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Family affairs

Teacher's notes

Summary

This DVD programme is an interview and could be used as support to materials in Unit 10, page 101 of the Student's Book. Sue Kay answers questions about her son William. William answers the same questions about Sue.

Language focus

Character adjectives

Procedure

Before you watch

- 1 Ask the students to work in pairs and to look at the photos of Sue and William, who talk about each other in this programme. The students should spend a few minutes discussing the questions. Ask a few pairs to report on their discussions and predictions.

While you watch

- 2 Tell the students to watch the programme and tick the items in the list that they hear Sue and William talk about. Play the DVD.

After watching the programme, ask the students if the predictions they made in Exercise 1 about their personalities and relationship to each other were correct.

Sue and William mention points a, c and f.

- 3 Ask the students to read through the items first, in preparation for watching. Ask them to tick all the answers that are correct (there is more than one correct answer for most questions). Play the programme again.

- a) Sue says William is sociable, lazy, outgoing and a good communicator.
- b) William says he is sociable. (He says he would be hardworking and professional *if* he had a job.)
- c) William says Sue is outgoing, professional, hardworking, buoyant and sociable.
- d) Sue says she is hardworking, bossy, nervy and domesticated.
- e) Sue says William smokes, snores and likes expensive clothes.

- f) William says he plays music too loudly.
- g) William says Sue snores and keeps in touch with his ex-girlfriends.
- h) Sue says she is untidy, forgetful and repetitious.
- i) Sue says they have the same interests and they're like friends.
- j) William says they're like friends and they get on well.

After you watch

- 4 Ask the students to work in pairs again and discuss the answers to the questions. Conduct a class feedback session.

- a) He's very sociable and he's got lots of friends.
- b) She's very sociable and very buoyant.
- c) Because she has to pay for them.
- d) By inviting his ex-girlfriends to parties he's at with his present girlfriend.
- e) She asks the same questions over and over again and she tells the same story several times to the same person.

- 5 Ask the students to complete the sentences on their own before checking their answers with their partner. Check the answers with the whole class.

- a) best qualities
- b) inherited certain traits
- c) the sort of person
- d) having said that
- e) on the downside
- f) bother me
- g) get the brunt of
- h) I'm quite happy to
- i) blossomed

- 6 Tell the students to read through the questions and to think about answering two of them. Give them some time to think about their answers and then ask them to work in pairs again to discuss them. When the pairs have finished talking, ask the class for some feedback on any particularly interesting or funny situations that they heard about.

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DVD script (06:01)

(I = Interviewer; S = Sue; W = William)

I: Who would you like to talk about?

S: Well, I thought I'd talk about William, my son.

W: Well, um, I'm going to talk about my mum, Sue.

I: How would you describe him?

S: Er, William, um, he's a lovely boy. He's, um, I shouldn't say 'boy', should I? He's 25 but being his mother I always think of him as a boy. Um, no he's a lovely young man, very sociable and outgoing. Um, he's got loads of friends. He, um, he's actually a bit of a party animal. I think William sometimes thinks that life is one long party but, um, but, um, no, one of his best qualities is that he's a really good communicator. Um, he was born in France, brought up bilingual and I think this has helped him find it easier to communicate in all sorts of different situations and, indeed, in different countries. We recently went to Argentina. He doesn't speak Spanish but he picked it up really quickly, um, and, um, I'd say that's one of his best qualities; he's a very good communicator. Er, apart from that he's a bit lazy.

I: And how would you describe yourself?

W: Well, um, I think I'd describe, I think I've inherited certain traits from my mum, like, you know, being sociable and stuff like that. Um, I've never had a real job but, er, if I did have one I'm sure I'd be similar to my mum in that respect, hardworking, I'd like to think professional too.

I: How would you describe your mum?

W: Well my mum's a social person, outgoing, um, but she's also a very hardworking person, professional. Um, she's the sort of person you'd like to have at a party, sort of very buoyant personality.

I: And how would you describe yourself?

S: Um, well, er, I'm a teacher so I've got all the characteristics of teachers. I'm bossy, um, hardworking and um, I'm also the eldest of four children so I think the, the sort of bossy thing comes from there as well. Um, I'm very sociable. I really enjoy the company of my friends and I like meeting new people. Having said that, I do actually really need time on my own too. Um,

I'm pretty domesticated, although having said that, I can't cook. Um, and, um, yeah, I think I'm probably a bit nervy actually, on the downside. But, um, perhaps that goes with being quite creative as well.

I: Has your son got any annoying habits?

S: Oh, yeah, I'm sure he has, plenty. Um, we don't actually live together anymore so probably his annoying habits are less annoying now. Um, but, let me see, yes, I do find it annoying when he smokes in the car because I'm an ex-smoker and, um, I don't know if you know, but ex-smokers are worse than non-smokers. Um, he has probably inherited, I have to say, a taste for expensive clothes, from me. Um, but the reason why I find that rather irritating is that because I have to pay for them. So, um, he snores. But that's not, that doesn't bother me because I don't live in the same house as him anymore.

I: Do you think you have any annoying habits?

W: Well, I suppose my most annoying habit would be playing my music loud. Er, that doesn't really affect my mum anymore because, er, we don't live together but I think the neighbours get the brunt of that now.

I: Has your mum got any annoying habits?

W: Well, yeah, of course she has got some annoying habits. Er, one of them is snoring but that's not so much of a problem now 'cos we don't live together. But the other one is staying in touch with my ex-girlfriends. Um, there have been a few embarrassing situations where, er, I've been with a present girlfriend and ex-girlfriends have been invited to my birthday party for example, which, er, you know, was a bit embarrassing.

I: Do you think that you have any annoying habits?

S: Oh, dear. Well, you'd better ask William that. Um, let me see. Yes, um, I'm very untidy. Um, I leave things all over the place and I'm quite happy to leave the washing up for a few days, um, that's one thing. I think the other bad habit I have is, um, and my friends will tell you this, is I ask the same questions over and over again. I forget who I've asked which question and I also

tell the same story over and over again to the same person, which I think must be very boring for them. Apart from that I'm perfect.

- I: What's the best thing about your relationship now?
- S: There are lots of good things about our relationship now. Um, William's grown up, he's 25 and we don't live together anymore so, um, we're more like friends than mother and son really. Um, when we see one another we have the same interests, we've got some of the same friends, we like doing the same things and, um, it's really special.
- W: Well, since, er, mum and I don't live together anymore I think our relationship has, er, blossomed. Er, it's great, you know we're like good friends instead of being, you know, like a normal mother-son relationship. So we get on really well.