



Siblings Relationships: A Brief Analysis

- 1 During childhood, sisters and brothers are a major part of each other's lives for better or for worse. As adults they may drift apart as they become involved in their careers, marriages and families. But much later in life, after retirement, when the children leave home and parents and sometimes spouses pass away, brothers and sisters often turn to each other for a special closeness and link to the past. "In the stressful, fast-paced world we live in, the sibling relationship becomes for many the only intimate connection that seems to last," says psychologist Michael Kahn of the University of Hartford. Friends and neighbors may move away, former coworkers are forgotten, marriages break up, but no matter what, our sisters and brothers remain our sisters and brothers.
- 2 The late-life bond between siblings may be especially important to the "Baby Boom" generation, people who were born in the United States from 1946 to 1964 when the birth rate increased dramatically. These people, now in adulthood, average about two or three siblings each. Divorce rates are high among the members of this generation because they have different values from their parents; they do not attach the same level of importance to family as their parents. For the same reason, most of those couples who stayed married decided to have only one or no children. Divorce and having one or no children will force members of this generation to look to their brothers and sisters for support in old age.
- 3 Another important factor in sibling relationships is critical events. Critical events can bring siblings together or deepen an existing gap. Parental sickness or death is a prime example. A study done by the University of Cincinnati showed that siblings engaged in rivalry and conflict were even more torn apart by the death or sickness of a parent. On the other hand, those siblings who had been close since childhood became closer.
- 4 As brothers and sisters advance into old age, closeness increases and rivalry diminishes. Old age is seen as a time to heal wounds. Older people tend to focus more on what they need now than on bad events of the past. As a result, people become more involved with and interested in their siblings as they age. Most elderly people have supportive and friendly dealings and get along very well with their brothers or sisters. Furthermore, with family and career obligations reduced, they have more time for each other. Another reason for increased contact is anxiety regarding a sister's or brother's declining health. Many older people like to check in on their siblings to see how they are doing. Siblings also assume special importance as other sources of contact and support weaken. Each of us moves through life with a group of people who supply comfort and nurturance. As we age, the size of this group gradually declines because of death, sickness or moving. Brothers and sisters who may not have been important members of the group earlier in life can become so in old age. And they do more than fill in gaps. The loneliness older people feel cannot be satisfied by just anyone. They want a specific type of relationship, one that only someone who had shared their past could provide.

- 5 This far-reaching link to the past is a powerful bond between siblings in later life. There is a review process we all go through in old age to resolve whether or not we are pleased with our lives. A sibling can help retrieve a memory more accurately. We can remember some with our spouse or with friends but the only person who goes all the way back is our sister or brother. Only they can help us remember the past events the way they happened. Discussing the past helps us feel the warmth of early family life once again. Furthermore, going back in time with a sister or brother can improve our morale.
- 6 Some of the factors that affect how much contact siblings will have, such as how near they live, are obvious; others are more unexpected. For example, relationships are closer if there is a sister involved. Elderly people most often feel closest to a sister and are more likely to keep in touch through her. Sisters, by tradition, often assume a caretaking and kin-keeping role, especially after the death of their mother. In many situations, two brothers do not talk to each other that much but keep track of each other through their sisters. Researchers have found that the bond between sisters is strongest, followed by the one between sisters and brothers and, last, between brothers.
- 7 Sisters and brothers who live near each other will, as a matter of course, see more of each other. However, proximity is not crucial to a strong relationship later in life. Because of multiple chronic illnesses, people in their 80s and 90s cannot get together that easily. Even so, these siblings seem to evoke positive feelings based on the images or feelings inside. Just the idea that the sibling is alive and that there is someone they can call is comforting, so while contact among siblings may decrease, positive feelings increase.
- 8 Although older people may find comfort in the thought that their siblings are there if they need them, they rarely call each other for help or offer each other instrumental support, such as borrowing money, or help with shopping or cleaning. There are several reasons why siblings do not turn to each other more for instrumental help. First, since they are usually about the same age, they may be equally needy or weak. Another reason is that many people consider their siblings safety nets who will save them after everything else has failed. A son or daughter will almost always be turned to first. It's more acceptable in the society to look up or down the family ladder for help than sideways. Finally, siblings may not turn to each other for help because of hidden rivalry. They may believe that if they need to call on a brother or sister, they are admitting that the other person is a success while they are a failure. Therefore, some people would rather continue on their own than ask their sister or brother for help.
- 9 Despite the quarrelling and competition many people associate with the mere mention of their sisters and brothers, many will find unexpected strengths in this relationship in later life. As people age, their siblings become the most important people in their lives. As a result, one sibling may be worth all the friends, colleagues, neighbors a person has.



General Information:

- The reading questions are in the same order as the information in the reading text.
- While answering the questions, you can use the same wording as it appears in the text. You do **NOT** need to use your own words or paraphrase the sentences.
- Make sure you answer questions within the indicated word limit if given.
- Answers that include irrelevant/extra information will **NOT** be considered correct.

Part A. Complete the following statements with words from Paragraphs 2 and 3. Do **NOT write any irrelevant information.**

1. The baby boom generation becomes dependent on their siblings later in life because _____
_____.
2. Siblings who have a good relationship support each other even more in situations like _____
_____.

Part B. Complete the following summary with words from Paragraph 4. Do **NOT write any irrelevant information. It is possible to answer the questions with a maximum of 7 words.**

Siblings get closer when they get older due to several reasons. Firstly, as they age, they do not see each other as rivals because they attach less importance to (3) _____.

