

6 Family and friends

6A Life with teenagers

QUICK REVIEW ●●●

Write all the adjectives you know to describe people's appearance (*tall*, etc.) and character (*friendly*, etc.). Work in groups and compare words. Who has the most?

Vocabulary character adjectives
Grammar making comparisons: comparatives, *a lot*, *much*, *a bit*, *(not) as ... as*
Review describing appearance

Vocabulary Character adjectives

- 1 Tick the adjectives you know. Check new words in **V6.1** p130.

shy bright noisy stubborn helpful
moody patient lazy honest selfish
mature polite aggressive ambitious
organised considerate easy-going

- 2 a) Choose four adjectives from 1 that describe your character and four that don't. Write them on a piece of paper. Don't write them in order.
b) Work in pairs. Swap lists. Take turns to guess which four adjectives describe your partner.

Reading and Grammar

- 3 Work in groups. Discuss these questions.
- 1 Which is the most difficult to be: a child, a teenager, a middle-aged person, an elderly person? Why?
 - 2 Which is the most difficult to live with? Why?
- 4 a) Look at the headline in the article. Who is 'the enemy', do you think? Read the first paragraph only and find out.
b) Read about Marilyn Scott's family. Who is easier to live with, Tom or Harry? Why?
c) Read the article again. Tick the true sentences. Correct the false ones.
- 1 Marilyn's two sons are quite similar.
 - 2 Harry is doing badly at school.
 - 3 Harry knows which job he wants to do.
 - 4 Tom doesn't study very hard.
 - 5 Tom isn't very ambitious.
 - 6 Marilyn is only worried about Harry.

LIVING WITH THE ENEMY



PEOPLE often say that living with teenagers is worse than living with any other age group. But is this true? We talked to two parents with teenage children to find out.

Marilyn Scott

Yes, sometimes it's really difficult living with teenagers. But it isn't only their age, it's also the type of people they are. My two sons are completely different. Tom's easier to live with than Harry. Harry's a typical moody fifteen-year-old. He's a lot noisier and more aggressive than Tom, and he isn't as considerate. So he's much harder to live with. But Harry's got his good side too. He's very bright and his exam results are always better than Tom's.

Tom's two years older than Harry, so he's more mature and less stubborn than his brother.

He's also a bit more patient and can be very helpful when he wants to be. But he's got bigger problems at school. He's as intelligent as Harry, but he's much lazier and his exam results are always worse than his brother's. Harry wants to be a pilot when he leaves school, but Tom doesn't know what he wants to do.

In some ways I'm a bit more worried about Harry because he isn't as happy as Tom. But I also worry about Tom because he hasn't got any plans for his future. Yes, life is hard living with teenagers, but I'll miss them when they leave home.

Help with Grammar

Making comparisons

- 5 a) Find the comparative forms of these adjectives in the article about Marilyn Scott's family. Then answer questions 1–5.

easy aggressive good
old mature big bad

- When do we use *-er*?
- When do we use *more*?
- What are the spelling rules for adjectives like *noisy* and *big*?
- Which adjectives are irregular?
- What is the opposite of *more*? Find an example in the article.

- b) Which word is missing in this sentence?

Tom's two years older
Harry.

- c) Which of these words in **bold** mean: a big difference?
a small difference?

a lot noisier much lazier
a bit more worried

- d) Look at these sentences. Then answer questions 1–3.

Tom's as intelligent as Harry.
Harry isn't as happy as Tom.

- Which sentence means the boys are different?
- Which sentence means they are the same?
- Do we use the adjective or its comparative form with *(not) as ... as*?

- e) Check in **G6.1** p131.

- 6 **R6.1** **P** Listen and practise. Copy the stress.

Tom's easier to live with than Harry.

- 7 Read about Robert Macey's family. Complete the article with the adjective or its comparative form. Who is easier to live with, Carol or Beth?

Robert Macey

We've got two girls – Carol is eight and Beth is sixteen.

Carol's a lot ¹ (difficult) to live with than her sister, so I think teenagers are ² (easy)

to live with than young children. Beth's much ³ (easy-going) and she isn't as ⁴ (selfish)

as Carol – but sometimes they're both as ⁵ (moody) as each other! Also

Carol is less ⁶ (polite) and much ⁷ (noisy), but I think that's just because she's ⁸ (young). They're both doing OK at school, but Carol's a bit ⁹ (bright) than Beth was at her age and her reports are always ¹⁰ (good) than Beth's. But perhaps Beth's reports aren't as ¹¹ (good) as Carol's because these days she's ¹² (interested) in boys than her school work!



- 8 a) Write six sentences to compare yourself and a friend. Use *a lot*, *much*, *a bit*, *(not) as ... as*, and the adjectives from 1 and the Quick Review.

Olivia's a bit taller than me.

I'm not as organised as she is.

- b) Work in pairs. Take turns to tell your partner about your friend.

Get ready ... Get it right!

- 9 a) Think about your life now and your life when you were a teenager. (If you are a teenager now, think about your life now and your life five years ago.) For both of these times in your life write two adjectives each for your: a) personality, b) appearance, c) day-to-day life.

- b) Plan how you can compare your life now to when you were a teenager/five years ago.

I'm much less shy now than I was then.

I was a bit thinner when I was a teenager.

My life isn't as stressful as it was five years ago.

- 10 Work in groups. Tell the other students about the differences between now and then. Give reasons if possible.