

Gapped text: You are going to read an article about a family. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A-H the one which fits each space (1-6). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

“ KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY “

For many people, the idea of being permanently surrounded by all their relatives may not sound like a very attractive arrangement. The occasional visit of an aunt and uncle, or a large family celebration at Christmas might be more acceptable.

0 - H

This means that in the tiny Oxfordshire village of Cassington, the local driving instructor, car mechanic, plumber and doctor's receptionist all live side by side with their nearest and dearest. The houses even have interconnecting gates to allow easy access.

1

'If there's an accident or the freezer breaks down, you know you can depend on your neighbours to get you out of trouble,' says Ian. And with more than 20 members of the same family in the same street, that's a lot of neighbours who are willing to help.

2

Ian and his parents moved into the street 70 years ago, when Ian was just a small boy. Ian's father, James, who wanted to supplement his income as a farmer, decided to invest in property. When other cottages in the street became available, he bought them.

3

When they eventually got married in 1948, Ian's father gave the couple one of the cottages. Most newly-weds at that time had to live with their parents, so they were delighted to have their own place. And that meant that three of the nine houses were already occupied by the same family.

4

One of the last to join them was daughter, Yvonne, together with husband David and their children aged five and two. They had to wait two years before a cottage became available, but Yvonne is convinced it was worth waiting for.

5

Inevitably, however, there are tensions, as with any family. 'Mum and I do sometimes have a row,' she admits, 'but never anything too serious. And if we do fall out, it's never for very long.'

6

'In my lifetime there has not been a single divorce or breakup in the family. Sylvia and I have already celebrated our golden wedding anniversary, and we're certain there'll be many more such celebrations in Bell Lane in the years to come.'

A After that, other members of the family gradually came to live in the houses and by 1990 the Waters family occupied every house on the row. Cousins, brothers, sisters, nieces and daughters had all moved in.

B 'We're constantly going in and out of each others' houses,' says Ian Waters, grandfather of the family. Indeed, if there's a problem of any kind, help is always close at hand.

C Like Yvonne, Ian feels that there are far more benefits than drawbacks. He also believes that having one's relatives living nearby can help strengthen a marriage.

D 'One of the main disadvantages of living in the same street,' she adds, 'is the lack of privacy. You can't really do anything without someone else in the family knowing about it.'

E 'We have the perfect babysitting arrangement,' she says. 'If we want to go out, Mum and Dad don't have far to come. And if they can't make it, someone else always can.'

F Sylvia, Ian's wife, lived with her parents in a cottage just along the terrace from James Waters and his family. She first became interested in Ian when he offered to walk home with her one night after a dance.

G Ian Waters' family extends over three generations: the youngest is Samuel, the son of his wife's second cousin, aged 18 months; the oldest, Fred Watson, a cousin, is 99. But how did they all come to be in the same row of houses?

H But the Waters family is such a close-knit one that all its members live in a row of cottages next door to each other. The inhabitants of numbers 1-9 Bell Lane are all related.