In addition, siblings can spare time for their relationship thanks to fewer (4) _____.

The third reason for this closeness is siblings' worries about (5) _____. Finally, when they lose the people around them, people turn to their siblings instead of other people because (6) _____.

Part C. Answer the following questions with words from Paragraphs 5, 6, and 7. Do **NOT write more than ONE sentence. Do **NOT** write any irrelevant information.**

7. Besides helping us remember past events correctly, how may talking about the past with a sibling help us?

8. What prevents siblings at very old ages from seeing each other?

Part D. Put a tick (✓) next to the correct answer for each of the questions below. There is ONE correct answer for each question.

9. According to **Paragraphs 6 and 7**, who would have a stronger relationship after losing their parents?

Siblings who live nearby. _____

Siblings whose mother dies. _____

Siblings with a chronic illness. _____

Siblings involving a sister. _____

10. Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned in **Paragraph 8** as a reason why older siblings rarely ask each other for favors?


They prefer to seek help from other family members first. _____

Siblings of an old person may not be in good conditions, either. _____

They get help from other members of the society. _____

They do not want their sibling to think that they have failed. _____

***** This is the end of the Reading Section. *****

 Istanbul Bilgi University English Language Programs	Preparatory Program Sample Listening Exam Part A. While-Listening Questions	Name: _____ Student ID: _____ Date: _____
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Part A. You are going to hear a conversation on “Earworms.” You will hear this conversation only ONCE. While you are listening, answer the questions with the information from the conversation.

You now have 15 seconds to study the questions.

Situation: A conversation on Earworms on a radio show.

1. An earworm is ...
 - a. a small insect that can go into our ears
 - b. a piece of music that plays in our mind
 - c. a kind of music that plays in a restaurant


- What TWO characteristics make a song catchy?

2. _____

3. _____

4. An earworm can be disturbing for people because ...
 - a. it can hurt the ears
 - b. it causes psychological problems
 - c. it makes it difficult to focus

5. Which of the methods below is effective for getting rid of an earworm?
 - a. covering the ears by using headphones
 - b. listening to the song that causes the earworm
 - c. singing the song that causes the earworm

 <p data-bbox="293 237 564 327">Istanbul Bilgi University English Language Programs</p>	<p data-bbox="638 210 979 327">Preparatory Program Sample Listening Exam Part A. Note-Taking Outline</p>	<p data-bbox="1034 210 1449 237">Name: _____</p> <p data-bbox="1034 255 1449 282">Student ID: _____</p> <p data-bbox="1034 300 1449 327">Date: _____</p>
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Part B. Now, you are going to hear a talk on “Toys.” You will hear this talk only ONCE. During the talk, take notes under the relevant headings on your note-taking outline. Do not attempt to write everything down. Just note down the significant points. At the end of the talk, you will have 6 minutes to answer the questions. You now have 10 seconds to study the note-taking outline.

TOYS

Toys in the Past

Influence of Toys

Toy Testing



Now, use your notes to answer the questions according to the lecture. Information that is not from the lecture will not be accepted. You have 6 minutes to answer the questions.

6. What did the children play with before any toys were designed?

_____.

7. What is the first toy design?

_____.

8. As toys make children physically active, they help them

develop _____.

9. Why are toys good for children's mental abilities?

_____.

10. Children who develop their creativity can _____ when they become adults.

11. Toy testing can show that a new toy is good if the toy _____.

12. After the test, companies give children _____.

*** This is the end of the Listening Section. ***



Write an essay of about 350 words on the writing question given below.

You have 60 minutes + 15 minutes extra time.

Writing Question:

“Being an only child is better than having siblings.”

Do you agree or disagree?

You MAY use the following prompts or your own ideas to write your essay.

Agree

- Parents' complete support and attention
- Not having to share
- More privacy

Disagree

- Being spoiled
- Feelings of loneliness / No sibling support
- More responsibility / Parents' expectations

You MAY also use the following facts in addition to other supporting techniques to support your opinions in your essay.

- 65% of only children are observed to be more self-centered compared to their peers in the kindergarten period. (A daycare facility center research report).
- Only children tend to have twice as many friends as children with siblings. (A study conducted in private primary schools).



EXAM PROCEDURE FOR INSTRUCTORS:

Step 1. Start recording and do not stop until the end of the session.

Step 2. Greet the student.

Step 3. Ask for identification and the signature. Make sure that the student's mobile phone is off.

Step 4. Introduce yourself and the observer.

Read to each student slowly: Today we're going to talk about (title of theme.) I'm going to ask you a few questions on the topic. Please give detailed answers. If you have no idea about the topic, you may ask to change it once. Are you ready?

Effects of Media

- How much time do you spend on the Internet every day?
 - Do you think you spend too much time on the Internet?
 - How much is too much?
 - Why?
- Why are some people addicted to the Internet or TV?
 - How does media addiction affect a person's life?
- How can the Internet or TV be bad for children?
 - Would you allow your child to play video games?
 - Why/Why not?
- How can TV/internet be good for children?
 - How can TV/the Internet be educational?
- What can be done to prevent the harmful effects of TV/the Internet?
 - What can parents/school/government do? Please explain.
- Some experts say that social media makes people unhappy. Do you agree?
 - (If yes) Why?
 - (If no) How does social media make people happy?