



A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday, but never remembers her age.  
*Robert Frost, American poet*

## 3A The generation gap

**1 GRAMMAR** past simple, past continuous, or *used to*?

**a** Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

1 I didn't went out much when I was a teenager.

I didn't go out

2 We taked my parents out for dinner last night.

\_\_\_\_\_

3 My brother used to had a beard, but now he's shaved it off.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 We were sit in the garden when my grandparents arrived.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Where you stayed when you went to Greece?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I didn't used to eat many vegetables when I was a child.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What was you doing when I saw you in town  
yesterday? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 I gave up trying to explain when I realized that  
you didn't listening. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 You use to play in the street when you were young?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 My girlfriend stoped eating meat when she was a  
student. \_\_\_\_\_

**b** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs. Use the past simple, past continuous, or *used to*. Sometimes more than one answer may be possible.

- 1 My parents didn't own a car until they got married. (not own, get married)
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ late this morning, so I \_\_\_\_\_ time for breakfast. (wake up, not have)
- 3 When our guest arrived, I \_\_\_\_\_ to the children and my husband \_\_\_\_\_ the dinner. (read, finished)
- 4 Emily \_\_\_\_\_ glasses until she \_\_\_\_\_ working at the computer all day. (not need, start)
- 5 Ben \_\_\_\_\_ the doorbell because he \_\_\_\_\_ to music with his headphones on. (not hear, listen)
- 6 Luckily, they \_\_\_\_\_ very fast when they \_\_\_\_\_ the lamppost. (not drive, hit)
- 7 I \_\_\_\_\_ in Germany for a year when I \_\_\_\_\_ a student. (live, be)

- 8 We \_\_\_\_\_ in the high street, but then they  
\_\_\_\_\_ a new hypermarket near our house.  
(go shopping, build)
- 9 My son \_\_\_\_\_ his boarding pass while we  
\_\_\_\_\_ at the airport for our flight. (lose, wait)
- 10 We always \_\_\_\_\_ our holidays in the same  
village when we \_\_\_\_\_ children. (spend, be)

- c Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs.  
Use the past simple, past continuous, or *used to*.  
Sometimes more than one answer may be possible.

I only ever <sup>1</sup> met (meet) one of my grandparents, and that was my dad's mother. We <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (see) her every Sunday afternoon when I was little. One day, my Granny <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look after) me because my parents <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) a friend in hospital. In the morning, I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (play) in the garden, while my gran <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) lunch. She <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (call) me when the meal was ready. Unfortunately, while I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (run) into the kitchen I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) my little finger in the door and pulled off the nail. It <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (hurt) a lot, but I was more upset because I <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not think) the nail would grow again. However, my gran patiently <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) that I would soon have a new fingernail. After that, I <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look forward to) seeing her every Sunday, so that I <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (can) show her how my nail <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (progress).

### 3 VOCABULARY stages of life

Complete the sentences with the singular or plural form of a word or phrase for a stage of life.

- 1 Their *baby* is only two weeks old, so he spends most of his time sleeping.
- 2 T\_\_\_\_\_ usually take more notice of their friends than they do of their parents.
- 3 I'm sure Jim isn't 40 yet, but he's definitely i\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_ th\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 One of the most important events for a p\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ is starting secondary school.
- 5 Jake's dad is i\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_, so he'll probably retire soon.
- 6 T\_\_\_\_\_ are exhausting when they've just learned to walk.
- 7 Laura is in her third year of university, so she must be i\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_ tw\_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 My mum is now officially a p\_\_\_\_\_. She was 65 last Friday.
- 9 My boyfriend says that he wants to have lots of ch\_\_\_\_\_, but I'm not so sure.

## 4 READING

a Read the article once and choose the best title.

