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

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 APP to help you.

1 remind sibling .....
2 sibling widower .....
3 presence remind .....
4 tendency obvious .....
5 apparent alike .....
6 criticize alike .....

3 Repace 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?

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TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS