Children & the family

1 Complete these sentences with an appropriate word or phrase from A, B or C.

1. Mr and Mrs Smith live at home with their two children. They are a typical example of a modern ..... family.

   A. extended ***B. nuclear*** ***C. compact***

2. Mr and Mrs Popatlal live at home with their aged parents, children and grandchildren. They are a typical example of a traditional ..... family.

   A. nuclear ***B. enlarged*** ***C. extended***

3. Mrs Jones lives on her own and has to look after her two children. There are a lot of ..... families like hers.

   A. single-parent ***B. mother-only*** ***C. mono-parent***

4. Some parents need to ..... their children more strictly.

   A. bring down ***B. bring about*** ***C. bring up***

5. When I was a child, I had a very turbulent ..... .

   A. upbringing ***B. upraising*** ***C. uplifting***

6. Mrs Kelly is ..... and finds it difficult to look after her children on her own.

   A. divorced ***B. divided*** ***C. diverged***

7. Many men believe that ..... is the responsibility of a woman.

   A. childhelp ***B. childcare*** ***C. childaid***

8. ..... is a particularly difficult time of life for a child.

   A. Convalescence ***B. Adolescence*** ***C. Convergence***

9. A person's behaviour can sometimes be traced back to his/her ..... .

   A. creative years ***B. formulating years*** ***C. formative years***

10. The country has seen a sharp drop in the ..... in the last few years.

    A. birth rate ***B. baby rate*** ***C. born rate***

11. She has five ..... who rely on her to look after them.

    A. dependants ***B. dependers*** ***C. dependents***

12. ..... crime is on the rise, with over 30 per cent of thefts being committed by young people under the age of eighteen.

    A. Junior ***B. Juvenile*** ***C. Children***

2 Match sentences 1 – 12 with a second sentence A – M. Use the key words and phrases in bold to help you.

1. Mr and Mrs White are very **authoritarian** parents.
2. Mr Bowles is considered to be too **lenient**.
3. Mr and Mrs Harris lead **separate lives**.
4. Billy is a **well-adjusted** kid.
5. The Mannings are not very **responsible** parents.
6. My parents are **separated**.
7. Parents must look after their children, but they shouldn't be **over-protective**.
8. Professor Maynard has made a study of the **cognitive processes** of young children.

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9. I'm afraid my youngest child is **running wild**.
10. She looks quite different from all her **siblings**.
11. There are several **different and distinct stages of development** in a child's life.
12. Tony was raised by a **foster family** when his own parents died.

A. They don't look after their children very well.
B. He is fascinated by the way they learn new things.
C. He very rarely punishes his children.
D. I live with my mother and visit my father at weekends.
E. He never listens to a word I say, and is always playing truant from school.
F. Brothers and sisters usually bear some resemblance to one another.
G. Although they are married and live together, they rarely speak to each other.
H. They are very strict with their children.
I. Of all of these, the teenage years are the most difficult.
J. Children need the freedom to get out and experience the world around them.
K. He's happy at home and is doing well at school.
L. Many families take in children who are not their own.

3 Complete this case study with one of the words or phrases from Exercises 1 and 2. You will need to change one of the word forms.

Bob's problems began during his 1..... years. His parents got 2..... when he was young, and neither of them wanted to raise him or his brother and sister, so he was 3..... by a 4..... chosen by his parents' social worker. Unfortunately, his foster father was a strict 5..... and often beat him. Bob rebelled against this strict 6..... , and by the time he was eight, he was already 7..... , stealing from shops and playing truant. By the time he reached 8..... , sometime around his 13th birthday, he had already appeared in court several times, charged with 9..... crime. The judge blamed his foster parents, explaining that children needed 10..... parents and guardians who would look after them properly. The foster father objected to this, pointing out that Bob's 11..... – his two brothers and sister – were 12..... children who behaved at home and worked well at school.

This has raised some interesting questions about the modern family system. While it is true that parents should not be too 13..... with children by letting them do what they want when they want, or be too 14..... by sheltering them from the realities of life, it is also true that they should not be too strict. It has also highlighted the disadvantages of the modern 15..... family where the child has only its mother and father to rely on (or the 16..... family, in which the mother or father has to struggle particularly hard to support their 17.....). In fact, many believe that we should return to traditional family values and the 18..... family: extensive research has shown that children from these families are generally better behaved and have a better chance of success in later life.

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