

## READING COMPREHENSION (62018)

### I. ПРОЧИТАЙТЕ ТЕКСТ И ВЫПОЛНИТЕ ЗАДАНИЯ К НЕМУ

§ 1. The evidence for harmony in the family may not be obvious in some households. But it seems that four out of five young people now get on with their parents, which is the opposite of the popularly-held image of angry teenagers locked in their room after endless family rows.

§ 2. An important new study into teenage attitudes surprisingly reveals that their family life is more harmonious than it has ever been in the past: more than half of 13 to 18-year-olds get on with their brothers and sisters; and one in three has not argued with their parents during the past twelve months.

§ 3. “We were surprised by just how positive today's young people seem to be about their families”, said one member of the research team. “They’re expected to be rebellious and selfish but actually they have other things on their minds; they want a car and material goods, and they worry about whether school is serving them well. There’s more negotiation and discussion between parents and children, and children expect to participate in the family decision-making process.”

§ 4. So it seems that this generation of parents is much more likely than parents of 30 years ago to treat their children as friends rather than subordinates. “My parents are happy to discuss things with me and make compromises,” says 17-year-old Daniel Lazall. “I always tell them when I'm going out clubbing, or which girl I'm going out with. As long as they know what I'm doing, they're fine with it.”

§ 5. But maybe this positive **view** of family life should not be unexpected. It is possible that ideas of adolescence being a difficult time are not rooted in real facts. A psychologist comments, “Our surprise that teenagers say they get along well with their parents comes because of a brief period in our social history when teenagers were **identified** as different beings. But that idea of rebelling and breaking away from their parents really only happened during that one time in the 1960s when everyone rebelled.”

§ 6. “The present generation has grown up in a period of economic growth, and as a result teenagers appear to believe much more in individualism and self-reliance than in the past. That has contributed to their confidence in the fairness of life, and thus to a general peace within the family unit.”

§ 7. Greater family stability has to be a good place for young people to start out in life, and the findings of the study support this. In spite of some gloomy forecasts about the decline of the family, the future looks good!

*Выберите один из предложенных вариантов ответа в соответствии с содержанием приведенного выше текста.*

**A. What is important about the study into teenage attitudes?**

- 1) It confirms previous findings.
- 2) It shows that most teenagers do not get on with their parents.
- 3) It focuses on unexpected facts about family relationships.

**B. What is surprising about young people today, according to the research team?**

- 1) Their parents' attitude to them.
- 2) They think that education is important.
- 3) They negotiate with their parents about material goods.

**C. According to the results of the survey, parents today differ from their own parents because they**

- 1) listen to what their children say.
- 2) talk to their children more than they did before.
- 3) respect their children more as equals.

**D. The purpose of the article is to**

- 1) help people improve family relationships.
- 2) demonstrate that popular ideas about relationships may be false.
- 3) suggest ways of educating children in developing relationships.

*Определите значение указанного слова в тексте.*

**1. view (§ 5)**

- a) scenery      b) opinion      c) appearance

**2. identified (§ 5)**

- a) regarded      b) resembled      c) reminded

**II. ПРОЧИТАЙТЕ ТЕКСТЫ (1—4). ОТВЕТЬТЕ НА ВОПРОСЫ.**

**1. Phil Morston**

I remember sitting in the plane thinking to myself: “What have I let myself in for?” The first few days were scary: I was all on my own on the other side of the world with nothing planned. But I soon met up with people to travel with. Some you get on with, others you don't. Some had every day planned out in minute detail, when in practice things can change and it's great to have the freedom to go with the flow. Being away for a year, you do occasionally get lonely. To cheer myself up, I'd sit down and write a fortnightly email home about everything I'd been up to.

**2. Leila Stuart**

You meet all sorts of people when travelling alone. I even made a friend on the plane out there. Some people are keener to make friends than others but if someone's chosen to do the same type of trip as you, you've probably got lots of ideas in common. The advantages of a pre-planned tour are that you can get an agency to take care of all the arrangements, which can be time-consuming to do yourself — but it does mean that you're tied to a predetermined itinerary, which wouldn't suit everyone.

### 3. Danny Holt

Travelling solo creates opportunities to meet people. There's no substitute for sharing the experiences of the day with a companion, and being alone forces you to seek someone out. There's also the wonderful freedom to do what you like, when you like, without having to convince anybody that it's a good idea. My advice would be to give solo travel a go — it can be very liberating. Try a short trip to begin with, just in case it's not for you. Another thing is stay in the nicest places your budget permits. Miserable hostels can really spoil a trip.

### 4. Kerry Winterton

Fun as it is, travelling solo also has its low points, including occasional loneliness and the pressure that you're under to make your own mind up about everything. I chose to travel alone because I wanted to do something different, but I did miss people from home, and sometimes fell out with other travellers I'd teamed up with along the way. But I learnt to accept that some people have different attitudes to mine; that you have to put up with irritating people in hostels and accept not having as much privacy as you're used to at home. The best thing for me about travelling alone was that it enhanced my independence and helped me feel more self-assured.

#### *Which student mentions*

- A. having doubts at the beginning of a trip?
- B. appreciating not having to waste time organising practical details?
- C. becoming more tolerant of other people?
- D. feeling better after keeping in touch with others?
- E. liking not having to agree an itinerary with others?
- F. meeting people with a similar outlook on life?