

## 5 READING

- a Which do you think has more advantages, being an only child, or having brothers and sisters? Why?
- b Work in pairs. **A** read *The younger brother*, **B** read *The only child*.
- c Tell your partner about 1 and 2 below. Whose childhood sounds happier?
- 1 other family members who are mentioned
  - 2 how the writer's experience as a child affects him / her now
- d Look at the **highlighted** words in the two texts. Try to work out their meaning from the context. Then match them with definitions 1–12.
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ *adj* ill
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_ *it's no surprise that*
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* competition between two people
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* the time when you were a child
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* a meeting of people, e.g. family
  - 6 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* people who are fully grown
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ *adj* knowing about or being conscious of sth
  - 8 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* a school where children can live during the year
  - 9 \_\_\_\_\_ *verb* think that sb or sth is important
  - 10 \_\_\_\_\_ *verb* divided sth between two or more people
  - 11 \_\_\_\_\_ *verb* try to hurt sb else
  - 12 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* a group of friends

### each other

When brothers and sisters get older they value **each other** more.

Use **each other** to talk about an action between two people or groups of people, e.g. *I don't get on very well with my dad – we don't understand **each other**.*

- e Talk to a partner. Do you have brothers and sisters, or are you an only child? Do you feel positive or negative about it?

## Younger brother or only child?

### HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

### THE YOUNGER BROTHER NOVELIST TIM LOTT

**R**ivalry between brothers is normal, but there was a special reason for the tension between us. I was very ill when I was born, and spent three months in hospital with my mother. My brother did not see her at all during that time, as he went to stay with an aunt. When our mother returned home, it was with a **sick** newborn baby who took all the attention. **No wonder** he hated me (although if you ask Jeff, he will say that he didn't – we remember things differently).

My brother and I were completely different. We **shared** the same bedroom, but he was tidy, and I was really untidy. He was responsible, I was rebellious. He was sensible, I was emotional. I haven't got any positive memories of our **childhood** together, though there must have been good moments. Jeff says we used to play Cowboys and Indians but I only remember him trying to suffocate me under the bedcovers.

My relationship with Jeff has influenced my attitude towards my own four daughters. If the girls **fight**, I always think that the younger child is innocent. But the good news about brothers and sisters is that when they get older, they **value** each other more. Jeff is now one of my best friends, and I like and admire him greatly. For better or for worse, we share a whole history. It is the longest relationship in my life.

### THE ONLY CHILD JOURNALIST SARAH LEE

I went to **boarding school** when I was seven, and the hardest thing I found was making friends. Because I was an only child, I just didn't know how to do it. The thing is that when you're an only child you spend a lot of your time with **adults** and you're often the only child in **a gathering** of adults. Your parents go on living more or less the way they have always lived, only now you are there too.

I found being an only child interesting because it gave me a view of the world of adults that children in a big family might not get. And I know it has, at least partly, made me the kind of person I am – I never like being one of a group, for example. If I have to be in a group, I will always try to go off and do something on my own, or be with just one other person – I'm not comfortable with being one of **a gang**.

My parents are divorced now and my mother lives in the US and my father in the UK. I feel very responsible for them – I feel responsible for their happiness. I'm the closest relative in the world to each of them, and I am very **aware of** that.

*Adapted from a British newspaper*





## 6 VOCABULARY

adjectives of personality

- a Without looking back at *The younger brother* text, can you remember who was *tidy, responsible, and sensible* and who was *untidy, rebellious, and emotional*? Do you know what the adjectives mean? Would you use any of them to describe yourself?
- b ➤ p.153 Vocabulary Bank *Personality*.
- c Write down the first three adjectives of personality that come into your head. Don't show them to your partner. Now go to ➤ Communication *Personality* p.104.

## 7 PRONUNCIATION

word stress, adjective endings

- a 1 26))) Underline the stressed syllable in these multi-syllable adjectives. Listen and check.

