

# Use of English

## Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

1 Discuss which of the adjectives below you would use to describe yourself and any brothers and sisters you have.

adventurous creative humorous  
rebellious risk-taking unconventional

2 Read the newspaper report opposite ignoring the gaps, and choose the best heading (a, b or c).

- a Famous comedians were funny children.
- b Younger siblings have fewer skills.
- c Younger siblings are more humorous.



3 Read the the **tip** box. Then read the text again carefully and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

**C**hildren with older brothers and sisters find it easier to (0) *make* people laugh, a survey has suggested. Just over half of younger siblings who (1) ..... part in the survey said it was easy to be humorous, compared with a third of those who were (2) ..... . And just 11% of (3) ..... children had the skill, according to the study of 1,000 people by psychologist Richard Wiseman. 'Younger siblings have to compete (4) ..... parental attention, so they have to be more unconventional. They are risk-taking, and also more humorous. On the other (5)..... , older children tend to take on much more serious roles. And of course children without siblings don't feel the (6) ..... to compete at all.'

And (7) ..... funny continues into adulthood. Younger siblings who (8) ..... to become famous comedians in Britain include Rowan Atkinson, better known as 'Mr Bean'.

Professor Wiseman, who compiled the report, said his (9) ..... tie in with other research about the (10) ..... of family position on personality. He said University of California research had suggested that, because younger children had not had the chance to (11) ..... the same skills and abilities as their older siblings, they had to find novel ways of gaining attention. This (12) ..... to make them more creative, unconventional, adventurous and rebellious.

**tip** Try to think of possible answers before looking at the options.

- |    |              |            |   |             |
|----|--------------|------------|---|-------------|
| 0  | A force      | B push     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> C make | D encourage |
| 1  | A had        | B took     | C did                                   | D played    |
| 2  | A first-born | B major    | C primary                               | D new born  |
| 3  | A only       | B unique   | C single                                | D sole      |
| 4  | A over       | B on       | C in                                    | D for       |
| 5  | A hand       | B side     | C way                                   | D matter    |
| 6  | A want       | B idea     | C need                                  | D lack      |
| 7  | A to be      | B be       | C being                                 | D been      |
| 8  | A put on     | B went on  | C took on                               | D came on   |
| 9  | A happenings | B readings | C sayings                               | D findings  |
| 10 | A cause      | B effect   | C reason                                | D logic     |
| 11 | A develop    | B increase | C enlarge                               | D grow      |
| 12 | A intends    | B extends  | C tends                                 | D sends     |