

#### 4 VOCABULARY adjectives of personality

- a Complete the opposite adjectives in sentences 1–5.

Opposites attract



- 1 She's extroverted, but he's sh .
- 2 She's generous, but he's m .
- 3 She's hard-working, but he's l .
- 4 She's talkative, but he's q .
- 5 She's funny, but he's se .

- b p.153 Vocabulary Bank Personality

#### 5 PRONUNCIATION word stress

- a Underline the stressed syllable in the multi-syllable adjectives.

- 1 anxious ambitious generous  
rebellious
- 2 sociable reliable
- 3 responsible sensible
- 4 competitive talkative sensitive
- 5 unfriendly insecure impatient  
immature

- b 1.24 Listen and check. Then listen again and repeat. Are prefixes (e.g. un-, in-) and suffixes (e.g. -ous, -ble, -tive) stressed?

#### 6 READING

- a What's your position in your family? Are you the oldest child, a middle child, the youngest child, or an only child?
- b Look at four groups of adjectives. Which group do you think goes with each position in the family (e.g. the oldest)?
- 1 outgoing, charming, and disorganized
  - 2 responsible, ambitious, and anxious
  - 3 self-confident, independent, and spoilt
  - 4 sociable, sensitive, and unambitious
- c Read the article and check your answers.



## How birth order influences your personality

Nowadays, it is an accepted fact that our position in the family – that is, whether we're an oldest child, a middle child, a youngest child, or an only child – is possibly the strongest influence there is on our character and personality. So what influence does it have?

### The oldest child

Firstborn children often have to look after their younger brothers and sisters, so they're usually sensible and responsible as adults. They also tend to be ambitious and they make good leaders. On the negative side, oldest children can be insecure and anxious. This is because <sup>1</sup> H.

### The middle child

Middle children are more relaxed than the oldest children, probably because <sup>2</sup> . They're usually very sociable – the kind of people who get on with everybody. They are also usually sensitive to what other people need, because <sup>3</sup> . For the same reason, they're often quite good at sorting out arguments, and they're always sympathetic to the ones on the losing side, or in general, to people who are having problems. On the other hand, middle children can sometimes be unambitious, and they can lack direction in life.

### The youngest child

Youngest children are often very outgoing and charming. This is the way they try to get the attention of both their parents and their older brothers and sisters. They are often more rebellious, and this is probably because <sup>4</sup> . They can also be immature and disorganized, and they often depend too much on other people, because <sup>5</sup> .

### The only child

Only children usually do very well at school, because they have a lot of contact with adults. They get a lot of love and attention from their parents, so they're typically self-confident. They're also independent, as they spend so much time by themselves. And because <sup>6</sup> , they're often very organized. Only children can sometimes be spoilt, because <sup>7</sup> by their parents. They can also be quite selfish and get impatient, especially when things go wrong. This is because <sup>8</sup> .

Adapted from Birth Order, by Linda Blair



- d Read the article again and complete it with reasons A–H.

- A they grew up between older and younger brothers and sisters
- B it's easier for them to break the rules – by the time they were born, their parents were more relaxed about discipline
- C their parents were more relaxed themselves by the time the second child arrived
- D they are given everything they ask for
- E they have always been the baby of the family
- F they spend a lot of time with adults
- G they've never had to sort out problems with other brothers and sisters
- H when the second child was born, they lost some of their parents' attention, and maybe they felt rejected

- e Re-read the paragraph that applies to you. Do you think the description of personality is true for you? Are any of the other descriptions true for people you know, e.g. your brothers and sisters, or friends?

## 7 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a You're going to hear two people talking about a time when they or one of their siblings behaved badly. Look at some words from each story. With a partner, try to predict what happened.

### James's story

brother teenagers fighting stabbed  
finger penknife accident  
horrified blood mum angry hospital

### Marilyn's story

sister parrot cage let out fly  
bedroom looked everywhere cried window  
hidden cupboard frightened horrible

- b 1.25 Listen to the stories. Were your predictions correct?

- c Listen again and answer the questions for James and Marilyn. Who do you think behaved worse, James or Marilyn's sister?

- How old were they?
- Where were they?
- What bad thing did they or their sibling do?
- What happened in the end?
- How do James's brother and Marilyn show that they've never forgotten what happened?

- d Work in pairs. **A**, you are James's brother. **B**, you are Marilyn's sister. Retell the two stories from your point of view.

*I have a twin brother called James, and we used to fight a lot when we were teenagers. One day,...*



- e Can you remember a time when you were young and you behaved very badly to a sibling or a friend, or they did to you? Tell the story, answering the questions in c.

## 8 WRITING

- a Read Alice's 'self-portrait' poem. Then write your own poem using the instructions below.

1 *Alice*  
2 *affectionate, honest, imaginative, moody*  
3 *oldest daughter of Richard and Billie*  
4 *likes music, Diet Coke, and sunny days*  
5 *afraid of lifts and other small spaces*  
6 *would like to see elephants in the wild*  
7 *Williams*

### Instructions

- line 1 – your first name
- line 2 – four adjectives that describe you
- line 3 – where you are in your family, and your parents' names
- line 4 – three things you like
- line 5 – something you are afraid of
- line 6 – something you would like to do
- line 7 – your last name

- b p.115 **Writing** A description of a person Write an email describing a friend.