

Reading

1 Read the text. Match sentences A–E with gaps 1–5.

One child families – are they good for us?

¹ ___ Or are you an only child? Parents in China are excited about the news that now they can have more than one child. So how are family sizes different around the world?

² ___ In Turkey, parents usually have three children. Four out of five children in the USA have brothers or sisters. Most American families have two children. But the American actors Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are famous for their very big family. They have three children and three other children from different countries. Zahara comes from Ethiopia, Pax comes from Vietnam and Maddox comes from Cambodia.

³ ___ You can talk to your brother or sister when you are worried about your problems. You can learn lots of things from your siblings. They can teach you new facts. And learning how to get on with each other can teach you life skills too.

What about only children? ⁴ ___ Many of the parents of only children worry about this. People say that only children can't share and are not friendly.

However, according to lots of studies, only children are no different from children with siblings. They learn to share in the classroom, or with cousins, step-brothers and step-sisters and their friends. So do only children get benefits? ⁵ ___ Only children usually get on very well with their parents and they are very independent.

- A In Europe, the average family has two children.
- B They don't have brothers or sisters to learn from or share with.
- C Have you got any brothers or sisters?
- D The answer is yes.
- E According to research, a sister or brother is an advantage.

2. Read again. Are the sentences True(T) or False(F)?

1. Parents in China had only one child some years ago.
2. In Turkey families usually have more children than in America.
3. When you have sibling, you are unfriendly.
4. Only children in families have problems with parents.
5. Only children and children with siblings are different.