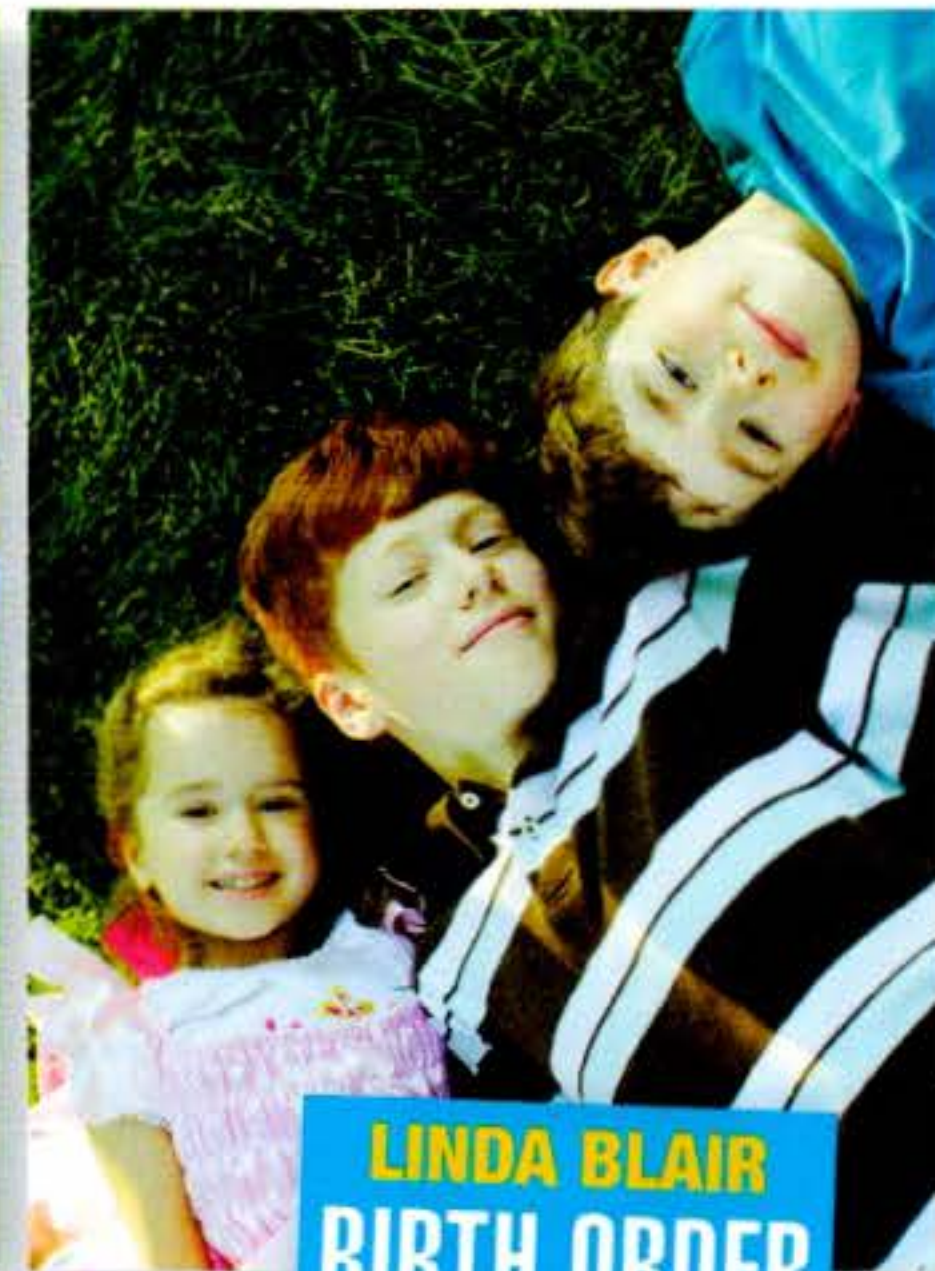
- 1 jea|lous an|xious am|bi|tious  
ge|ne|rous re|be|llious
- 2 so|cia|ble re|li|a|ble
- 3 re|spon|si|ble sen|si|ble
- 4 com|pe|ti|tive tal|ka|tive  
a|ggre|ssive sen|si|tive
- 5 un|friend|ly in|se|cure  
im|pa|tient i|mma|ture

