

**Do the following
exercises**

Where **did you** get that from?

Have you ever noticed that some sisters and brothers look alike? Or have you ever had difficulty telling twins apart? Their inherited traits are what make their physical appearance so similar. An inherited trait is a particular characteristic or quality that is genetically passed down from our parents. Inherited traits are what distinguish one person from another. These characteristics depend entirely on genetic factors

and include gender, hair colour, skin colour, ear shape, blood group and inherited diseases. Offspring inherit genes from both the mother and father, which results in a combination of the parents' characteristics. This is why we often hear people say, "She has her mother's eyes," or, "He has his father's nose".

Not all traits are inherited, however. Variation is also caused by environmental factors. For instance, your weight depends on your diet and other environmental factors such as gender, calorie intake and lifestyle. Language is also not inherited. Adopted children who move to another country will quickly learn the local language and may even forget their native language. The majority of human characteristics are determined by inherent and environmental factors. Studies have shown that intelligence is partly inherited and partly learnt. Similarly, our genes determine our natural hair colour, but exposure to the sun or hair dye can easily change that colour.



It seems that we are all very different. You just need to look around to see how many different traits people have, but in fact, people are remarkably alike. 99.9 percent of all human DNA is identical. It's those few **unique** differences in our DNA that create the variety of characteristics we see around us.

2 **10.4.2** Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1** Why do siblings often resemble one another?
- 2** What are some of our inherited traits?
- 3** Why isn't a person's weight an inherited characteristic?
- 4** What percentage of our DNA makes us look different from other people?

3 **10.5.2** Match the underlined words in the text with their synonyms. What part of speech are they?

- rapidly • surprisingly
- completely • without difficulty

4 **10.5.2** Match the words in bold in the text with their antonyms. What part of speech are they?

- foreign • common • man-made
- different