The Generation Gap

GRAMMAR

1. Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.
   a. **I didn't went out** much when I was a teenager. _____
   b. We **taked** my parents out for dinner last night. _____
   c. My brother **used to had** a beard, but he shaved. _____
   d. We **were sit** in the garden when my dad arrived. _____
   e. Where **you stayed** when you went to Greece? _____
   f. I **didn't used to eat** many vegetables as a child. _____
   g. What **was you doing** when I saw you yesterday? _____
   h. You **use to play** in the street when you were young? _____

2. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple, past continuous, or *used to*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.
   a. My parents _____ a car until they _____. (not own / get married)
   b. I _____ late this morning, so I _____ time for breakfast. (wake up / not have)
   c. When our guest arrived, I _____ to the children and my husband _____ dinner. (read / cook)
   d. Emily _____ glasses until she _____ working at the computer all day. (not need / start)
   e. Ben _____ the doorbell because he _____ to music with his headphones on. (not hear / listen)
   f. Luckily, they _____ very fast when they _____ the tree. (not drive / hit)
   g. I _____ in Germany when I _____ a student. (live / be)

READING

1. Read the article once and choose the best title.
   A) How to cope with a teenage daughter.
   B) Mums and teenage girls: a love-hate relationship
   C) Why women eventually turn into their mothers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

If you are part of a family with a teenage girl, you are no doubt aware of the chaos that their hormones can cause. A recent study has shown that, on average, teenage girls **fall out** with their brothers and sisters 257 times each year. The rows are not only reserved for **siblings**, however, as they also have 157 arguments with their fathers. But the person who is most frequently on the receiving end of a **tantrum** is their mother. The results of the study showed that a typical teenage girl has 183 **rows** with her mother each year.



According to the study, the third most common cause of rows between mother and daughter is the relationship the girl has with the rest of the family. Top of the list of causes is bedroom tidiness, followed by **answering back**. In fourth and fifth place come relationships with boys and staying out late. Other causes include appearance, attitude to schoolwork, money, manners, and the use of **bad language**. This testing period can go on for several years, but the good news is that, in most cases, it **eventually** comes to an end.

It seems that women finally start to appreciate their mothers in their early twenties - by the age of 23, to be exact. But **despite** the frequent arguments, most mothers and daughters have moments when they are **close**. Four in ten of the women in the study said that they sometimes had **heart-to-hearts** with their mothers about things that were worrying them. They regard these conversations as crucial in helping them get through their difficult teenage years.
At the same time, the study shows that three quarters of women are grateful to their mum for the way they were **brought up**, even if they didn't realize it at the time. And 67 per cent recognize that their mum made them the person they are today.

When the 2000 women in the study were asked about the ideal age gap for the perfect mother-daughter relationship, they recommended a difference of around 25 years. But few of the women think it is necessary for daughters to discuss personal matters with their mothers. Only one in five feel that mothers and their daughters should be best friends who tell each other everything. Instead, three quarters feel that the relationship is best if some things remain private.

In summing up the situation, a representative from the organization that carried out the study said, 'Being a teenager is hard, but having a mum to turn to and talk things through or ask questions is **priceless** in helping young women to manage.'

2. Read the text again and mark sentences true (T) or false (F).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

a. Teenage girls argue most with their fathers.

b. The most common cause of arguments between a teenage girl and her mother is the way the girl treats her brothers and sisters.

c. Mothers and daughters have more arguments about going out at night, than about having relationships.

d. They usually don't stop arguing until the daughter is in their late twenties.

e. Less than half of the women said that they discussed their problems with their mothers when they were teenagers.

f. 75% of women in the study think their mothers did a good job.

g. The ideal age for a mother of a 19-year-old girl is 40.

h. Nearly all of the women think that daughters should tell their mothers everything.

i. In general, mothers can give essential advice to teenage girls.

3. Look at the words and expressions in **bold** in the text. Match them with the following definitions.

1) Brothers or sisters: _____

2) Noisy arguments: _____

3) Argue and stop being friends with somebody: _____

4) In the end: _____

5) Replying rudely to somebody: _____

6) A sudden explosion of anger: _____

7) Words that are consider offensive by most people: _____

8) Looked after and taught to behave: _____

9) Near each other emotionally: _____

10) In spite of: _____

11) Of very great value: _____

12) Conversations in which you say exactly what you feel: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS