communities in London. Mike, meanwhile, was teaching and very unhappy. (E) ___. I had young children myself by then, and I was slightly disapproving. Our relationship became a bit strained. Then he met Jenny, who is his partner now, and all sorts of other things fell into place for him. He became a writer.

(F) ___. But earning a living from it has been incredibly difficult for him. Neither of us has felt truly recognised or valued, but Mike more so than me. (G) ___. And that means you are always on trial - it's an exhausting way to live your life.

Recently *The Guardian* lined up reasons for and against me becoming mayor of London. (H) ___. What kind of reason is that?

Mike's books are the best evocation of London since Dickens. (I) ___. It's as if he's serving a lifelong apprenticeship, and I feel hurt on his behalf.

Mike created opportunities for me that had never been open to him. He could have become very bitter about that, but he hasn't. In our family there are those who are pragmatic and those who entertain and feed our souls. (J) ___. I pay the rent and he's the emotional one who makes life worth living.

/adapted from: Ann McFerran, 'Relative values' *The Sunday Times Magazine*/

1. I'm the former; Mike's the latter.
2. But I was still his little brother, and he laughed at my jokes.
3. Mike was 10 years older than me, and I thought he was very glamorous, bohemian and intellectual.
4. Being black was a 'plus'.
5. His room was always full of books.
6. For Mike, being a writer isn't just a task, it's an identity.
7. But in spite of his achievements, like winning the crime-writer award, he isn't recognised.
8. He was very unsettled, and he'd separated from his elder son's mother.
9. Mike finds that reason infuriating.
10. I envy his capacity to write books, and I envy his ability to make people fall in love with him - and not just women.
11. Whatever I've done here, I've pretty well always been the first black person to do it.
12. There I was, a boy from a little Caribbean fishing town, at a club on the King's Road.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

