Imagine the scene: you and your family are relaxing after a hard day's work. You've just watched the news on TV. What are you going to watch next? Or, perhaps more importantly, who decides what you are going to watch next? Whose finger is on the button?

Deciding what to watch on TV is a battle of wills that is fought in homes all over the world. According to psychologists, it is much more serious than simply deciding between a soap opera and sports programmes, or between pop music and politics. The television conflict is part of a bigger power game which goes on in homes, even though most of the players are unaware that they are playing a game at all. The game is called "Who's Boss"?

"It's such a subtle game", says psychologist Dr David Lewis, "that many people don't even know they're playing it. It's all about the balance of power in the home, and who's in control."

Research suggests that people begin to play the game as soon as they meet their future husband or wife. By the time the couple get married, the rules of the game are already well-established. The big decisions, like where to live and which school to send the children to, are usually joint decisions. When it comes to less important things, like deciding where to go on holiday, or what sort of car to buy, it's a different matter. Here's just one example of this process at work. He looks through a pile of holiday brochures and announces the preference: "The South of France". She quickly agrees before he realizes that the only brochures she gave him were those for the South of France. Similarly, she may decide what time the children should go to bed, and on how the home should be decorated, but he chooses the new car and decides what the family does at weekends.

The tussle over what to watch on TV is a good example of this fight for control. Recently, research psychologists persuaded 400 families to have a "C-box" installed in their living rooms. This is a video machine which watches you as you watch TV. They found that 80% of the time it was the man in the house who had his finger on the button, followed by the eldest child, then the youngest child, and only then the woman of the house.

"A child with a strong personality can totally dominate a family", says Dr Lewis. "Most kids are far less innocent, far more knowing than their parents realize. Many of them are so sensitive to non-verbal communication that they can pick up atmospheres and sense the strengths and weakness of the adults around them. They can be very stubborn and they soon realize that the more stubborn they are, the more quickly they get their own way. When the "C-box" was used to study groups of children on their watching television, the researchers found that the children who had the remote control liked to show off their power by irritating everyone and changing channels every two or three minutes."

So, next time you've got your finger on the button ready to ZAP the rest of the family with your assertiveness, think about the power game you're playing.

Adapted from: FCE Masterclass

1. The television conflict reflects home power structures according to psychologists. T F
2. People consciously take part in power games like "Who's Boss". T F
3. The rules of the game are set as soon as a couple gets married. T F
4. Married couples are thought to make all the important decisions together. T F
5. In the holiday example, it was the husband who really chose the destination. T F
6. In an experiment, families were observed while watching TV. T F
7. Mothers were shown to have less control over TV than their children. T F
8. Kids are not as easily dominated as their parents imagine. T F
9. It is believed that many children have a strong power of perception. T F
10. Changing channels can be seen as a way to demonstrate control. T F
SECTION B: USE OF ENGLISH

I. Fill in the gaps in this text with a suitable option.

Lecturer: In this talk I want to consider the work of Emily Morris, but before we study anything 1)______by her it is important to know about her as a person. She 2)______in Manchester in 1854, and died in London in 1934. As 3)______her background, it was not a particularly unusual one. She was the only daughter of quite rich parents. Her mother 4)______when she was two. Emily was the youngest child by some eight years. She had three brothers. They were all sent away to school. Emily remained at home, saw very 5)______of them, and had a lonely childhood, in many ways. However, she had a good education, at home, particularly from one teacher, a Frenchwoman called Sophie Durant , and with her she toured Southern Europe and often spoke of this as the most 6)______time of her life. From this time came her first books, not novels, travel books. They were 7)______, but didn’t sell well, 8)______they are, in fact, very good indeed and, of course, have been republished since then. Emily never married. When she was 25, though, she did become engaged 9)______a young doctor, Nathan Fanshaw. It is 10)______this time that almost all her poetry comes.

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given without changing it. You must use the word given.

1) Sam left home very early because he wanted to be sure of getting to his office on time. ORDER
Sam left home very early _________________________________________his office on time.

2) You must show your passport when you go through customs. REQUIRED
You _______________________________________show your passport when you go through customs.

3) I prefer having dinner out to cooking. RATHER
I’d ___________________________________________cook.

4) “Do fast cars interest you?” the dealer asked Tom. IF
The dealer asked Tom ____________________________________fast cars.

5) I’m sure that Lauren was excited when they published her book. HAVE
Lauren ______________________________________published.

6) Tom regretted not having done more to help his brother. DONE
Tom wished________________________________________to help his brother.
7) We played tennis even though it was very windy.  
We played tennis even though it was very windy.

8) I don’t know why Mary left the room so suddenly.  
I don’t know why Mary left the room so suddenly.

9) I didn’t buy you a present because I didn’t know it was your birthday.  
If I had known it was your birthday, I would have bought you a present.

10) After swimming for two hours he managed to reach the shore.  
After swimming for two hours he managed to reach the shore.

III- Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Use modals if necessary.

Jamaica is called the “Island in the Sun”, and that is my memory of it. Of sunshine, warmth and abundant fruit grow everywhere, and of love. I was born on 2 April 1960 in St. Andrews in Kingston. There were two sisters ahead of me in the family who talked excitedly of emigration, possibly to Canada or England. I guess that plans were already being made when I was born, for a year or so later my dad left for London. Two years after that, when he saved enough money, my mum went as well. My sisters and I were left in the care of my grandmother.

Grandmothers are often strict, but also they usually spoil you. At least, that is the way it was with mine. I remember that we didn’t have a tap in the house, but used a communal one. Every morning, before going to school, we had to take a bucket and run from the tap to the barrels until they were full. In the beginning, when I was two or three, I couldn’t reach the barrel, but I still had to join in.

Nine months later my dad came over from England, to see how we were getting on. He talked to us about the new country, about the huge city and we all wanted to know more. In fact, he had come to take us back with him.

I look back on my life with a mixture of happiness and occasional regret. The former because I have a wonderful family, and the latter owing to the fact that I never return to Jamaica, my “Island in the Sun”.

Adapted from Cambridge First Certificate Practice Tests
SECTION C: Writing

1) You must write between 150-180 words on ONE of the following:

a) Your teacher has asked you to write an essay giving your opinion on the following statement:

Famous people, such as politicians and film stars, deserve to have a private life without journalists following them all the time.

Write your essay.

b) You see this announcement in an international travel magazine.

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