

READINGS

The Science of Twins

Twins, especially identical twins, have always fascinated scientists. Identical twins develop from one egg, have identical DNA, and are usually very similar in appearance and behavior. There have been many studies of identical twins raised in the same family.

There have also been a number of studies of identical twins separated at birth and raised in separate families. These studies have provided interesting information about the impact of nature (genetics) and nurture (the environment) on the development of the individual. However, some of the studies have been controversial.

Take the case of Elyse Schein and Paula Bernstein. Elyse and Paula were identical twins separated at birth. Both girls knew that their parents had adopted them as infants, but neither girl knew about her twin. When Elyse grew up, she longed to meet her biological mother, so she contacted the agency that had arranged the adoption. She had been doing research on her birth mother when she made a surprising discovery. She had an identical twin. Even more surprising, she learned that she had been part of a secret scientific study. At the time of the adoption, the agency had allowed different families to adopt each twin. The agency had told the families that their child was part of a scientific study. However, it had never told the families the goal of the study: for scientists to investigate nature versus nurture.

When Elyse and Paula finally met as adults, they were amazed. They had many similarities. They looked almost identical. They had both studied film. They both loved to write. Together, the twins discovered that the researchers had stopped the study before the end because the public strongly disapproved of this type of research.

Excerpts taken from http://www.cambridge.org/grammarandbeyond/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Grammar_and_Beyond_Student_Book_3_Unit_4.pdf

Janice and Kurt are planning their upcoming vacation

For each of the past eight years, Janice and Kurt have spent their vacation time at home, either working in the garden or fixing up the house. This year, however, they are planning to spend their July vacation somewhere else. They've checked the Internet for weather information about areas of the country they might like to visit. They are really eager to travel somewhere soon. In fact, if they had free time right now, they would take their vacation immediately, but they can't leave right now. They still have a couple of months to explore their options.

So far, they have learned the following information. If they want to spend their time near the water, they will have a hard time choosing among dozens of outstanding beach resorts. For example, if they go to the beach in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the air temperature will be in the mid-70s in July, and the water temperature will be in the low 70s. That's very appealing to them. On the other hand, if they chose to visit Miami Beach in July, both the air and the water temperatures would be considerably

warmer, around 85 degrees. That sounds wonderful to them, too. Janice and Kurt also like to go camping, so vacationing in the mountains is another option. They could choose to visit the Rocky Mountains in Colorado if they wanted cooler weather. In July, the temperature in the mountains can range from a high of 80 degrees to a low of 40 degrees. If they go to the Rockies, they will certainly have to plan for this type of weather variation.

It is without a doubt a tough decision that Janice and Kurt are facing. They wish they were able to go to all of the places they have researched. If they had more money and more time, they would be able to do exactly that. In fact, they would have gone to both the beach and the mountains this year if they hadn't recently spent so much of their savings on a new big-screen TV. They wish they had realized this earlier

Excerpts taken from <http://www.press.umich.edu/pdf/9780472032440-unit4.pdf>

The way we were

Molly Hornby was a young girl in the 1960s. Read what she says about it.

"I was a young girl in the 1960s. My friends and I used to do a lot of things which shocked our parents. We used to do things our mothers never did. We cut our hair, we wore short skirts, we smoked, and went dancing. We danced to the music of Elvis Presley and the Beatles. We also got the chance to see the Beatles live at a concert once. It was amazing. My father went fishing once a week. He always wished that I would accompany him, but fishing was not my cup of tea. Instead my friends and I went for picnics in the surrounding area quite often. My boyfriend had a car, a 1960 Ford Falcon, so he always picked us up and we often drove to Brighton. We went to the pictures twice a week and I loved to watch films with Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor, especially the 'Reflections in a Golden Eye' starring both of them. I still love to watch this film. It's my favorite. I can remember it all so clearly."

Excerpts taken from <http://www.englishexercises.org/makeagame/viewgame.asp?id=4963>