

22 Families

There is a **tendency** among some women to believe that **however hard** you try, you end up like your mother. Well, **it's hard to say** if that's the **case** with me because my mother **passed away** when I was only nine, and my father was left a **widower**. He did remarry several years later, and I was **brought up** by my father and **stepmother**. I know the **presence** of a new woman in the family can be difficult, but we have always had a really positive relationship. We are not **alike** in looks or character, but I think I've **picked up** one or two of her good habits. For example, I always remember to **write personally** to thank people for birthday or Christmas presents.

By my **teens**, my father told me that I was starting to **resemble** my mother a bit more, and it seems I have got one or two of her **characteristics**. (Like me, she didn't **take criticism** very well!) But I think it's now increasingly **apparent** that I **take after** my father more in character and behaviour. That's fine by me, although it seems to be the opposite with my **two siblings**, both sisters. My dad says that they remind him much more of my mother.

me with my mother when I was nine



me now at the age of 21

GLOSSARY

tendency	If sb has a particular tendency , they are likely to behave or act in a particular way.	alike	very similar
however	used with an adjective or adverb to mean 'to whatever degree': however hard , however much	pick sth up	get a skill, habit, etc. by chance, without making an effort to get it
it's hard to say	= it's difficult to give an opinion	personally	by a particular person and not someone else
the case	the true situation	teens	the period between 13 and 19: <i>They're in their teens</i> .
pass away	die. We sometimes use pass away to avoid saying die . SYN pass on	characteristic	a typical feature or quality that sb has characteristic (of sb/sth) adj
widower	a man whose wife/husband has died. A widow is a woman whose husband/wife has died. We can use late in formal English to talk about sb's dead wife/husband: <i>the property of his late wife</i>	criticism	the act of expressing unhappiness and disapproval with sb/sth: <i>He can't take any criticism; criticize v</i>
bring sb up (often passive)	care for a child, teaching them how to behave, etc. SYN raise	apparent	easy to see or understand SYN obvious
stepmother	the woman who is married to your father but is not your real mother ALSO stepfather/daughter/son , etc.	sibling	a brother or a sister
presence	(of a person) the fact of being in a particular place	formal	If sb/sth reminds you of sb/sth else, they make you remember or think about the other person, place, thing, etc. because they are similar in some way.
		remind sb of sb/sth	

SPOTLIGHT expressing family similarities

If you **resemble** **someone/something**, you look like or are similar to another person/thing. The emphasis is more on looks than character. **resemblance** *n*

If you **take after** **someone**, you look or behave like an older member of your family.

If you **follow in someone's footsteps**, you do the same job or have the same lifestyle as someone else, usually a member of your family.

1 How many syllables are there in each of these words?

tendency widower personally resemblance
alike characteristic criticism apparent

**2 Is the pronunciation of the underlined letters the same or different? Write S or D.
Use the  to help you.**

1 rem*j*nd *s*ibling 3 pr*es*ence *r*emind 5 app*ar*ent *al*ike
2 *s*ibling *w*idower 4 *t*endency *ob*viou*s* 6 criti*cize* *al*ike

3 Replace the underlined words with a word or phrase that keeps the same meaning.

1 She is between 13 and 19.
2 They aren't very similar.
3 She looks like her mother.
4 He has three brothers and sisters.
5 It's difficult to give an opinion whether it will work.
6 I'm not sure if that's the true situation with him.
7 Her mother died last year.
8 Constant optimism is just one of his typical features.

4 Complete the sentences

1 Her husband died in the war so she's been a for many years.
2 If I speak to him , then I'm sure he'll understand.
3 There's a strong between the two sisters. People often say they are
4 hard I work, I still can't seem to understand this subject.
5 If you see them together, it's that they are twins.
6 Lea was upset because her mum her for wearing too much make-up.
7 I'm like Mum, but Martha after Dad much more in the way she behaves.
8 My mum wants to be there. She thinks the of a parent will make a difference.
9 My brother up playing guitar just from watching and listening to other guitarists.
10 I have a to talk too much when I'm nervous.

5 Complete the dialogues with a word or phrase.

1 Does Lucy you anyone? ~ Yes. She's just like Rachel, isn't she?
2 I had to tell Ben his work wasn't good enough. ~ I know, and he doesn't take very well, does he?
3 Will Joasia be a doctor like her dad? ~ Yes, I believe she's following
4 Have you always lived in London? ~ No, I was in the country, and moved here when I was 18.
5 Do you think your family will like your new girlfriend? ~ I don't know. It's
6 Is Don your real father? ~ No, he's my
7 Have you read the document? ~ Not yet, but I've heard what it contains.
8 Did his father run the company? ~ No, his mother did until her death.

6 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or talk to another student.

1 Do you resemble either your mother or father?
2 Do you think you take after one of your parents more than the other?
3 If you have siblings, do you think you are alike in either looks and/or character?
4 Do you think there are any characteristics that are common to different members of your family?
5 Do you agree that daughters usually end up like their mothers? Do you think it might also be true that sons end up like their fathers?
6 Do you think you take criticism well?

