

Overview

Watch the video podcast. Whose family do you identify with most?

1 Read Andrea's introduction. Then watch the video podcast from 0:00 to 0:27 and underline the correct alternatives.

Hi. My name is Andrea. I ¹live / am living and work in London ²but / though most of my family live in Brazil. I get on well ³to / with my sister when I ⁴'ll see / see her but that's only ⁵once / twice a year. Do you ⁶pass / spend much time with your family?



2 Do you spend much time with your family? Look at the people in the pictures and read extracts from their answers. Then watch the video podcast from 0:27 to 1:16 and match the people to their answers.



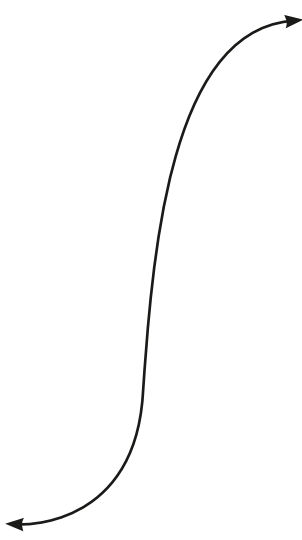
1 I try to, yeah. I try and spend as much as possible. _____ C

2 Spend quite a bit of time with my family. Obviously, less now since I left home and left university. _____

3 I don't, no. We're geographically quite spread out. _____

4 Yeah, I do. I go to school in Toronto and they live there and I see them on weekends and whenever I can really. _____

5 Probably not as much as I could because the kids are busy, and, er, I don't have any parents any more. And my husband's family live a fair way away, so probably not as much as we'd like to. _____



Glossary: a fair way away = quite a long way from where the speaker is; geographically spread out = (living) in different places all over the country/world.

3 *Have they inherited any family characteristics?* Look at the people in Exercise 2 again and read their paraphrased answers below. Then watch the video podcast from 1:16 to 2:55. Write true (T) or false (F) next to each answer.

- 1 **Nick:** People often say he looks and sounds like his mum, though he doesn't understand why. _____ F _____
- 2 **Dianne:** She might have inherited some good things from her family, like a fairly good personality and being fun to be around. _____
- 3 **Robin:** She doesn't take things as seriously as her family, or value spending time with them. _____
- 4 **Tim:** He's physically quite slender and short like his dad, though he has a very different personality. _____
- 5 **Tomas:** He's bubbly and chatty like his mum but is more like his dad when he's in a bad mood. _____

Glossary: *bubbly* = very lively; *slender* = slim

4A *Do you know much about your family history?* Watch the video podcast from 2:57 to 4:23 and number the countries they mention in the order you hear them, 1–10.

Scotland	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Canada	<input type="text"/>
Ireland	<input type="text"/>
Spain	<input type="text"/>
France	<input type="text"/>
Argentina	<input type="text"/>
Scotland	<input type="text"/>
Liberia	<input type="text"/>
Barbados	<input type="text"/>
Zimbabwe	<input type="text"/>

B Read sentences 1–3 and watch the video podcast from 2:57 to 4:23 again. Tick the sentence which best summarises what the people say.

- In general, they know a reasonable amount about their family histories.
- On the whole, they wish they knew more about their family histories.
- Most of the speakers only knew about the first and second generations in their family histories.

5 Does your family history play a part in your sense of who you are? Look at the people below and read their answers. Then watch the video podcast from 4:23 to 5:20 and underline the words you hear.



A Andrew

A Yes, very much so. And part of that is that I was brought up in Latin America, speaking Spanish to my friends and English to my parents. So, in ¹*a* / *some* sense, I was brought up 'between two ²*countries* / *cultures*' and that, at the end, is part of who I am.



B Maureen

B Definitely, because family is a big part of ³*me* / *myself* um, and, we just try to keep those connections ⁴*up* / *going*.



C Nick

C I ⁵*guess* / *suppose* it's a difficult balance in my head to see what's, how much is me and how much is my family. And knowing about my family ⁶*origins* / *history* and knowing what I have inherited, which I'm sure there's lots and lots of habits that I ⁷*must* / *might* have inherited, but I feel a lot of it's 'me' but it probably isn't.



D Tim

D Er, no, not really at all. Erm, I left home when I was about sixteen or seventeen so I think my sense of ⁸*identity* / *who I am* has been very much formed by my own ⁹*belief* / *believe* systems and my own lifestyle rather than being particularly ¹⁰*focussed on* / *keyed into* anything to do with my parents or my grandparents.

The way we speak

6 Watch the video podcast of Tomas from 2:24 to 2:44 and notice how he uses *kind of*. Then watch again and write *kind of* in spaces 1–10 where you hear it.



Yeah, definitely. I think, ¹ _____ from my mum I've got the ² _____ bubblyness and chattiness – she's ³ _____ very much like that. And, er, ⁴ _____ most of the time I'm like that, but then when I'm in a ⁵ _____ bad mood I get the dad side. And that's er, he's ⁶ _____, my mum used to call him 'a volcano' because he ⁷ _____ just 'erupts'. He's really ⁸ _____ peaceful most of the time but then when you really make him ⁹ _____ angry he'll erupt and that's ¹⁰ _____ how it is with me.

Glossary: *kind of* = informal spoken English: often used when describing things in a vague way, usually with very little extra meaning

Personalisation

7 Write a paragraph about your family using Andrea's questions and language from the podcast to help.

- How much time do you spend with your family?
- Have you inherited any family characteristics?
- How much do you know about your family history?
- Does your family history play a part in your sense of who you are?

**BBC LINK**

Do you want to know more about your family history? This BBC guide can help: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get_started/

BBC