- b Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 Is **-ous** pronounced /aus/ or /əs/?
- 2 Is **-able** pronounced /əbl/ or /eɪbl/?
- 3 Is **-ible** pronounced /əbl/ or /ɪbl/?
- 4 Is **-ive** pronounced /əv/ or /ɪv/?
- 5 Are **-ous** / **-able** / **-ible** / **-ive** stressed?
- 6 Are **un-** / **in-** / **im-** stressed?



## 8 LISTENING & SPEAKING



### LINDA BLAIR BIRTH ORDER

What your position in the family really tells you about your character



- a What's your position in the family? Are you the oldest child, a middle child, the youngest child, or an only child?
- b 1 27))) Look at the cover of Linda Blair's book. Now listen to a journalist talking about it on a radio programme. Complete the chart by writing four more adjectives of personality in each column.

Oldest children	Middle children	Youngest children	Only children
sensible	relaxed	outgoing	self-confident

- c Compare with a partner. Then listen to the four sections one by one. Check your answers. What reasons or examples does the journalist give?
- d Look at the completed chart above. In pairs, say...

...if you think it is true for **you** – and if not, why not?

...if you think it is true for **other people** you know (your brothers and sisters, friends, etc.)

## 9 WRITING

- p.113 Writing *A description of a person*. Write a description of a friend you know well.



### 1 WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

a Complete the definitions with the adjectives.

affectionate /ə'fekʃənət/ aggressive /ə'gresɪv/  
 ambitious /æm'bɪʃəs/ anxious /'æŋkʃəs/ bossy /'bɒsi/  
 charming /'tʃɑ:mɪŋ/ competitive /kəm'petətɪv/  
 independent /ɪndɪ'pendənt/ jealous /'dʒeləs/  
 moody /'mu:di/ rebellious /rɪ'belɪəs/ reliable /rɪ'laɪəbl/  
 selfish /'selfɪʃ/ sensible /'sensəbl/ sensitive /'sensətɪv/  
 sociable /'səʊsəbl/ spoilt /spɔɪlt/ stubborn /'stʌbən/

- 1 Selfish people think about themselves and not about other people.
- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_ person always wants to win.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ children behave badly because they are given everything they want.
- 4 An \_\_\_\_\_ person gets angry quickly and likes fighting and arguing.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ people have an attractive personality and make people like them.
- 6 A \_\_\_\_\_ person has common sense and is practical.
- 7 A \_\_\_\_\_ person is friendly and enjoys being with other people.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ people are often worried or stressed.
- 9 A \_\_\_\_\_ person is happy one minute and sad the next, and is often bad-tempered.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ people like doing things on their own, without help.
- 11 A \_\_\_\_\_ person likes giving orders to other people.
- 12 An \_\_\_\_\_ person shows that they love or like people very much.
- 13 A \_\_\_\_\_ person thinks that someone loves another person more than them, or wants what other people have.
- 14 A \_\_\_\_\_ person can be easily hurt or offended.
- 15 An \_\_\_\_\_ person wants to be successful in life.
- 16 A \_\_\_\_\_ person is someone who you can trust or depend on.
- 17 A \_\_\_\_\_ person doesn't like obeying rules.
- 18 A \_\_\_\_\_ person never changes his (or her) opinion or attitude about something.

b 1 23))) Listen and check.

c Cover the definitions and look at the adjectives. Remember the definitions.

