

## Reading

Level: Intermediate; Time: 10 min

Match those A-G texts 1-6. Enter your answers in the table. Use each letter only once. In the task, one topic is superfluous.

- A. UNUSUAL RELATIONSHIPS
- B. SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS
- C. HOME ALONE
- D. TWO TYPES
- E. IMPORTANT MOMENTS
- F. MISTAKEN BELIEFS
- G. MANY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1 In Britain, most families are 'nuclear families'. This means that the family consists of the parents and children. Of course, there are uncles and aunts and grandparents too, but they do not have much to do with raising the children and often live a long way away. In many other countries, the 'extended family' is more common. With the extended family, uncles, aunts and grandparents live much closer to the parents and children – sometimes even in the same building – and everyone in the family has a much closer relationship.
- 2 Most teenagers say at some point: 'When I'm a parent, I'm going to give my children much more freedom than I have now.' When they do actually become parents however, they soon realise that giving a child or teenager lots of freedom is not always the best thing to do. Many parents end up hearing their children saying to them exactly the same things they said to their parents when they were young.
- 3 What does bringing up a child involve? Giving a child love and making a child feel safe in their environment are extremely important. So is providing food and warmth. Parents also have a duty to teach their children the difference between right and wrong, and to make sure their children get a good education. Some parents believe that their role is also to teach children about the importance of things such as family, religion and society.
- 4 The English phrases 'a chip off the old block' and 'like father, like son' (or 'like mother, like daughter') are used to show the similarities between a parent and their child. These might be similarities in terms of appearance, behaviour or interests. For example, if a dad loves watching cricket and his son Eric becomes interested in cricket too, you might say, 'Eric's a chip off the old block, isn't he?'
- 5 'Latchkey kids' are a major problem in many countries, including Britain and the USA. These are children whose parents are still at work when they come home from school, so there is no one at home to look after them. Their parents aren't there to help them with their homework, and some of them spend hours on their own before their parents return.
- 6 The idea of 'quality time' is based on an understanding that the amount of time a parent spends with their child is not the only important thing. What is also important is what they do together during that time. Ten minutes of discussing problems that a teenager is facing may be much more valuable than two hours of watching a movie together in silence.

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