Siblings

Useful tips how to do the task:

When you want to know if a sentence fit in a gap, read the sentences before and after the gap as well as the sentence itself, and ask yourself these questions:

- Does it make sense?
- Does it fit grammatically? (tenses, plurals, pronouns, etc.)
- Does it make the topic of the paragraph?

1. Read the useful tips. Then match gaps (1-4) in the text with sentences (A-E). There's one extra sentence which does not fit any of the gaps.

A According to the website, the answer is: around the age of 25.
B But other brothers and sisters get on well from an early age.
C We get on well – and we don't argue.
D Give your brother or sister some time alone when they need it.
E Most teenagers have a difficult relationship with their brothers and sisters.

2. Choose the best summery of the text: a, b or c.

a A lot of teenagers do not get on well with their brothers and sisters. However, the relationship is usually good when they are adults.
b Some teenagers get on well with their brothers and sisters. These people usually get on well when they are adults too.
c A lot of teenagers do not get on well with their brothers and sisters. The relationship is usually bad when they are adults too, because people don't change.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

'I don't get on well with my brother. He's very different from me and we argue a lot.'

'Sometimes I want to be alone. But my sister is always there!'

'I can't have secrets when my brother is around. He reads my text messages!'

'My sister uses my things – and she doesn't ask me first! I hate that!'

According to the website GettingPersonal.co.uk, these problems are not unusual. [1]__ They argue a lot. In general, teenagers are not worried about their brothers and sisters when things go badly for them. And they are not proud of them when things go well!

But most adults are very keen on their brothers and sisters and have a good relationship. So when does the situation change? [2]__ For example, Madison is 28 years old. Her brother, Tyler, is 26. 'I remember big fights, horrible fights with Tyler,' says Madison. 'But now, our relationship is completely different. [3]__ We go out together two or three times a month and we have a great time. We're interested in the same things.'

But for teenage brothers and sisters with difficult relationships, what can they do? How can they get on well? Here are a few ideas.

- When your brother or sister uses your things, don't get angry about it – learn to share.
- Imagine your brother or sister is a friend – and be nice!
- Don't tell people your brother or sister's secrets.
- [4]__

Of course, the other answer is: just wait ten years!

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