

Language in Practice

SERENDIPITY

ENGLISH, THE MOST FORTUNATE
DISCOVERY

OPPORTUNITIES
English!

a. Complete the conversation with the phrases from the box.

Neither did I

Neither have I

Neither was I

So am I

So do I

So would I

A Hi, Tom. Do you ever watch *Who do you think you are?* You know,

that TV series about celebrities who find out about their families?

B Yes, I do. But I didn't see it last night.

A I wasn't at home.

B But I usually watch it every week.

B I think it's really interesting. I'd love to find out about my family.

A I'm thinking about looking for some information on the internet.

B But I haven't done anything about it yet.

A

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b. Respond to the statements with So or Neither, to say that you are the same.

1 I'm going out tonight. _____ So am I _____.

2 I enjoyed the party. _____

3 I haven't done the homework. _____

4 I was late today. _____

5 I'm not hungry. _____

6 I can't drive. _____

7 I'd love to travel round the world. _____

8 I don't have any pets. _____

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c. Complete the text with words from the box.

as both identical like neither similar so

People think my best friend

Sue and I are sisters,

because we're very

..... Sue's

from the same town

..... me,

and we look very



..... each other. We like

shopping and we have the same taste in clothes. I usually wear trousers

and tops, and does Sue. She doesn't like short

skirts and do I. Once we went to a party together

wearing clothes!

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d. Read the article and choose the best title.

1 A town with a mystery

2 The problems of having twins

3 Why couples have twins

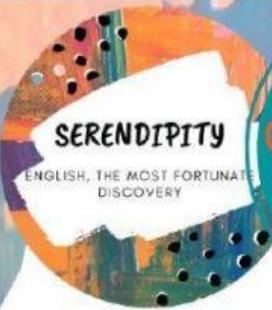
Today, there are two thousand families living in the village of Kodinhi in southern India. Among them, there are 220 sets of twins, which is six times the global average. What makes this even more unusual is that India has one of the lowest birth rates of twins in the world.

Nobody can explain the reason why the village has so many twins. Some people say the cause might be genetic, but local doctor, Dr Sribiju, doesn't think so. He says that there haven't always been twins in Kodinhi - parents suddenly started having them about sixty or seventy years ago. Neither does he believe that a new kind of pollution has caused the twins to be born. In that case, he argues, there would be more twins with malformations. Luckily, most of Kodinhi's twins are born healthy. Dr Sribiju thinks that the twins are born because of something the villagers eat and drink. He wants to discover just what that is, so that he can use it to help other couples who can't have children.

Having twins in this part of India can be a big problem for a family. It's expensive, and it can be dangerous for the mother's health. That's why the villagers of Kodinhi have started a support group. The group is called the Twins and Kin* Association, or TAKA for short. The president of the group is 50-year-old Pullani Bhaskaran, who has twin sons of his own. He wants all the twins in Kodinhi to join the group so that they can help each other. With the 220 pairs of twins in the village and the other people in their families, TAKA currently has 600 member

*kin = family member

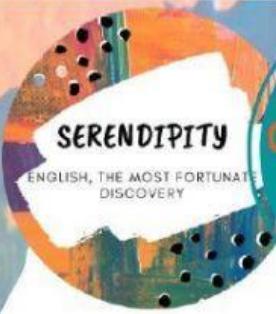
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e. Read the article and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Parents don't usually have twins in India.
- 2 A century ago, there used to be more twins in Kodinhi.
- 3 Dr Sribiju thinks that there are a lot of twins because of the pollution in Kodinhi.
- 4 Dr Sribiju thinks that couples who want children could learn from the villagers of Kodinhi.
- 5 It can be a health risk for women in Kodinhi to have twins.
- 6 The President of TAKA has a twin brother.

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f. Listen to a radio programme about famous twins. Match the twins (1-3) with the headings (a-c)



1 The Olsen Twins

a criminal twins

2 The Kray Brothers

b celebrity twins

3 The Olsen Twins

c historical twins

g. Read the sentences. Listen again and write RR (Romulus and Remus), KB (the Kray Brothers) or OT (the Olsen Twins).

1 Their parents didn't want them.

2 They were British.

3 They're still alive.

4 They met some very famous people.

5 They had a serious argument.

6 They became famous very young.

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USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

tastes
identical twins
security guard
adopt (a child)
by coincidence
great to meet you
go to college(AmE)
look exactly like