1F Reading

Sibling rivalry

I can understand a text about brothers and sisters.

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1 Complete the sentences with the prepositions below.

about for from in of on to with

1 Is the teacher angry [ ] your homework?
2 My dad is very similar [ ] his brother.
3 Barbados is famous [ ] its beautiful beaches.
4 My sister is very proud [ ] her exam results.
5 I'm not very interested [ ] sport.
6 Are you keen [ ] music?
7 Jake is very different [ ] his father.
8 Are you pleased [ ] your new bike?

2 Read the text. Match paragraphs 1–5 with the headings below (a–e).

a Educational advantages
b Step-siblings
c ~~Introduction~~
d Girl power
e Learning important skills

Reading Strategy

When you want to know if a sentence fits a gap, read the sentences before and after as well as the sentence itself, and ask yourself these questions:

- Does it make sense?
- Does it fit grammatically? (Think about tense, pronouns, singular and plural, *this / that*, etc.)
- Does it match the topic of the paragraph?

3 Read the Reading Strategy. Then match gaps 1–4 in the text with sentences A–E. There is one extra sentence.

A This is because they help you with homework.
B Boys with sisters are also good at talking to girls.
C Do they offer the same advantages?
D Nobody is very keen on arguments, but in fact, they can be a good thing.
E Do you get on well with your brother or sister?

THE SIBLING EFFECT

1 [c] We don't always get on well with our brothers and sisters – but we get a lot of benefits from them. Research shows that siblings have a big effect on our personalities – and in general, it's a good effect.

2 [ ] When you're young, you argue with your brothers and sisters. It's part of life. [1] [ ] Why? Because you learn important skills from these arguments. And according to research, you don't get these skills from friends, only from siblings.

3 [ ] A big brother or sister is also an advantage at school. According to research, when your big brother or sister does well at school, you do well too. [2] [ ] They can also give you important information about your school and your teachers. The research shows that a big brother or sister can bring you an extra 4% in your exams! (And for children from poor families, it's 11%.)

4 [ ] Some benefits are only true when your sibling is a girl. For example, according to research at the University of Ulster, in Northern Ireland, boys with sisters are usually good at talking about emotions. This helps them to be happy, because when they feel worried about something, they can share their feelings. [3] [ ]

5 [ ] But what about stepbrothers and stepsisters? [4] [ ] The answer is: yes, they do – but only when they are part of the family for six years or more.

LIVEWORKSHEETS