A family affair

Grammar

Present perfect simple and continuous

1 Read this email and put the verbs in brackets into the most appropriate form (present perfect simple or continuous).

Hi Stephanie

How are you? I've been having a lovely time with my family here in Spain. Sorry I haven't written to you for ages, but I've been working hard here at my new school since we arrived six weeks ago. My new teachers are all great and I've met some really nice Spanish people. Some of them have invited me round to their houses a few times. I think my Spanish has improved a lot because I've not had the opportunity to speak much English since I arrived, except to my family. It's hard having all my lessons in Spanish instead of English, but I'll get used to it. It's lucky my mum's Spanish and made sure we all learnt the language as we were growing up! She's going to Madrid this weekend to stay with her sister, so Dad's looking after us all. His mum, my English grandmother, is missing us a lot – she's been having phone six times already! I (look after) my little brother and sister this morning to help Dad. They're quite happy so I write emails all morning. I've sent six so far!

I wonder what you've been doing since I left! Write back soon and tell me all your news.

Love Emily

Asking questions (present perfect simple and continuous)

2 A week later, Stephanie phones Emily and asks her some questions. Use the prompts to write her questions using the most appropriate form (present perfect simple or continuous) in the speech balloons.

1 you visit / Madrid yet?

Have you visited Madrid yet?

2 What time / you get up / every day?

3 you buy / anything?

4 you learn / how to cook Spanish food?

5 How many times / you eat / paella?

6 you see / any films in Spanish yet?
Vocabulary
Collocations with make and do

1 Complete each of the sentences below with the correct form of make or do.

1 Don’t worry about the exam. You can only ........ your best.
2 Carla dropped a whole bottle of olive oil and it .......... a mess.
3 Everyone was asleep when I came home so I tried not to .......... a noise.
4 My mum says I can .......... a swimming course for a week this summer.
5 I needed to have my hair cut so Dad rang the hairdresser to .......... an appointment for me.
6 I often help my parents .......... the shopping.
7 I missed school on Monday because I was ill so my friend .......... a copy of all the notes for me.
8 The sink was full of dirty dishes so I .......... the washing up.
9 I’ve been given some money for my birthday, but I’m not sure whether to buy a computer game or some new trousers. It’s difficult to .......... a decision!
10 My mum is going to .......... a delicious meal for us when we get home.

Adjectives

2 For each of the sentences below, make an adjective from one of the words in the box. Some gaps need a negative adjective.

aggression criticism enthusiasm organise patience rely understand

1 My aunt can be quite .......... when I make mistakes but she always gives me good advice too.
2 Although Charlie wanted to see the show, he was too ................. , to stand in the queue for half an hour.
3 Most animals will get ................. if they feel their young are being threatened.
4 Mark’s family are so ................. they can never find anything they need.
5 When Petra explained why she was late, her teacher was very ................. and didn’t get angry.
6 Stacey is really ................. . She promises to do things but often changes her mind.
7 I thought you’d be really excited about going to Amsterdam but you don’t seem very ................. .

Phrasal verbs

3 Complete each gap with a phrasal verb which means the same as the word(s) in brackets. Use the verbs in the box in their correct form.

clear up do up go for go on pick up wear out

When my cousin comes to stay in the holidays she shares my room. Last summer I thought I’d give her a surprise and (1) .......... (decorate it) before she came. First of all, I had to (2) .......... (tidy) and that took ages because it was a real mess. In fact, I was so (3) .......... (tired) that I had to have a rest before going to the shop to buy the paint. I couldn’t decide whether to (4) .......... (choose) green or blue but in the end blue seemed best. When I came out of the shop, I realised I couldn’t carry all the stuff I’d bought so my mum had to come and (5) .......... (collect me). Then I only had a day to get it all done. I (6) .......... (continue) painting nearly all night. The annoying thing was my cousin didn’t even notice when she arrived.

Writing Part 2
An article

1 Read part of an article written by a student for a magazine and correct the spelling and punctuation. There are 15 mistakes. The first one has been corrected for you.

I deiiitely think that teenage year’s should be the best in everyones life because you can have fun and you have fewer problems than adults teenagers know how to have a good time. Most teenagers have a lot of freinds and they discuss things that they are interested in. Teenagers have to be in fashion wearing up-to-date cloths and listening to modern music. They also like to do sports and compete in matchs. But teenager’s parents sometimes have a difficult time and they dont understand why? Wouldnt you feel angry if someone went into your room without permission. So do teenagers. Teenagers stop thinking like children as they grow up and their believes and their interests change. My opinion is that teenage years are magical and Id like to stay a teenager forever.
2 Read the exam task below and the essay plan written by a student. Add your own notes.

In your English class, you have been discussing the advantages and disadvantages of coming from a big family, a family where there are lots of other children.

Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using all of the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

It is better to have lots of brothers and sisters than to be an only child.

