



Family and Relationships

Multiple choice: communication | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What stories do older relatives often tell?
2. Why might young people find family history interesting?
3. Can interviews improve relationships?
4. What makes a good listener?

Exercise 4 at a glance

Read one longer text and answer six multiple-choice questions. Choose A, B or C. The correct answer may depend on attitude, purpose or a detail across a whole paragraph, not just one matching word.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the article. What did Maya learn from the recording project?

Recording family stories

by Maya Singh

For a history project, our teacher asked us to record an interview with someone in our family. I chose my aunt because she had moved to three different countries before she was thirty. I expected the interview to be easy. She was always cheerful at family meals and often told funny stories. I thought I only needed to press record and let her talk. Instead, the project taught me that listening well is more active than I had imagined.

My first questions were too broad. I asked what life was like when she was younger, and she gave a polite answer that sounded like something from a tourist brochure. When I asked about one object she had brought with her when she moved, she became more thoughtful. She described a small recipe notebook written by her mother and explained how cooking familiar food helped her feel less lonely. A specific question opened a more honest story.

The interview also changed how I understood confidence. My aunt speaks several languages and seems comfortable everywhere. During the recording, she admitted that for years she avoided phone calls because she was afraid of misunderstanding accents. I was surprised because I had always seen her as brave. She laughed and said bravery often looks calm from the outside because people do not see the practice behind it.

Editing the recording was harder than recording it. I wanted to include every interesting detail, but the final piece had to be five minutes long. Cutting parts felt rude, even though my aunt had given permission. Our teacher advised me to choose moments that showed a clear theme rather than simply my favourite lines. I focused on how objects, language and food helped my aunt build a sense of home in new places.

When I played the recording to my parents, they became quiet. My father said he had never heard his sister describe loneliness so openly. I worried that I had shared something too personal, but my aunt said she was pleased. She felt the story sounded respectful because I had not tried to make it dramatic. The project began as schoolwork, but it became a reminder that relatives are not just familiar people. They have histories we may only discover if we ask carefully.

3. Strategy focus

Track what changes

Some questions depend on what the writer thought before and what they understand later. Mark both moments in the text.

4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

Question 1

Why did Maya expect the interview to be easy?

- A She had already recorded many interviews.
- B Her teacher had written the questions for her.
- C Her aunt often told entertaining stories.

Question 2

What made the aunt give a more personal answer?

- A a question about a particular object
- B a question about tourist attractions
- C a request to speak in another language

Question 3

What surprised Maya about her aunt?

- A She disliked moving to different countries.
- B She had felt nervous despite seeming confident.
- C She could not remember her mother's recipes.

Question 4

What advice did the teacher give about editing?

- A Include every interesting moment.
- B Choose details that show a clear theme.
- C Remove anything emotional.

Question 5

Why was Maya worried after playing the recording?

- A She thought she might have shared something too personal.
- B Her parents criticised the sound quality.
- C Her aunt said the story was too short.

Question 6

What is Maya's final message?

- A Family stories should always be funny.
- B School projects should avoid personal topics.
- C Careful questions can reveal relatives' hidden histories.

5. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: What question would you ask a relative about their past?
2. Strategy: Check one answer by underlining the detail that shows the writer's attitude.
3. Writing: Write five respectful questions for an interview with an older relative.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to family, communication and memory.

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Multiple choice: communication

2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: She learned that listening carefully can reveal new sides of relatives and make family connections stronger.

4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

1. C; 2. A; 3. B; 4. B; 5. A; 6. C

1. C - Her aunt was cheerful and told funny stories at family meals.
2. A - The recipe notebook question opens a more honest story.
3. B - Her aunt avoided phone calls because of accents, although Maya saw her as brave.
4. B - The teacher advises choosing moments with a clear theme.
5. A - She worries after her father reacts to the loneliness detail.
6. C - She says relatives have histories we discover if we ask carefully.