Who knows you better, your family or your friends?

In our weekly 'test' single people who are looking for a partner ask their mother and their best friend to help. Their mother chooses one partner and their best friend chooses another. The test is to see who can choose the best partner!

This week's single man is Richard Taylor, a 26-year-old musician from Southampton. His mother Meg chooses one girl, and his best friend Danny chooses another. Then Richard goes on a date with each girl. Which girl does he prefer? Who knows him better, his mother or his best friend? Who chooses the right girl for him?

Richard Taylor with his mother Meg and his friend Danny

"I usually work in England but sometimes I work abroad too. When I'm not working I like going to the cinema and eating in nice restaurants. I'm not very sporty and I don't do any exercise, but at least I don't smoke.

I think I'm open and friendly – I get on well with most people – but I'm sometimes quite shy too. For example, I don't like going to parties. I prefer to meet friends individually or in small groups.

I like intelligent, funny women who make me laugh, and ideally who love music. Physically I prefer women with dark hair who are not taller than me. And I like women who are good listeners.

I'm sure that my friend Danny knows me better than my family because we often talk about girlfriends and the problems we have. I don't usually talk to my family about that kind of thing. My mum always says that I look for the wrong kind of girl but that's what mothers always say!"

Complete the questions about Richard.

Where *does he live* ?
In Southampton.

1 What _____ do?
He's a musician.

2 Where _____?
In England and abroad.

3 _____ smoke?
No, he doesn't.

4 _____ exercise?
No, he doesn't. He isn't very sporty.

5 What kind of women _____?
Intelligent and funny ones.

6 _____ to his mother about girls?
No, he doesn't.

d Look at the photos of Claire and Nina.

HIS FRIEND'S CHOICE
Claire

HIS MOTHER'S CHOICE
Nina

Communication *Claire and Nina A p.108 B p.112.*
Who do you think is more Richard's type? Why?

4 LISTENING

a Listen to Richard talking about what happened when he met Claire and Nina. Does he like them? What are the problems?

1.3 **Claire** 1.4 **Nina**

b Now listen again and write down any adjectives or expressions that Richard uses to describe Claire and Nina.

Claire *Very friendly* **Nina** *Very attractive*

c Who knows Richard better, his mum or Danny? Are you surprised?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1B Claire and Nina **Student A**

a Ask B questions and complete the chart for Nina.

Name	Claire	Nina
Age?	25	
From?	Scotland	
Lives in?	Bristol	
Job?	Journalist	
Smokes?	No	
Likes?	comedy films, cats	
Doesn't like?	men who smoke	

b Answer B's questions about Claire.

c In pairs, decide who is the best partner for Richard. Why?

1B ALEXANDER AND OLIVER Student A

a Ask B questions and complete the chart for Oliver.

Name	Alexander	Oliver
How old / ?	32	
Where / from?	London	
Where / live?	Brighton	
What / do?	journalist	
What / like?	modern art, classical music	
What / not like?	sport	

b Answer B's questions about Alexander.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 PRONUNCIATION -s

a 1.5 Listen and repeat.

	He works abroad. She likes good food. She laughs a lot.
	He plays the piano. She lives in London. She does exercise.
/ɪz/	She watches comedy films. He relaxes at night. She dresses very well.

b How do you say the *he / she / it* form of these verbs?

choose cook go know stop teach

c How do you say the plural of these nouns?

book friend girl language niece parent party

d 1.6 Listen and repeat the verbs and nouns.

6 SPEAKING

a Work in pairs, A and B. Think of a person you know well, a family member or a friend, who is single. You are going to tell your partner about him / her. Look at the chart below and prepare what you are going to say.

- NAME?
- AGE?
- JOB/STUDIES?
- LIVES IN?
- PHYSICAL APPEARANCE?
- PERSONALITY?
- SMOKES?
- LIKES?
- DOESN'T LIKE?

b A describe your person to B.
B listen and ask for more information. Do you know anybody who would be a good partner for this person? Then swap roles.

LIVEWORKSHEETS