Complete the email with the words below.

kind	complexion	wonderful	caring
problems	course	really	wanted
line	smile	athletic	though

Dear Carrie,

I hope everything's OK. I just **1)** _____ to drop you a **2)** _____ about life in New York. My **3)** _____ is going well and my teacher, Mr Kennedy, is **4)** _____. Mr Kennedy is very tall and **5)** _____. He's got short brown hair and brown eyes. He's got a dark **6)** _____ and a beautiful **7)** _____. He's always smartly-dressed in a shirt and black trousers. Mr Kennedy is very **8)** _____. He never shouts. He's **9)** _____, too, and always tries to help us when we're having **10)** _____. Sometimes he can be a bit too quiet **11)** _____. I think he's a great teacher. We're **12)** _____ lucky to have him. Must go now. Write soon.

Love,

Elsa

Choose the correct item.

1 Can you look **after/out** my cat while I'm away this weekend?

2 I am very attached **to/in** my family.

3 I look forward **to/about** meeting him when he arrives.

4 Why are you jealous **of/in** her?

5 Can you look **up/out** the number in the yellow pages, please?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Check these words

- *trait* • *inherited* • *tell apart*
- *genetically passed down* • *distinguish*
- *factor* • *gender* • *offspring*
- *calorie intake* • *native language*
- *partly* • *exposure*

Many of the following traits or characteristics are 'inherited' or passed down to us from our parents. Which of these traits do you think can be inherited from one's parents? Read to see if you were right.

- straight hair
- weight
- gender
- language
- strength
- intelligence
- eye colour
- blood type

Where did you get that from?

Have you ever noticed that some sisters and brothers look alike? Or have you ever had difficulty telling twins apart? Their inherited traits are what make their physical appearance so similar. An inherited trait is a particular characteristic or quality that is genetically passed down from our parents. Inherited traits are what distinguish one person from another. These characteristics depend entirely on genetic factors and include gender, hair colour, skin colour, ear shape, blood group and inherited diseases. Offspring inherit genes from both the mother and father, which results in a combination of the parents' characteristics. This is why we often hear people say, "She has her mother's eyes," or, "He has his father's nose".

Not all traits are inherited, however. Variation is also caused by environmental factors. For instance, your weight depends on your diet and other environmental factors such as gender, calorie intake and lifestyle. Language is also not inherited. Adopted children who move to another country will quickly learn the local language and may even forget their native language. The majority of human characteristics are determined by inherent and environmental factors. Studies have shown that intelligence is partly inherited and partly learnt. Similarly, our genes determine our natural hair colour, but exposure to the sun or hair dye can easily change that colour.

It seems that we are all very different. You just need to look around to see how many different traits people have, but in fact, people are remarkably alike. 99.9 percent of all human DNA is identical. It's those few unique differences in our DNA that create the variety of characteristics we see around us.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 Why do siblings often resemble one another?

2 What are some of our inherited traits?

3 Why isn't a person's weight an inherited characteristic?

4 What percentage of our DNA makes us look different from other people?

Culture Spot

1 **What do the Foot Guards do? What is their uniform? Read the text, then say.**

One of the most prestigious jobs in the UK is guarding the Queen of England. The Queen's Guard, in particular the Foot Guards that stand outside Buckingham Palace in London, are an iconic English symbol. The Guard consists of three officers and 36 soldiers from five regiments (Grenadier Guards, Scots Guards, Coldstream Guards, Irish Guards, Welsh Guards). When the Queen is home, there are four Foot Guards at the front of the building and only two when she is away. They have the most recognisable uniform in the world. They wear a scarlet tunic, white belt, dark blue trousers with a red stripe down each leg and a huge bearskin hat. The bearskin hats are made of real bearskin from Canadian brown bears. For a long time, the British Army has tried to find a manmade alternative to the fur, but so far nothing acceptable has been found.



The Queen's Guard

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complete the text with the words and phrases below. CHECK

quite	collar	with	though	similar to
feathers	guard	dark	also	like

The Spanish Royal Guards are quite **1)** _____ the Foot Guards. They are soldiers **2)** _____ the Foot Guards and they **3)** _____ the King of Spain and the Spanish Royal Family. Their uniform is **4)** _____ different **5)** _____. They wear a long **6)** _____ blue coat **7)** _____ gold buttons and a red **8)** _____. They **9)** _____ wear a gold hat with red **10)** _____ on the top.

Choose the odd word out.

1 optimistic – cheerful – generous – lazy

2 shoulder-length – wavy – pointed – curly

3 trainers – boots – sandals – jacket

4 nose – moustache – beard – fringe

5 skinny – overweight – obese – bald

6 arrogant – deceitful – indifferent – gentle

LIVEWORKSHEETS