

I was born in 1936 and I lived with my family in a village near Bristol. My father was a fruit farm 1. _____ and my mother was a housewife. But when our teacher 2. _____ from my school, my mother asked for the school books and started a small school at home. I think about nine children 3. _____ to study with us. Mother taught us French and English, even though she was very 4. _____! Because it was the war, most people 5. _____ much food. We were lucky as we had lots of land so we 6. _____ our own vegetables and we had chickens, rabbits and a pig. But mother 7. _____ every day, which I hated! I still can't stand them now. I remember hiding 8. _____ in my pockets – and 9. _____ in the garden. Luckily I didn't ever wait for them to grow! I think that was the beginning of my gardening career, because after I left home that's what I studied at college! We didn't have a television until I was about ten. 10. _____, we listened to the radio a lot after school, and we 11. _____ and board games, and play with friends outside. We 12. _____ many holidays – people didn't in those days. There wasn't much petrol, and it was very expensive. But when I was a bit older we had a caravan and I remember it had 13. _____ that hung down under 14. _____. We 15. _____ on holidays!

Nowadays people buy so many clothes, but when I was little people
16._____. My grandmother 17._____ and make skirts and blouses from them. And she
18._____ every year that she knitted from wool she took from old jumpers. These jumpers were lovely –
19._____. And when we made holes in our socks grandmother 20._____. Mmm ... we didn't have a lot in those days, but I had a very happy childhood.