

Listen to a talk about early development in children and complete the gaps with a word or a short phrase.

In the first years of a child's life many important milestones are reached. By the end of the first year a baby will have already acquired some 1 _____. He will enjoy imitating and will also test parental responses to his behavior. For example, what do my parents do if I refuse 2 _____? In terms of movement, an infant will be able to reach a sitting position unassisted and pull himself up to stand. He may be able to walk momentarily 3 _____. As far as communication is concerned, he will be able to use simple gestures such as shaking his head for 'no', say 'mama' and 'dada' and he will try to imitate words. When it comes to cognitive development, he will be able to find hidden objects easily and use objects correctly such as drinking from a cup.

By the age of two or three, the 4 _____ has reached the toddler stage. In terms of social skills, this means, he is becoming more independent, which may result in the occasional tantrum. However, he has learned to take turns in games and spontaneously expresses 5 _____. His physical development will also have increased significantly as he can now move around a lot faster and even run. He can also climb up stairs or onto relatively low 6 _____, and even ride a small tricycle. However, he will still be rather unsteady on his feet at times. When it comes to language and 7 _____ he can now understand most sentences and uses four- and five-word sentences. In terms of cognitive development, he's learned to play make-believe games and uses his imagination more. He has also mastered the skill of sorting objects according to their 8 _____.

Between the ages of six and twelve, a child reaches what is termed 9 "_____". and they will stay in this phase until they reach 10 _____.

1. Doug

I met him while doing a summer job in England. We were both working in this café – he was in the kitchens and I was a waiter. Our boss was a bit of an idiot. He was really strict – he was always shouting at us and was just horrible. Anyway, we used to go out after work and we'd sit and complain about our boss. We'd talk about the things we wished we'd said to him. Nicolas was always very funny about it.

2. Sandra

We were dating for a while. I met him when we were studying in Rome on an Erasmus programme. It was a great few months. He was always so much fun and so full of life. We tried to keep the relationship going after he went back to Belgium, but it's difficult maintaining a long-distance relationship. We couldn't afford to visit each other very often and, in the end, we split up. We've remained friends which I suppose is important, but I sometimes wish we'd stayed together. Yeah, I wish we hadn't split up.

3. Shane

I met him while I was backpacking. We were staying in a hostel as we had to share a room. We got talking and found we had a lot in common. We ended up spending a couple of weeks sightseeing until I went back to Australia. We kept in touch via email and social media after that and two years ago I moved to Britain. Since then, I've been over to Belgium to see him a couple of times.

4. Brigitta

We met at university. We didn't have much to do with each other at first as we're so different. I think I'm quite sociable and outgoing and as you probably know he's a bit quiet and shy. It's not that we didn't get on at all. We'd see each other in class and in the library and we'd chat a bit. Over time, though, our chats got longer, and then, just before we left university. I asked him out on a date. He looked a bit surprised, but he said OK and we've been seeing each other now for about two years. It's a shame it took so long for us to get together, really!

5. Frank

I met him through a friend, Jef, who he was sharing a flat with. We all used to hang out together so I'd know Nicolas and got to know him very well. At some point I had an argument with Jef. It was about something stupid, but we basically, stopped talking to each other. We're both very stubborn and I didn't want to be the first to apologise, but of course, neither did he! I regret that, really, I wish we'd managed to sort things out between us, but... there you go. Anyway, to cut a long story short, I haven't seen Jef for years? but I'm still friends with Nicolas.