

COMPREENSIÓ DE TEXTOS ESCRITS (CTE)

MULTIPLE CHOICE. You are going to read an article about the relationship between a father and his son. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Home life

Mark Emblem is a painter and works as a home decorator. His son Max, 15, is at school. They live in south-east London.

Rules and the odd row are part of life in a tiny flat.

On the floor of the kitchen there is a vase of dying flowers; two cats on a chair; the table is a clutter of papers, magazines, a bottle of wine and one of Tango orange drink. Sitting across the table from Mark, Max considers life with Dad.

"I was splitting my week between Mum and Dad, but it seemed a good idea to be based in one place. I have a bigger room in Mark's flat, so that's why I chose to live with him... It's important, because I spend a lot of time in my room – hanging out with friends, listening to music."

Mark is listening, amused: "We split up early in Max's life. Sarah, his mum, also thought it might be good for him coming into adolescence, to live with me. I looked after Max quite a lot when he was very small, but of course this is different. I'd lived on my own for years, so I had to adjust to Max being here all the time. Sometimes it's frustrating. It's a tiny flat and we're both very **territorial**, so we've got clear rules about our own space."

Max breaks in: "But Mark doesn't realise how nosey he is with me. He's always knocking on the door, wanting to know what I'm doing. I don't want him coming in when I've got friends here. I like being left on my own." And he looks sideways at Mark, slightly anxious he may have said too much.

Mark is listening carefully, not annoyed but intrigued, he says, because he and Max are not great ones for talking out their feelings – although their affection for each other is evident. He says: "There's 20-odd years between us, so it is interesting, watching Max's life... But it makes me feel an outsider, very aware of my age."

Mark's parents both died when he was in his mid-teens and he is very aware that he has no model from his own family life of how parents and adolescents cope with each other. He says: "I've had to think about what's important, and for me it's that we're friends and trust each other, and I do feel we have that. There are times when we get very angry with each other, and we both take this terribly male stance. We don't fight physically, but there's a lot of aggression. I don't feel proud of it, but there's a curious release in it, so long as it doesn't

happen too often.”

What sets them against each other? Max wonders whether Mark isn't tougher as a single parent than he would be if he were still married: “He gets at me for not telling him when I'm coming in; not phoning, but he does the same thing to me. He doesn't come back on time, doesn't phone, then when he comes in and I'm cross, he makes a joke of it.”

Mark has just started a BA in Fine Art at Goldsmith's College and there's not much money about. This doesn't worry him, but he's aware that being well off is something Max has in mind. His son nods emphatically: “The way I feel at the moment I'd like to leave school quite soon and start working.” Meanwhile he is supplementing his pocket money by redecorating the flat – a trade he learned from Mark, who does painting and decorating to fund his studies.

The close moments are going to Clapham to play football – although they don't go to matches together as Mark hoped they would: “I had visions of father-son **bonding** as we shared excitement over a goal. But Max is very much his own person. It's been good for me to learn to let him be that. And I'm pleased with him. I won't say proud, because it's not my word, but definitely pleased.”

Max pulls a face then unexpectedly gives the sweetest smile, and, in answer to the question: “Are you proud of your Dad?” nods emphatically.

1. For Max, the advantage of living with his father is that

- a) he is free to do whatever he wants.
- b) he finds it easier to be with friends.
- c) the flat is bigger than where he used to live.

2. When Max moved in, Mark

- a) was forced to change his habits.
- b) thought about life when he was young.
- c) found it easy to adapt.

3. “territorial” means

- a) wanting more space.
- b) defending the area that belongs to you.
- c) taking good care of what is yours.

4. Max thinks that his father

- a) is too curious about what he is doing.
- b) is aggressive in his behaviour.
- c) wants to share his social life.

5. Mark had some difficulty in knowing how to treat his son because

- a) they had not been in touch for many years.
- b) Max was used to his mother's ways.
- c) Mark had no experience of that type of relationship.

6. Because his father is a single parent. Max thinks Mark is

- a) more bitter about life.
- b) better able to resist pressure.
- c) more likely to impose rules.

7. Where money is concerned,

- a) Max wants to start earning as soon as possible.
- b) father and son share the same attitude.
- c) Mark worries about financing his studies.

8. "bonding" means

- a) preventing someone from moving.
- b) establishing a committed relationship.
- c) trying to stay close to someone.

9. Father and son like to spend time together

- a) listening to music.
- b) entertaining friends.
- c) playing football.

10. Mark and Max consider that living together has

- a) brought neither of them benefits.
- b) helped their relationships with others.
- c) deepened their understanding of each other.

KEY

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1B 2A 3B 4A 5C 6C 7A 8B 9C 10C