Listening and speaking My closest relative

Discuss the statements in small groups. Are they true for your family?

- Mothers feel closer to their sons.
- Fathers feel closer to their daughters.
- The first-born child is ambitious, responsible, dominant, and insecure.
- The second child is free, independent, creative, and easy-going.
- The last-born child is the baby – spoilt, happy, confident, and secure.

🔊 1.9 Listen to four people talking about who they feel closest to in their family. Complete the chart.

	Tess	Simon	Ellie	Nick
I feel closest to …	My sister			
She/He's like me	X			
He/She is different				
We have common interests				
She/He gets on well with people				
Is the relationship always good?				

If you need listen again, and try to explain your answers.

Who said these phrases? About who? What do they mean?

1 'We don't really see eye to eye about anything.'
2 'She drives me crazy sometimes.'
3 'We have our ups and downs.'
4 'Those two often fight like cat and dog.'

SPOKEN ENGLISH Adding emphasis

1 We can change the order of words in a sentence to add emphasis.
What is the normal word order for these sentences?
  1 **My dad** I don't really get on with.
  2 He's young at heart, **my granddad**.
  3 She's pretty cool, **my mum**.

2 Notice how these sentences add emphasis.
'Me, I'm just her boring baby sister.' **'Chris, he's like my dad.'**
'One thing I love about her is her sunny personality.'
'What I like best about her is the way she's so honest about herself.'
'What I like about him is that we have the same interests.'

3 Use the phrases in 2 to emphasize what you like about …
  1 **Jim:** his sense of humour.
       that he makes me laugh.
  2 **Tina:** her kindness.
       the way she never forgets my birthday.

Talking about you

- Who do you feel closest to in your family? Why?
- Are there any relatives you are *not* close to? Why?
- Are there ever any family arguments? Between who? About what?

Everyday English
Making the right noises

Look at the words in the charts . They are all possible responses in conversation. What do they express? Please, write them down in the correct column.

- **Agreement** • **Sympathy** • **Pleasure** • **Surprise**

How fantastic! Lovely! That's great! Brilliant! Congratulations! Good for you!	Absolutely. Definitely. Of course. Fair enough. Fine. OK.
That's amazing! You didn't! You're kidding! Really? You did what? Did you?	That's a shame. Oh dear. That's too bad. Bad luck. How awful! What a pity!

🔊 1.11   Listen to the conversation and complete B`s responses. Whar other responses are suitable?

1 A My grandfather hasn't been too well lately.
  B _____

2 A He's 79, but he's always on the go. Don't you think at his age he should slow down a bit?
  B _____

3 A But he won't listen to me. He says he wants to enjoy his life to the full.
  B _____

4 A Last summer, he went on a two-week cycling holiday in France.
  B _____

5 A We're going to give him a big party for his 80th birthday.
  B _____

6 A But before that I'm going to have a word with him and tell him to take things easy.
  B _____

Complete the exercise with the suitable responses.

1 A I just had a weekend in Paris with my boyfriend.
  B _____ (*surprise*)   _____ (*pleasure*)

2 A Will Spaghetti Bolognese be OK for dinner?
  B _____ (*agreement*)   _____ (*pleasure*)

3 A My flight was cancelled because of a pilots' strike.
  B _____ (*sympathy*)   _____ (*sympathy*)

4 A I failed my driving test again.
  B _____ (*surprise*)   _____ (*sympathy*)

5 A We're expecting a baby!
  B _____ (*surprise*)   _____ (*pleasure*)

6 A So you think I should get a new job?
  B _____ (*agreement*)

7 A I told him I never wanted to see him again.
  B _____ (*surprise*)   _____(*sympathy*)

Writing Describing a person – facts and opinions

Think about someone in your family and try to describe one`s personality. Why did you choose this person? Are you similar ?

Read the description of crazy Uncle Joe. Which sentence describes the writer's opinion of him?

- The writer likes Uncle Joe, but is critical of his way of life.
- The writer admires everything about Uncle Joe.

My CRAZY Uncle Joe

1   Of all my relatives, I like my Uncle Joe the best. He's my
    mother's much younger brother. He was only nine when
    I was born, so he's been more like a big brother to me than
    an uncle. He is in his mid-20s now and he is always such
5   good fun to be with.

*

He studied at a drama school in Liverpool, and then he moved
to London a year ago to try his luck in the theatre. He shares
a flat with three other would-be actors and he works as a
waiter and a part-time DJ. He's passionate about his music. It's
10 called house music, and it's a kind of electronic dance music.
When he 'deejays' he goes completely wild, waving his arms
and yelling at the crowds. Everybody catches his enthusiasm.
He's absolutely brilliant, and I'm proud that he's my uncle.

*

Also, I think he is really good-looking. He's quite tall with
15 sandy-coloured hair, and twinkly, dark brown eyes. He's had
lots of girlfriends, but I don't think there is anyone particularly
special at the moment. He has a great relationship with his
flatmates – they are always laughing and joking together.
He knows how to have fun, but he's also an extremely caring
20 person. I can talk to him about all kinds of problems that I
could not discuss with my parents. He's very understanding
of someone my age.

*

He works hard and he plays hard. He's had lots of auditions
for various theatrical roles. He hasn't had much luck yet,
25 but I'm sure that one day he'll be a highly-successful actor. I
think he's really talented, but he says he doesn't want to be
rich or famous, he just wants to prove to himself that he's a
good actor.

This text consists of factual description and personal opinions. Can you distinguish them?