

WRITING PART 1

1 Look at the Writing Part 1 question.

In your English class you have watched a documentary about families with lots of children. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay giving your opinion on large families.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a member of a large family?

Notes

Write about:

- 1 having a ready-made social network
- 2 the problem of lacking space and privacy
- 3 ... (your own idea)

Which opening paragraph (A, B or C) is the best as the start of an answer to the question?

- A If you are part of a large family, you will have a ready-made social network. You are sure to get on well with at least some of your siblings. The problem would be if you didn't have a big enough house because you wouldn't get enough space to keep your things. You might be interrupted by your little brothers and sisters when you were trying to do your homework.
- B In the past, it was common for families to have many children. Nowadays, though, the average in developed countries is between one and two children per family. However, there are some couples who choose not to follow this trend and have large numbers of children. What would it be like to be a child with many siblings?
- C My opinion is that when it comes to families, it's a case of 'the bigger, the better'. I am from a family of six children myself and we do have lots of fun together. It teaches you to be less selfish and to be satisfied with less. It can be quite chaotic but I wouldn't have it any other way.

2 Read the rest of the essay. Complete the gaps with words or phrases from the box. Add capital letters to the words if necessary.

for me it doesn't matter whether finally
one of the main drawbacks there is no doubt that

(1) _____ children with many siblings are never lonely. They do not need to arrange to meet up with friends or join clubs because there is a ready-made social circle at home. Furthermore, small children will be cared for by older brothers and sisters as well as by their parents.

(2) _____ of life in a big family would be the lack of space and privacy. It might be difficult to find a quiet spot to do your homework and it would not really be possible to invite friends round to such a crowded home. (3) _____, sharing a room with one or more siblings would be the worst part and I believe this would cancel out the positive aspects.

(4) _____, growing up in a large family develops positive characteristics. Children will not be spoiled by being given everything they want. They have to share and help others from an early age.

In my opinion, (5) _____ your family is big or small. What matters is that it's a happy family.

