

Reading and Use of English Part 7

You are going to read a newspaper article about being a twin. For questions 1–10, choose from the people (A–E). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

appreciates the importance of twins needing to find their own way in life? 1

has mixed feelings about being looked after by their sibling? 2

feels angry when people assume that all twins look the same? 3

likes having conversations about being a twin? 4

didn't like the way they were viewed as a twin child? 5

struggles when parted from their sibling? 6

realises that it is not only twins who sometimes argue? 7

no longer has a problem with being a twin? 8

shares their parents' view of being a twin? 9

has always felt fortunate to be a twin? 10

The pros and cons of being a twin

A Sam Pearson, 13

People often ask: 'What's it like being a twin?' To which I often respond, 'I don't know. I have never been anything else!' I never mean to be rude; I am just being honest because since birth I have never known anything different. I guess there are some advantages though, for example, there is always someone to partner you in class or hang around with at home. Also, when I meet new people they always find it really interesting to talk about what it must be like being a twin.

B Julia Taylor, 30

I have always loved being a twin and I see being one as something unique. There aren't many people who have had this benefit and therefore I try to always focus on the positives. This is something our mum and dad taught us when we were very young and I have always remembered this. When we were growing up, one of the best things about being a twin was our birthday parties! We had brilliant birthdays as kids. I am sure they were fairly stressful for our parents, but we thought they were fabulous!

C Claire Kite, 16

People often presume when you are a twin that you must also be identical. This is not the case however, and my twin brother is much taller than me; so sometimes people don't believe we are twins and I find this really annoying! Being a twin has both its good and bad points. We fight a lot, especially over gadgets, and when we were younger over toys or for the attention of our parents, but I guess this is just like any other family. On the positive side, we often have a lot of fun together and I never feel lonely. My brother is also very protective of me, especially at school, which is both a good and bad thing!

D Mary Blackwell, 40

Growing up I had very mixed emotions about being a twin. I really hated it when people grouped us, referring to us as 'the twins'! We very much had our own identities and some people just failed to recognise that. I used to constantly dye my hair different colours, just so I could look different to my sister. Being seen as a unit rather than as an individual didn't seem to bother my sister that much, but for some reason it really affected me, especially as a teenager. Fortunately, we now have very different lives, so it isn't really an issue anymore.

E Helen Thompson, 19

I absolutely loved being a twin when I was growing up. I used to have a great time going out with my sister. We are identical, so we always used to wear the same clothes and have the same haircuts. We got so much attention when we went out and we were sometimes asked to pose for photographs. We felt like celebrities! We were also very close when we were younger, and sure we would argue sometimes, but most of the time we were best friends. This has all changed now though, as we have each gone to a different university. I know it is a good idea that we each have our own independence, but I do find it hard sometimes and a bit lonely.