- A How to cope with a teenage daughter
- B Mums and teenage girls: a love-hate relationship
- C Why women eventually turn into their mothers

If you are part of a family with a teenage girl, you are no doubt aware of the chaos that their hormones can cause. A recent study has shown that, on average, teenage girls **fall out** with their brothers and sisters 257 times each year. The rows are not only reserved for **siblings**, however, as they also have 157 arguments with their fathers. But the person who is most frequently on the receiving end of a **tantrum** is their mother. The results of the study showed that a typical teenage girl has 183 **rows** with her mother each year.

According to the study, the third most common cause of rows between mother and daughter is the relationship the girl has with the rest of the family. Top of the list of causes is bedroom tidiness, followed by **answering back**. In fourth and fifth place come relationships with boys and staying out late. Other causes include appearance, attitude to school work, money, manners, and the use of **bad language**. This testing period can go on for several years, but the good news is that, in most cases, it **eventually** comes to an end.

It seems that women finally start to appreciate their mothers in their early twenties – by the age of 23, to be exact. But **despite** the frequent arguments, most mothers and daughters have moments when they are **close**. Four in ten of the women in the study said that they sometimes had **heart-to-hearts** with their mothers about things that were worrying them. They regard these conversations as crucial in helping them get through their difficult teenage years. At the same time, the study shows that three quarters of women are grateful to their mum for the way they were **brought up**, even if they didn't realize it at the time. And 67 per cent recognize that their mum made them the person they are today.

When the 2,000 women in the study were asked about the ideal age gap for the perfect mother-daughter relationship, they recommended a difference of around 25 years. But few of the women think it is necessary for daughters to discuss personal matters with their mothers. Only one in five feel that mums and their daughters should be best friends who tell each other everything. Instead, three quarters feel that the relationship is best if some things remain private.

In summing up the situation, a representative from the organization that carried out the study said, 'Being a teenager is hard, but having a mum to turn to and talk things through or ask questions is **priceless** in helping young women to manage.'

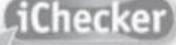
**b** Read the text again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

- 1 Teenage girls often get angry because of their hormones. T
- 2 They argue most with their fathers. —
- 3 The most common cause of arguments between a teenage girl and her mother is the way the girl treats her brothers and sisters. —
- 4 Mothers and daughters have more arguments about going out at night than about having relationships. —
- 5 They usually don't stop arguing until the daughter is in their late twenties. —
- 6 Less than half of the women said that they discussed their problems with their mothers when they were teenagers. —
- 7 75% of the women in the study think that their mothers did a good job. —
- 8 The ideal age for the mother of a 19-year-old girl is 40. —
- 9 Nearly all of the women think that daughters should tell their mothers everything. —
- 10 In general, mothers can give essential advice to teenage girls. —

c Match the **highlighted** words and expressions in the text to the definitions.

- 1 brothers or sisters \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 noisy arguments \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 in the end \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 argue and stop being friends with somebody  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 replying rudely to somebody \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 a sudden explosion of anger  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 words that are considered offensive by most people  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 looked after and taught how to behave  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 9 near each other emotionally \_\_\_\_\_
  - 10 in spite of \_\_\_\_\_
  - 11 of very great value \_\_\_\_\_
  - 12 conversations in which you say exactly what you feel  
\_\_\_\_\_
-

## 5 LISTENING

- a**  Listen to a radio programme about a new TV series. Which word describes how the two groups of people feel about each other at the end of the first episode? Circle the correct answer.

- 1 hostile
- 2 neutral
- 3 sympathetic

- b** Listen again and correct the mistakes.

- 1 There are **four** participants in each group.

five

- 2 The *juniors* are all in their **thirties**.

- 3 The *seniors* are all over **80**.

- 4 The *juniors* thought that they were going to be in **a documentary**.

- 5 Both groups were **pleased** to be sharing the same house.

- 6 Each group received **six hundred pounds** to go shopping with.

- 7 The *juniors* bought a lot of **healthy food**.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 The *seniors*' questions were about **literature**.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Sam doesn't know much about **geography**.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 The next episode of *Forever Young* is on **Friday**.  
\_\_\_\_\_