### 2 OPPOSITES

a Match the adjectives and their opposites.

hard-working /hɑ:d 'wɜ:kɪŋ/ mean /mi:n/  
 outgoing /aʊt'gəʊɪŋ/ self-confident /self 'kɒnfɪdənt/  
 stupid /'stju:pɪd/ talkative /'tɔ:kətɪv/

	Opposite
clever	_____
generous	_____
insecure	_____
lazy	_____
quiet	_____
shy	_____

b 1 24))) Listen and check. Then cover the opposites and test yourself.

c With a partner, look at the adjectives again in 1 and 2. Do you think they are positive, negative, or neutral characteristics?

### 3 NEGATIVE PREFIXES

a Which prefix do you use with these adjectives? Put them in the correct column.

ambitious friendly honest imaginative  
 kind mature organized patient reliable  
 responsible selfish sensitive sociable tidy

un- / dis-	im- / ir- / in-
unambitious	

b 1 25))) Listen and check. Which of the new adjectives has a positive meaning?

c Cover the columns. Test yourself.

#### False friends

Some words in English are very similar to words in other languages, but have different meanings.

**Sensible** looks very similar to *sensible* in Spanish and French, but in fact in English it means someone who has common sense and is practical. The Spanish / French word *sensible* translates as **sensitive** in English (to describe a person who is easily hurt).

**Sympathetic** does not mean the same as *sympatyczny* in Polish or *sempatik* in Turkish (which mean **nice, friendly**). In English, **sympathetic** means a person who understands other people's feelings, e.g. *My best friend was very sympathetic when I failed my exam last week.*



## DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES... FLIRTS AND FATALITIES

You're working in a dating agency, tasked with matching clients based on their lifestyles and personalities. Below are personal profiles of six clients. Your goal is to find the best match for each one based on shared values, interests, and compatibility. Also, decide who would be the least likely match for each client.

Be ready to justify your choices!

### Jordan

- 24 years old.
- Content creator and avid gamer with a large online following.
- Loves late-night gaming marathons, attending comic cons, and trying new bubble tea flavors.
- Sociable and witty, enjoys deep conversations but also light-hearted banter.
- Seeking someone who shares their enthusiasm for geek culture.

### Sam

- 26 years old.
- Fitness trainer and nutrition coach.
- Enthusiastic about wellness, posting workout routines online, and trying new smoothie recipes.
- Extroverted and high-energy, loves meeting new people and organizing group fitness challenges.
- Wants a partner who is as energetic and health-conscious as they are.

### Alex

- 29 years old.
- UX/UI Designer.
- Loves exploring new coffee shops, attending tech meetups, and collecting sneakers.
- Outgoing and charismatic, enjoys sharing memes and connecting with people through social media.
- Prefers casual relationships but is open to something serious if the vibe is right.

### Cameron

- 35 years old.
- Software engineer and avid traveler.
- Enjoys photography, outdoor adventures, and exploring new cuisines.
- Independent and analytical, appreciates people who are both adventurous and thoughtful.
- Open to long-term relationships but hesitant about settling down too quickly.

### Taylor

- 32 years old.
- Marketing manager who works remotely.
- Passionate about yoga, mindfulness, and sustainable living.
- Enjoys hiking, attending music festivals, and reading about self-improvement.
- Looking for a deep emotional connection but values independence in a relationship.

### Riley

- 41 years old.
- Owner of a small local bookstore.
- Passionate about literature, gardening, and baking sourdough bread.
- Introverted but warm-hearted; prefers quiet evenings over loud social gatherings.
- Looking for a serious relationship with someone who values a slower-paced lifestyle.

## How would you describe yourself?

Your age and profession.

A few hobbies or interests you are passionate about.

Your personality type and social preferences.

What you value more in a partner or a relationship.

## Your best match's profile

Possible age range and profession.

Shared hobbies or complementary interests.

The kind of personality and values you find most attractive.

What type of relationship dynamic you are hoping for.