

1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- Do you have brothers or sisters?
- Are they older or younger than you?
- How do you think having siblings affects a person?

2 Complete the magazine article with the words and phrases in the box.

a much as (x2) bit by far close as far more less more of a much more
slightly than the the more the most

The most fierce rivalry in the world



For many people, ¹ _____ the greatest rival they will ever face is their own brother or sister. Studies have shown that while growing up, siblings spend ² _____ time with each other than with anyone else. Often, this isn't all smooth sailing. One study found that siblings aged three to seven fought on average 3.5 times per hour. The closer siblings were in age, ³ _____ frequent the disagreement. Rivalry still exists, but is ⁴ _____ less obvious among siblings of different genders. Interestingly, some studies indicate that where one sibling shows ⁵ _____ skill at a certain activity, the other sibling may avoid that activity altogether. Experts say parents can reduce sibling rivalry by treating children ⁶ _____ equally as possible.

YOUR STORIES

Julie

My sister is just a little ⁷ _____ younger than me, eleven months. Whatever hobbies I took up, she wanted to copy them. When I was taking tennis lessons, she also decided to start, and before long became ⁸ _____ better player. The same thing happened with dance, violin and swimming. It really was ⁹ _____ frustrating thing ever.

Asim

My twin brother is ¹⁰ _____ down than me – I'm quite shy and reserved. The more people laugh, ¹¹ _____ more jokes he makes. I've never really tried to be funny because I'll never be as entertaining ¹² _____ he is.

Marcos

I'm the sixth of seven siblings and we've always got on well, probably more easily ¹³ _____ in some other families because my parents were very strict about being fair and kind. We're as ¹⁴ _____ ever these days, in fact, we all live ¹⁵ _____ than ten minutes walk from each other!

3 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- Do you agree that sibling rivalry is the most fierce in the world? Why/Why not?
- Are the stories in the article similar to your own experiences? Why/Why not?

1 Circle the appropriate number to show how much you agree or disagree with each statement (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree).

2 Rewrite the statements so that they are true for you. Use comparatives, superlatives and modifiers.

Luck plays more of a role in success than most people think. _____	1 2 3 4 5
I'm far more interested in competing against myself than against other people. _____	1 2 3 4 5
People tend to become much more stubborn with age. _____	1 2 3 4 5
The more confident someone is, the more successful they'll be. _____	1 2 3 4 5
In sport, genetics are as important as hard work. _____	1 2 3 4 5
I'm by far the most competitive person in my family. _____	1 2 3 4 5
As fantastic as it is to represent a country in an elite sport, I wouldn't want to. _____	1 2 3 4 5
The closer countries are situated geographically, the greater their rivalry. _____	1 2 3 4 5
Older siblings are far less likely to be outrageous than their younger siblings. _____	1 2 3 4 5
I'm more of a dreamer than a doer. _____	1 2 3 4 5

3 Work in groups and compare your answers.



1 Complete the words to form adjectives of character. The first letters have been given to help you.

1 How **com** _____ would you say you are? Do you always have to win?

2 Are you a **tho** _____ person? Do you do things to help others?

3 Why do you think some people are more **de** _____ than others and can stay focused on success?

4 Where is the line between being **con** _____ and being **ar** _____?

5 Would you be more insulted if you were called **ine** _____ at your job or **unpr** _____?

6 What do you think is the best way to convince a **st** _____ person to change their mind?

7 When could being **bo** _____ be a positive trait? When could it be a negative trait?

8 What do you think it means to be mentally **to** _____?

9 Who is the most **rea** _____ person you know?

10 Who is someone you consider to be truly **rem** _____? Why?

2 Work in groups and discuss the questions in Exercise 1.

