



1 Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences. Check the meaning of the words in *italics* with your classmates or teacher.

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| 1 Sometimes you need <i>courage</i> to | A own <i>identity</i> . |
| 2 Every person has his or her | B has a lot of <i>strengths</i> . |
| 3 We're not all the same. We're | C say how you feel. |
| 4 He's not good at everything but he | D all <i>individuals!</i> |

2 Read the introduction to a magazine article and look at the pictures. Tick (✓) the things you expect to read in the article.

Andy and Alex McCabe are twins. Andy works as a mechanic and Alex is studying law. Is it surprising that the brothers have taken such different paths? We spoke to them and to Jane and Dakota Nowak about being an individual, and a twin.

- an interview with an expert on family relationships
- the personal experiences of four young people
- advice for readers on finding your own way
- people's opinions about twins

3 Read the rest of the article to see if your ideas in Exercise 2 were correct.

Very Different Twins

Andy loves his parents, but he disagrees with some of their decisions. 'They gave us the same clothes and even gave us similar names,' he explains. 'They also made sure we were in the same class at school.'



'That's where the trouble started,' interrupts Alex. He loved going to school but Andy just wanted to play outside and do sports. 'Andy worked hard at school but he never enjoyed it. And I played football with him but I wasn't good at it. When Andy got picked for our town's under-16s team, and I didn't, I felt I'd disappointed our parents.'

'And I couldn't enjoy my success,' says Andy. However, that moment led to a change. The boys sat down and talked to their parents about it. 'We're individuals,' says Andy. 'We each have our own strengths, and if everybody respects that, we can all be happy.'

Dakota and Jane have a different story. 'Look at our names,' says Dakota. 'Jane got the old English one and my name is American!' Our parents really wanted to respect our separate identities.'

The girls were put in different classes at school but they still had the same friends and the same interests. 'You have to be your own person, that's what Dad always said,' Jane tells us, 'but I thought he was wrong.'

However, when it was time for the girls to go to university, Dakota realised that she didn't want to study in the same place as her sister.

Jane was shocked. She had thought they would always be together. 'But of course,' she says, 'that's impossible. As adults, you'll have different jobs, different partners and follow different directions. Dakota understood that before I did, and she did the right thing when she decided to study in another city.'



'But I needed a lot of courage to tell Jane that was what I wanted,' adds Dakota.

Jane says, 'She was really scared! But we are individuals, just like Dad said. Some people see twins as a kind of double-person, but we have two separate lives.'



- 4 Which person is described in sentences 1–6? Tick (✓) the person and write where you find the information in the text.

This person ...	Andy	Alex	Jane	Dakota	Where?
1 enjoyed learning in a classroom.		✓			lines 9–10
2 felt he hadn't made his family proud.					
3 achieved something but wasn't happy about it.					
4 was surprised and disappointed by her sister's decision.					
5 had to be brave when she decided to follow her own way.					
6 understands her father's opinion better now.					

- 5 Work in pairs. What do you think? Discuss these questions with your partner.

- 1 Was it harder for Alex or for Andy when Andy was picked for the football team?
- 2 Was Dakota's decision to study in another city a good or a bad thing for Jane?

- 6 Discuss this question in groups.

The twins in the article mention their names. Do you think that people's names tell us something about their parents' hopes for them?

Think about these things:

- names that are traditional/old-fashioned/modern/fashionable
- names that have a meaning
- children who are named after someone in the family

Well, in my family the names are always very traditional. I think that ...