

Family Issues

Reading

A Read the text. For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

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AN UNUSUAL UPBRINGING

Mark Cole did not have a normal childhood. He tells Sandra Dickens about the good and bad points of his upbringing.

When friends ask me about my family, they're always really interested to hear what I have to say. I didn't have what you'd call a traditional upbringing. Both of my parents are diplomats, so my childhood was different from what most people have experienced. We moved a lot and I find it difficult talking to people who have always lived in the same place because, although they're interested in my life, they don't really understand.

I was born in England and I started school there. Then, when I was six, we moved to New York because my mum and dad got jobs at the British embassy there. We lived there for three years and I went to an American school. I was quite happy there, but then we moved to Japan because my parents were sent there for work. My brother Bill and I attended an English-speaking school in Tokyo. Living in the US and in Japan was quite exciting for me at that age. After

all, the best games and toys were made in those countries! We also lived for a time in Spain and Egypt. Going back to England during our holidays was a bit disappointing, to be honest.

Apart from all the moving around, there was another thing about my childhood that was different – we had nannies because my parents often worked long hours. Our nannies used to pick us up after school and take care of us until our parents came home. We got on really well with our nannies. They were very relaxed and kind to us. We missed our parents, but we were never really lonely. The nannies were always there to look after us and they always listened if we had problems or if we were frightened about anything.

We spent a lot of time with the nannies, but only from Monday to Friday. The weekend was family time! We really enjoyed ourselves then. We loved hearing our parents' stories about all the different people they had met. They had such glamorous lives, but when we were all together, they were quite normal. My parents were great – they were strict when they had to be, but also understanding. And they were determined to give us a sort of 'international' education, so that

we would understand the world around us better.

I suppose the only bad thing about my upbringing is that as soon as I'd made friends in a new country, we would move to a different one. It's quite hard at that age to say goodbye to your friends, knowing that you probably won't ever see them again. I suppose I resented my parents' jobs at those times. However, Bill and I have always been very close, which helped a lot. No matter where we lived, we always had each other, and we always had a lot of fun.

On the other hand, by living in different countries we learnt so much about other cultures. Even though it was ages ago, I can still speak some Japanese, and I'm fluent in Spanish. Another great thing was all the delicious food we ate in those countries. I have to say, it was much better than British food!

Would I like to do the same job? I think so.

I think I take after my parents in many ways, and I would quite like to do a job that involves travelling and living in other countries. If I have children of my own, I think they would probably enjoy it too. It's not bad at all – you can travel the world, and it's like being on holiday all the time!

1 The writer says that his parents

- A didn't understand him.
- B couldn't talk to people easily.
- C are different from most parents.
- D treated him really badly.

2 How did the writer feel about going back to England?

- A He was very excited.
- B He felt it wasn't the best place for his parents.
- C He thought it was a bit boring there.
- D He was very happy to be back.

3 What part did nannies play in the writer's upbringing?

- A They went to school with him.
- B They sometimes took the place of his parents.
- C They were often frightened.
- D They worked seven days a week.

4 How did the writer feel about living abroad?

- A It was a great learning experience.
- B He missed his friends in England.
- C The family moved too much.

D He doesn't want his children to live the same way.

5 The writer uses the phrase 'I take after my parents' (line 63) to show that he

- A loves his parents very much.
- B is happy about the way his parents brought him up.
- C feels jealous of his parents' jobs.
- D has some of his parents' characteristics.

50. This page may be photocopied for use in class.

C Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

- 1 I know you're only _____, but I don't like it when you call me 'baby face'!
A arguing B teasing C bullying D fighting
- 2 Do you think that job _____ is more important than getting a good salary?
A satisfaction B enjoyment C reliance D contentment
- 3 You're the only person I can confide _____.
A on B to C in D at
- 4 She'll be green with _____ when she sees your new CD player!
A need B desire C jealousy D envy
- 5 What have you and Julia got _____ common?
A in B at C on D by
- 6 Breaking up with your boyfriend or girlfriend can be a very _____ experience.
A bearable B traumatic C depressed D incompatible
- 7 Guess who I _____ into in the street yesterday.
A struck B slapped C bumped D hit
- 8 You shouldn't _____ down on her just because of the way she dresses.
A look B take C knock D do

D Write one word to complete each sentence.

- 1 Davey takes _____ his dad when it comes to shopping – they both hate it!
- 2 Chuck was brought _____ on a small island in the Pacific.
- 3 I don't know how they put up _____ such noisy neighbours.
- 4 The interviewer asked me what I want to be when I grow _____.
- 5 Diana's never let me _____ before, so I'm sure I can rely on her this time.
- 6 I can't believe that Helen and Jim have split _____. They seemed so happy together.
- 7 Would you mind looking _____ our cats while we're away? They need to be fed twice a day.
- 8 She's a great captain. All the other players in the team look _____ to her.

E Write the word in brackets in the correct form to complete each sentence.

- 1 The movie was so _____ (**SCARE**) I had to hide behind the sofa!
- 2 If you're _____ (**BORE**), why don't you ask Sindy if she'll play with you?
- 3 Darren was really _____ (**FRIEND**) to Liz this morning. I think he likes her!
- 4 The shop assistant was so _____ (**HELP**), I had to ask to speak to the manager.
- 5 Do you know how many _____ (**PERSON**) live in Los Angeles?
- 6 What's the _____ (**DIFFER**) between 'honesty' and 'sincerity'?
- 7 Don't be so _____ (**CHILD**)! It's only a little spider!
- 8 Baz and I had an _____ (**ARGUE**) over where to go on holiday this year.

F Write a word from the box to complete each sentence.

6

of • from • about • in • with • for

- 1 'You can't prevent me _____ phoning my friends!' shouted Lisa angrily.
- 2 You don't believe _____ UFOs, do you?
- 3 My parents don't approve _____ me going out on week nights.
- 4 Which teacher is responsible _____ dealing with disciplinary problems?
- 5 We had to complain _____ the food. It was awful!
- 6 Could you help me _____ the washing-up?

G Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

20

- 1 At first, I wasn't sure who to turn to for help.

know

At first, I _____
_____ who to turn to for help.

- 6 Did you all have fun on the picnic?

enjoy

Did you all _____
_____ on the picnic?

- 2 It was my first trip to Egypt, so I really wanted to visit the Pyramids.

never

I _____
Egypt before, so I really wanted to visit the Pyramids.

- 7 We're investigating ways to help teenagers with emotional problems.

into

We're _____
ways to help teenagers with emotional problems.

- 3 Jimmy lent me some money.

from

I _____ Jimmy.

- 8 Seeing Sam run into the road was a terrifying experience.

when

I _____
_____ Sam run into the road.

- 4 Carol still has to tell Phil that she can't go to his party.

yet

Carol _____
_____ that she can't go to his party.

- 9 What's the service designed to do?

aim

What _____
_____ the service?

- 5 Why was the basketball match cancelled at the last minute?

off

Why did they _____
_____ the
basketball match at the last minute?

- 10 In fact, Simon didn't stay in last night.

go

In fact, Simon _____
_____ last night.

Final score

70