

Pairwork

A

- a** Ask your partner your questions. The answers are in brackets.
- 1 What word collocates with the word 'maternity' to mean 'time off work to have a baby'? (**leave**)
 - 2 What's a more formal way of saying 'need'? (**require**)
 - 3 How can you say 'children' in a more colloquial way? (**kids**)
 - 4 What idiom can you use to say that the wife is more dominant than the husband in a marriage? (**She wears the trousers.**)
 - 5 What phrasal verb is a less formal way of saying 'omit'? (**leave out**)
 - 6 What's a synonym for 'recently'? (**lately**)
 - 7 Can you explain the metaphor 'She has a heart of stone'? (**She has no feelings and is unsympathetic to other people's suffering.**)
 - 8 What's a more informal way of saying 'I recall'? (**I remember**)
 - 9 What's a formal way of saying 'to make sure'? (**to ensure**)
 - 10 What's the phrasal verb which is a synonym for 'postpone'? (**to put off**)
- b** Now answer your partner's questions.
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B

- a** Answer your partner's questions.
- b** Now ask your partner your questions. The answers are in brackets.
- 1 What phrasal verb can you use to say you have a similar personality to someone? (**take after**)
 - 2 What word beginning with the letter *t* is a synonym for boring? (**tedious**)
 - 3 What idiom with *mind* can you use to mean that you can't decide about something? (**I can't make up my mind or I'm in two minds.**)
 - 4 What phrasal verb means to 'become an adult'? (**grow up**)
 - 5 What's an American English word for 'stupid'? (**dumb**)
 - 6 Can you tell me a more formal expression meaning 'because of'? (**due to or owing to**)
 - 7 What do you think this metaphor means? 'When I asked my dad for more money he exploded.' (**He got very angry.**)
 - 8 Can you explain the idiom 'to go with your gut feeling'? (**to use your instinct to decide what to do in a situation**)
 - 9 What's a more informal way of saying 'to adhere to a rule'? (**to follow a rule**)
 - 10 Do you know what the British slang word 'quid' means? (**a pound**)

Cloze

1.9

In the spring of 1800, the court painter, Francisco de Goya was commissioned by the Spanish King Carlos IV, direct ancestor of King Juan Carlos, to paint a _____¹ of the royal family. At the time, the royal family were all staying at the summer palace of Aranjuez, near Madrid. First on the left is Prince Carlos, the King's second son, and next to him is his older brother Prince Fernando, who was the _____² to the throne. Fernando grew up hating his parents, especially his mother, but in fact, he took after his mother in that he was very vain and authoritarian, and when he eventually became king he was extremely _____³. The old woman just behind Prince Fernando is Maria Josefa, the King's sister. Single and childless, she died shortly after the painting was finished. Next to Maria Josefa is a young woman whose face we cannot see because she is looking _____⁴, and she is the 'mystery person' in this painting. There are two theories about her identity. One theory is that she is Princess Maria Amalia, one of the King's daughters, who'd died in childbirth three years before the picture was painted. The fact that she's looking away would be to show that she was, in fact, dead. However, the other more popular theory is that she _____⁵ the woman that Crown prince Fernando would one day marry. It would have been important to put her in the picture to show that the prince would marry one day, and have a son to carry on the _____⁶. If this theory is true, the woman would be looking away because she didn't actually exist at that time. In fact, Fernando did marry, not once but four times. The young girl next to the mystery woman is Princess Maria Isabel, the King's youngest daughter. She went on to marry her cousin, and had twelve children. Next to her is the Queen, Maria Luisa. Goya made her the central _____⁷ in the painting because she had a very strong personality, and she completely dominated her husband the King. As a young woman she had been very beautiful and was rumoured to have had numerous lovers. In middle age, as she is here, she was still very vain. She tried to compensate for the fact that her beauty was fading by wearing _____⁸ dresses and jewellery, as we can see in the picture. The little boy with the Queen is her youngest son, Prince Francisco. He was a very sensitive boy and he suffered all his life due to the fact that he looked incredibly like one of his mother's lovers. As a result, people assumed that he was not in fact the King's son. The King, who is standing next to him, was a weak man. Although he came to the throne full of ideas and dreams, his wife and his advisors made sure that he never managed to _____⁹ any of them and he died frustrated and disappointed. The King's brother is standing behind him, and on his right, although you can only actually see part of her head, is the King's eldest daughter Carlota. Her parents arranged a marriage for her when she was only ten years old. She was an _____¹⁰ girl and eventually became Queen of Portugal. The final group of three

figures shows the Queen's brother, Don Luis de Parma, his wife, Maria Luisa and their first child, a baby boy. In fact, Maria Luisa was not only Don Luis's wife, she was also his niece, as she was the King's second daughter. In fact, Don Luis was _____¹¹ to have married the King's eldest daughter, Carlota, but he fell in love with Princess Maria Luisa, who was lively and intelligent, and he insisted on marrying her. The royal family didn't all _____¹² together for the painting – it would have taken too long.

Instead Goya made individual studies of each family member and later used them to create this work. The painting took him two years to complete, and it was the last _____¹³ portrait he ever painted. Incidentally, he included himself in the painting – he is standing in the background on the left, behind the two princes. Carlos IV called this painting 'the family all together picture', and it was originally _____¹⁴ in the Royal Palace in Madrid.

1.13

Interviewer Do you have any funny or embarrassing stories related to misunderstanding someone?

Cristina Yes, misunderstanding and being misunderstood, several. Some I don't think I would like to tell you about. But I'll tell you one. I was a student at the University of Michigan, in the United States, and my phonetics professor was *very* handsome, and therefore I did extremely well, not in all subjects, but it was worth studying that one. But I remember my first tutorial when he said, 'See you later.' And I thought, 'Mmm, interesting. Where?' And in class he'd said, I'd asked a question and he'd said 'Interesting question', so I thought 'Great! He thinks I'm clever, and maybe he thinks I'm interesting to meet somewhere else.' But I couldn't understand how I was going to find out where or when. I luckily didn't ask. It would have been very embarrassing.

Interviewer Is there anything you still find difficult about English?

Cristina Yes, I think that there are things that have especially to do with cultural aspects. I used to find when my children were little that I didn't know the same nursery rhymes that you know here, I didn't know the actions. And I still don't know lots of things. It's, I don't know, to give you an example, say I had learned American English but I still didn't know who the Simpsons were.

Interviewer Do you have any funny or embarrassing stories related to misunderstanding someone?

Zoltán Hungarians aren't generally interested in birdwatching – and most Hungarians I know can't tell one bird from another. And recently a friend of mine told me about seeing some kites over the fields near their house the previous weekend, and I said that flying kites is really popular in Budapest, too, meaning that people go into the hills at the weekend to fly their home-made paper kites. It never occurred to me for a second that she may be talking about a bird. I don't think a Hungarian would ever tell someone else about seeing some birds several days before.

Interviewer Is there anything you still find difficult about English?

Zoltán Not really. I've been learning English for 26 years. If I had to say anything, I would say counting, numbers. If I have to count anything, I have to switch back to Hungarian, even if the person I'm speaking to will need the English sum.