Notes
Write about:
1. the advantages of large families
2. the disadvantages of large families
3. ............ (your own idea)

Essay plan
Paragraph 1: Introduction
Paragraph 2: Advantages and disadvantages of having lots of brothers and sisters
Paragraph 3: Contrast these ideas with being an only child
Paragraph 4: Conclusion

3 Match the personal opinions (1–6) with the reasons (A–F).

1. I believe large families have more fun
2. In my opinion, it can be difficult to have any privacy
3. I think an only child might feel lonely
4. I feel that being part of a large family makes you less selfish
5. In my view, only children feel very loved
6. From my point of view, large families provide more support

A. because their parents give them a lot of attention.
B. since there is always someone to listen to you and help you out.
C. as there is always someone to play with.
D. because you probably have to share a bedroom.
E. because of being used to sharing your toys.
F. because they have no one to play with.

4 Complete each extract from the essay using the ideas in Exercise 3. You may have to change some words.

It is true that only children may feel lonely. One of the main reasons is that (1) ............... However, for the most part, parents give only children a lot of attention. Because of this, many people think that (2) ............... 

Another point to consider is that, if you are from a large family, you usually have to share a bedroom. That is why some people say (3) ............... On the other hand, (4) ............... For this reason, it is often argued that being part of a large family makes you less selfish.

5 Look at the student’s essay plan again. Match the extracts in Exercise 4 with the correct paragraph.

Extract A  Extract B

6 Now write your essay.

Sounds and spelling
7 Look at the words below and underline the letters that represent the sound /iː/.
1. beach
2. email
3. people
4. parties
5. receive
6. ski
7. key
8. theme
9. see

8 Correct the spelling of the sound /iː/ in these words.
1. feal
2. teem
3. seeson
4. reecent
5. succead
6. beleive
7. fiftein
8. fredom
9. plesse
10. celing
11. poleec
12. theas

9 Look at the /iː/ words in Exercises 7 and 8. Which are the most common spellings of the sound?
Listening Part 3

02 You will hear five short extracts in which teenagers are talking about a family day out. For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says about the day. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

A I got bored with what we were doing after a while.
B I enjoyed the day more than I had expected.
C I had a better time than some members of my family.
D I was disappointed about something.
E I was annoyed about a change of plan.
F I didn’t have time to do everything I wanted.
G I regretted a decision I made.
H I was relieved that the day was a success.

Speaker 1 1
Speaker 2 2
Speaker 3 3
Speaker 4 4
Speaker 5 5

Reading and Use of English Part 7

You are going to read a newspaper article about people who have no brothers or sisters. For questions 1–10, choose from the people (A–E). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

realises that the positive relationship they had with their parents isn’t shared by all only children?

thinks people make a judgement about only children which is mistaken?

thinks they developed a better understanding of adults because of being an only child?

finds their present circumstances a challenge?

says that only children have needs which can be difficult for others to deal with?

realised at a particular point that they were happy being an only child?

was unaware that their reactions to being an only child were not unique?

had problems as a child because they lacked a necessary skill?

says they accept their situation because they don’t know anything different?

mentions a positive benefit of spending a lot of time alone?

Which person?

A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4
E 5
F 6
G 7
H 8
I 9
J 10

EXAM ADVICE
Read A–H and listen carefully to each speaker. The words you hear will be different from those below.

EXAM ADVICE
Read the questions, then quickly read the texts. When you find the part of a text which matches the question, underline it.
“What’s it like to spend a lifetime without brothers and sisters?” asks Joanna Moorhead.

A  Sam Thompson, aged 10
When my mum’s friend had a baby, it made me think about being an only child for the first time. I thought, would I like to have brothers and sisters? But to be honest, my friend’s sister looked quite annoying – he was always having to watch her and I decided I was better off on my own. There are lots of good things about being an only child. I have privacy, and I like that; some of my friends have to share a bedroom and I know that will never happen to me. Plus I get time on my own with Mum and Dad, and that’s very special.

B  Jasmine Weller, aged 13
I always felt a bit different from other kids, and just thought it was something about me. Then I made friends with three other people who are all only children. I suddenly realised that they felt a lot like me. We all need to spend quite a lot of time on our own, and some of our friends with brothers and sisters find that strange – they think we don’t like them or something. However, there are pluses, too. I think it’s good to be able to entertain yourself sometimes, and my mum says I’ve got a great imagination.

C  Bethany Shaw, aged 15
One of the bad things about being an only child when you’re young is the reaction you get from other people. They think you’re spoilt – you see that look in their eyes. And then you have to prove you’re not spoilt, although you know you’re not and nor are most only children. In general, I think the negatives outweigh the positives, but on the other hand it’s all I’ve known and I’m OK with it.

D  Leah Mitchell, aged 29
I went away to 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, often there aren’t any other children at a gathering. I found being an only child interesting, in that it gave me a place at the grown-ups’ table and gave me a view into their world that children in a big family might not get. And I know it has, at least partly, made me into the person I am: I never like the idea of being one of a group, for example. I’m not comfortable with being one of a gang.

E  Laura Arnold, aged 36
I know some only children feel stifled by their parents’ constant demands and worries, but that wasn’t my experience. I found being an only child enriching, which I think is mainly because we get on so well. I’ve got two children now and I do find that scary. The problem is I’ve absolutely no experience of this kind of situation; nothing in my past has prepared me for having to divide myself between the needs of these two little people, and the guilt is hard when I feel I’ve not been there enough for one of them. And on a practical level, things like sibling rivalry are going to be a whole new ball game.