

LEVELED BOOK • 0

Two Make Twins



**Multi
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I.L.O**

Written by
Iva Valentino

www.readinga-z.com

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Focus Question

What are twins, and how are they special?



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Double Trouble	6
Identical Twins	7
Fraternal Twins	10
The Twins Bond	12
Awesome Twosomes	14
Glossary	16



Introduction

Some of you may have a bossy big brother, while others may have a sweet little sister. Maybe you have both older and younger **siblings**, or you are the oldest or youngest in your family. What if you have a brother or sister who is the exact same age as you? What if the two of you look identical? This can happen when your sibling is your **twin**.

There is much more to being twins than looking alike and sharing a birthday. Twins can be very different from each other because twins, like everyone else, have their own special qualities.



Many twins share more than just a birthday. Some twins enjoy sharing clothes or a bedroom—they may even be in the same class at school.

Double Trouble

Twins are two siblings who grow in their mother's body at the same time. Twins can be two brothers, two sisters, or a brother and sister. All babies start as eggs inside a mother's body and then grow bigger as they develop. When it's time for the babies to be born, one twin is born first. That twin is slightly older than the other.

Twins can look very similar—almost like the same person. They can also look very different from each other.



Today, it is much more common for a mother to have twins than it was years ago. Sometimes, twins are also more common in certain families.



Identical twins are more likely to have similar taste in many things, such as food and clothes.

Identical Twins

Identical twins often look almost exactly alike because they come from a single egg that has split in two. They are always either two girls or two boys.

It can be difficult to tell identical twins apart. They often have the same physical **characteristics**, such as height, weight, hair color, eye color, and other features. Some twins look so similar that they can play tricks on others. These twins are able to switch places with each other at home or at school. No one can tell them apart.



About one in every four sets of identical twins are mirror image twins.

Sometimes, identical twins can be mirror image twins. When they face each other, it is as if they are looking at their **reflection** in a mirror. They might have freckles on opposite sides of their bodies or part their hair on opposite sides of their heads. One twin might be left-handed, while the other is right-handed.

Fingerprints

Fingerprints are patterns on the tips of your fingers. Identical twins can look very alike, but their fingerprints are always different.



Twin 1



Twin 2

Identical twins can be alike in other ways, too. They might have the same interests, such as music, sports, or favorite foods. Their **personalities** can be similar, and they may like to spend time with the same types of people.

It is also possible for identical twins to not be very alike at all. Sometimes they look slightly similar but not exactly alike. They may also have completely different interests and hobbies.



Identical twins may spend a lot of time together if they share the same hobbies or interests.



Fraternal twins are more common than identical twins. Boy-girl twins are the most common kind of twin pair.

Fraternal Twins

Fraternal twins can look very different from each other because they come from two different eggs. They can be two boys, two girls, or—unlike identical twins—a girl and a boy.

Fraternal twins may share some characteristics. In fact, they can share the same number of characteristics as any siblings. For example, sisters born a few years apart might both have light hair and blue eyes. However, another pair of sisters might have different hair and eye colors. It is the same with fraternal twins—they can look very similar, a little alike, or very different.

Fraternal twins are more likely to have different personalities, too. Any similarities they may share most likely come from being the same age and growing up together.



As fraternal twins grow up, they often find that they enjoy different things.



Twins have a bond as babies because they do everything together.

The Twins Bond

Whether identical or fraternal, twins often develop a special **bond**, or relationship. This bond begins early on, even before the twins are born. It is common for twins to **interact** with each other during the time they spend developing in their mother's body. They move around and reach out for each other.

After twins are born, they continue to bond with each other. As infants, twins may often be comforted by having their sibling near them.



About 40 percent of young twins use a made-up language to talk to each other.

As babies, some twins invent their own language. They use nonsense words and make up words that imitate sounds to communicate with each other. Once they learn a real language, the made-up language usually goes away.

Twins Day

Each summer, many twins travel to Twinsburg, Ohio. Most of them dress identically and spend the day celebrating Twins Day. Twins Day is the biggest yearly gathering of twins in the world!





Identical twins look very alike (top), while fraternal twins usually look different (bottom).

Awesome Twosomes

Only some twins look almost exactly alike. Sometimes twins have other similarities instead, such as personalities and interests. Other times, such as in the case of fraternal twins, they can look and act very differently from each other. Despite any differences, twins often share a bond even before they are born.

Twins are not simply copies of each other. Each twin, whether identical or fraternal, is an individual person. Even though some twins might look similar, or enjoy the same things, every twin is truly one of a kind.



Glossary

bond (<i>n.</i>)	a strong feeling of connection or friendship (p. 12)
characteristics (<i>n.</i>)	features that help to identify a thing or group of things (p. 7)
fraternal twins (<i>n.</i>)	twins who do not look exactly alike (p. 10)
identical twins (<i>n.</i>)	twins who look exactly alike (p. 7)
interact (<i>v.</i>)	to work together; to speak or do things with others (p. 12)
personalities (<i>n.</i>)	sets of qualities or ways of behaving that make people different from one another (p. 9)
reflection (<i>n.</i>)	an image made by light bouncing off a surface, such as a mirror (p. 8)
siblings (<i>n.</i>)	brothers or sisters (p. 4)
twin (<i>n.</i>)	one of two babies born in one birth (p. 4)

Words to Know

bond	personalities
characteristics	reflection
fraternal twins	siblings
identical twins	twin
interact	

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Correlation

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Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28

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Connections

Writing

Make a Venn diagram comparing the two types of twins: *fraternal* and *identical*. Write a paragraph explaining the difference between the twin types.

Science

Compare your fingerprints to those of your classmates. How are they the same and different? Discuss with a partner the benefits of everyone having different fingerprints.



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