

Noun clauses after *be*

The downside of, the upside of, the hard part about, the good thing about, the only thing about, the trick to, the secret to, and one difficulty with are used in complex phrases that introduce noun clauses after *be*.

The downside of sharing a bedroom is (that) it's hard to have any privacy.

The hard part about being a twin is (that) people are always calling you by the wrong name.

The trick to living in a crowded house is (that) you have to find a private space of your own.

One difficulty with being the youngest is (that) everyone is always telling you what to do.

The phrases ending with a preposition can be followed by a gerund phrase, *not* + a gerund phrase, or a noun phrase.

The secret to **getting along with your siblings** is (that) you have to respect their privacy.

The good thing about **not being in a big family** is (that) you always get to choose what's on TV.

The upside of **a large family** is (that) you always have someone to spend time with.

The only thing about **working moms** is (that) they have less time to spend with you.

1 Complete the sentences with *about*, *of*, *with*, or *to*.

1. The best thing about my grandmother living with us is that she's a great cook.
2. The upside _____ being a two-income family is we can afford a few small luxuries.
3. One difficulty _____ living with my in-laws is that they want everything their way.
4. The trick _____ living in a large family is you have to learn to respect each other.
5. The hard part _____ strict parents is you always have to remember the rules.
6. The problem _____ not going to our family reunion is I won't see my cousins.

2 Rewrite the sentences. Change the noun phrases in boldface to gerund phrases.

1. The trouble with **a big family** is it's expensive to feed everyone.
The trouble with having a big family is it's expensive to feed everyone.
2. The trick to **a two-income family** is you have to schedule family time together.
3. The hard part about **a big house** is there's so much work to do.
4. The upside of **a big house** is no one has to share a room.
5. The only bad thing about **little brothers** is I always have to babysit them.
6. One good thing about **little sisters** is they really look up to you.
7. One problem with **an extended family** is we had to get a bigger car.
8. The greatest thing about **a small house** is the bills are a lot lower.

