



Jackie: Hello, welcome to Weekender with me, Jackie Dalton. This Sunday is a special day for mothers in Britain. It's Mother's Day – a day when sons and daughters are meant to thank and honour their mothers for all their love and hard work. And quite right too, when you think about all the effort they put into making us into sensible, happy, useful adults.

But can our mothers have too much influence over us? There are moments when I wonder if, as I'm getting older, I'm slowly turning into my mother. Sometimes I'll answer the phone and people will think I'm her. Or I'll realise that I'm wandering around the house singing loudly and out of tune – a bit like my mother does. Am I the only one who feels this way? It's time to find out.

In the programme this week, I'll be asking people in Britain if they think they take after their mothers. To 'take after' someone means to be similar to them. Listen out for that phrase now. Does this first woman I spoke to take after her mother?

Clip

In some ways, but not in all. I think I take after my dad mostly.

Jackie: This lady says she takes after her mother in some ways, but takes after her dad more. The next woman we'll hear admits she is similar to her mother in some ways. Try to spot three ways in which she says she is like her mother.

Clip

When I look in the mirror and see my legs, I think of my mother. Sometimes I hear myself speaking to my children, reprimanding them, and I think 'My God, I sound like my mother!' And I used to have her temper, but I've managed to moderate that.

Jackie: Did you spot three things? She thinks her legs look like her mother's. And when she reprimands her children she sometimes sounds like her mother. To 'reprimand' someone is to tell them off for doing something bad. She also says she used to have a temper like her mother's. If you 'have a temper' you get angry and lose control quite easily. Note that the woman says 'I used to have *her* temper.' That's a shorter way of saying 'I used to have a temper like hers...' 'I used to have her temper.' Listen to more examples of how this kind of shorter structure can be used. Instead of saying...

Voice: My legs are like my mother's.

Jackie: You could say...

Voice: I've got my mother's legs.

Jackie: Or, instead of saying...

Voice: That baby has got eyes just like his father's.

Jackie: You could say...

Voice: That baby has got his father's eyes.

Jackie: The next woman we'll hear says she is like her grandmother rather than her mother. In what ways is she like her grandmother? Again, try to identify three things.

Clip

My grandmother, not my mother. I look a bit like her and I have her mannerisms and her temper.

Jackie: The three things this woman has in common with her grandmother are that she looks like her, she has her temper and her mannerisms. A 'mannerism' is a way of speaking or moving that's typical of a particular person – children often develop mannerisms similar to those of their parents. Listen again.

Clip

My grandmother, not my mother. I look a bit like her and I have her mannerisms and her temper.

Jackie: Does this woman take after her mother?

Clip

Oh, I sure take after my mother! My mother right now is 89 years of age, living totally independently in Canada, on her own and she had raised 6 daughters and two sons and all of us are really independent.

Jackie: This lady says she is very similar to her mother. This is because, like her mother, she and her brothers and sisters are all very independent. To be 'independent' means to be good at living without the need for other people.

Clip

...all of us are really independent.

Jackie: Does this man think he is like his mother?

Clip

I'm completely different, I'm an individual, you know.

Jackie: He insists he's completely different – an individual. To describe yourself as 'an individual' suggests you are not like other people, you have your own way of being and doing things. The next man we're going to hear says he does take after his mother - in what way?

Clip

Yeah, in a lot of ways, just attitudes, stuff we buy, you know.

Jackie: This man says he and his mother have similar 'attitudes'. Your 'attitude' is the opinions and feeling you usually have about something. Listen to these examples.

Examples

Michael's attitude towards women is really worrying.

She has such a negative attitude towards her work.

Jackie: Now, listen again to the clip.

Clip

Yeah, in a lot of ways, just attitudes, stuff we buy, you know.

Jackie: And what about this man?

Clip

Yeah, I'm very caring and very friendly.

Jackie: He thinks he's like his mum because he is caring and friendly – to be 'caring' means to want to help people and make sure they're happy. Just what makes a great mother!

Jackie: Well, not everyone seems to think that they take after their mother, but others have admitted that like me, they often find themselves sounding like their mother or realise they have similar attitudes. Let's end with a reminder of some of the language we've looked at

to take after someone
to reprimand someone
to have a temper
mannerisms
to be independent
to be an individual
to be caring
attitude

Jackie: That's all for now, but keep practising your English with us at bbclearningenglish.com!