**Debates and Discussions**

**1.** Consider the following: "*Being married or being single*". Discuss the differences between them; the advantages and disadvantages they have; say what you would do if you were given the choice.

**2.** Speak on *the advantages and disadvantages of living with parents and grandparents*.

**3.** Would you *prefer to be an only child or one of two or three children*? Discuss what the advantages/disad­vantages are of:

• being an only child

• having brothers and sisters

• being a twin

**4.** Read these ideas about *friendship* and say if you agree or disagree. Give your arguments.

• Friends are people to have fun with.

• Friends are people who have the same interests.

• Friends have no secrets from each other.

• Friends tolerate each other's moods and faults.

• It's a bad idea to have friends who are too close.

• It's better if a friend has different interests.

• You can't be a close friend with someone in your own family.

• You should try to get on well with everyone, not just your friends.

• "The more friends you have, the better". Do you agree?

• "Tell me who your friend is, and I tell you who you are". Do you agree?

• "A friend in need is a friend indeed". How do you understand it?

• When you are good to others, you are best to yourself. How do you understand it?

• "A person's character may be judged by noticing who his/her friends are". Do you agree?

5. A stereotype is a fixed set of ideas that is generally held about the characteristics of a particular type of person/group, which are (wrongly) believed to be shared by all the people of that type. What is *your stereotype of a British/American person, Russian person*?

6. Speak about possible people for this year's title "PER­SONALITY OF THE YEAR". They can be from the world of politics, entertainment, sport, the arts or business. Speak about reasons why you think he/she deserves the title.

7. What do you understand by the word "IMAGE"? Why is image so important for media figures, like politicians, stars, etc? Is it important for you? Discuss the importance of these qualities. Which of them you consider the most important for a political leader? What other qualities, in your opinion, are necessary for a political leader to have?

• an ability to organise and inspire others

• an ability to plan a campaign

• an ability to organise his/her mind

• great capacity for detail

• an ability to choose the right person for the right job

• readiness to accept responsibility

• willingness to make difficult decisions and stand by them

• honesty

• resolute determination

• enthusiasm

• high standards of personal conduct

8. In your opinion, what are *the advantages and disad­vantages of being famous*? Does fame change people? Have you ever met a famous person or received a letter from someone famous? If not, imagine it. If you saw someone famous in a public place like a restaurant, what would you do? What would you most like and most dislike about being famous? Express your ideas.

9. You are a top model. It's not easy to be a high-fashion model. What difficulties and challenges do they face? What ridiculous things are there in this profession? Speak about *the advantages and disadvantages of be­ing a model.*