

6 I can describe people's behaviour

A Selfless behaviour

Best mum competition

[Please write your application in not more than 120 words.]

All mums **have** the family's **best interests at heart**, and **will go out of their way to** help their kids, but what makes a great mum? Well, ours has all the qualities. When things went wrong and Dad left us, Mum **went to great lengths to hold** the family **together**. She **was always there for** us, but trusted us to make our own decisions. When we needed **a shoulder to cry on**, it was Mum we **turned to**, not our friends. But what **sets** her **apart from** the other mums is her concern for others. She's always **giving** someone or other **a helping hand**. We **thank our lucky stars** that she's our mum! (Patti, 16)



Glossary

have sb's (best) interests at heart	care about sb and want to improve their situation.
go out of your way (to do sth)	do sth that you do not have to do and that involves making a special effort to help or please sb.
go to great lengths to do sth	try in a determined way to achieve sth.
hold sth together	keep a group of people, a marriage, etc. united in difficult circumstances.
be there for sb	be available and supportive if sb wants to talk to you or needs your help.
a shoulder to cry on	a person who gives you sympathy.
turn to sb/sth	go to sb/sth for help or advice.
set sb apart (from sb)	make sb different from or better than others.
give/lend (sb) a helping hand	help sb.
thank your lucky stars	feel very grateful and lucky about sth.

1 Put the words in order and add one more word.

- ▶ them | way | out | help | she | went | of | to *She went out of her way to help them.*
- 1 help | lengths | dad | to | them | went | to
- 2 writing | our | given | helping | we | were | a | with
- 3 hold | managed | their | they | to | marriage
- 4 best | have | heart | she | doesn't | your | at
- 5 healthy | I'm | stars | I | thank | my | that
- 6 on | a | she | to | needs | shoulder

2 Write a phrase with the same meaning as the words in *italics*.

- ▶ They *helped me* with the housework. *gave me a helping hand*
- 1 Who would you *seek advice from* if you had a problem?
- 2 Her positive attitude *makes her different* from her colleagues.
- 3 She needs a *sympathetic person to talk to about her problems*.
- 4 She is always *available to talk to if I need help*.
- 5 Dad always *makes a special effort* to keep them amused.
- 6 My sister *tried very hard* to get the medicine I needed.
- 7 I *am so grateful* that I have such a great family.
- 8 Somehow Mum managed to *keep the family united*.

3 ABOUT YOU What would you write in a best mum, best dad, best sister, or best brother competition? Write in your notebook, or talk to another student.

B Selfish behaviour

Do you suffer from selfish or bossy siblings?



KIM ▶ Yeah, my sister always wants to **have things her own way**, so I have to **put my foot down** with her. She thinks she can **twist** me **round her little finger**, but she can't!



AYRON ▶ My brother's very **sure of himself** and he'll **stop at nothing** to get what he wants. He'd **walk all over** my parents if he had the chance.



CARMEN ▶ When we were kids, my older sisters used to **push** me **around** and **pick on** me because I was small. It took me years to learn to **stick up for myself**.



PRINCESS ▶ My sister **never lifts a finger** to help around the house; she just **takes it for granted that** we'll clear up after her. If it weren't for me, her room would be disgusting!

Glossary

have things/it (all) your own way	get or do what you want, even when other people want sth different (also have/get your own way).
put your foot down	INF use your authority to stop sb doing sth.
sure of yourself	OFTEN DISAPPROVING very confident.
stop at nothing	do anything to get what you want, without caring about its effect on others.
walk all over sb	INF treat sb badly by always doing what you want to do.
push sb around	give sb orders in a rude or unpleasant way.
pick on sb	treat sb unfairly by blaming or criticizing them.
stick up for sb/yourself	support or defend sb/yourself.
not lift a finger (to do sth)	INF do nothing to help sb.
take it for granted (that ...)	expect sth to happen because it usually does. (Also take sb for granted be so accustomed to sb that you don't appreciate them.)

spotlight Persuading people

If you can **twist sb round your little finger** INF, you can persuade them to do anything you want. If you **get round sb**, you persuade them to do what you want, often by being nice to them. If you **win sb over**, you get their support by persuading them you are right.

4 True or false? Write T or F.

- 1 If someone can *stick up for* themselves, they can defend themselves.
- 2 If someone *won't lift a finger*, they probably have an injury.
- 3 If someone *takes you for granted*, they can persuade you to do anything they want.
- 4 If someone *wins you over*, they have persuaded you that they are right.
- 5 If you *have things all your own way*, you do what everyone else wants.
- 6 If you will *stop at nothing*, you won't do anything to help.

5 Complete the dialogues.

- 1 Jun has no self doubts and is very confident. ~ Yes, she's very
- 2 Dad refused very firmly to let us stay out late. ~ Yes, he put
- 3 She criticizes me, but not the others. It's not fair! ~ Yes, I think she's
- 4 He tells me what to do and he's horrible about it. ~ Yes, he
- 5 Li's only nice to me because she wants my help. ~ She's just trying to
- 6 I can make her do anything. ~ Yes, you can twist
- 7 She's really bossy and I hate it. ~ Well, don't let her
- 8 Ed only wants to do what he wants. ~ Yes, he just wants to

you.
around.
you.
you!
way.