

You are going on a language course in England and you have just received the following letter from your host family-to-be. Read the letter and study the comments at the side.

consist of -koost  
previous -aikais  
trainers -jenkkit  
bits and pieces  
Torquay [to:'ki

**Your own address**

30 Primrose Grove  
Torquay  
England

**The date**

10 June 20 ...

**Informal greeting**

Dear Susan  
Hi Jack

Dear sister or brother-to-be

**Opening paragraph**

Thank you for...  
Sorry that I haven't written sooner, but...  
How are you? I haven't heard from you since...  
Just a short letter to tell you...

I'm writing this letter to welcome you to our home in Torquay, on July 2nd, and to tell you something about us - the Brewsters.

**1st, 2nd, 3rd paragraphs**

Divide your letter into paragraphs and present your ideas in a logical order.

Our family consists of my mum Shirley, stepfather Phil, my half-brother Charlie (eight), me Cathy (sixteen), and my stepbrother Luke from my stepfather's previous marriage. Luke is seventeen and doesn't live with us, but comes to stay every other weekend. My stepfather has his own building firm, and he usually works round the clock just to keep us kids in expensive jeans and trainers. My mum works part-time as a nurse, and the rest of the time as an unpaid cook and cleaner at home.

Make a few notes on what you are going to say in each paragraph before you begin.

If you want to ask some questions, put them in the last paragraph.

I guess Sundays are the best in our family. We always order a huge family pizza with everything on it and eat it together. Suppose our family is a bit like that, too: bits and pieces thrown in together and we just have to make the most of it. Fortunately, we all get on well together (99% of the time!).

**Closing phrases**

I hope to hear from you soon.  
Give my love to...  
Say 'hi' to ... for me.  
Well, I must stop now because...

Well, that's enough about us. Now it's your turn. Where and when were you born? Do you have any brothers or sisters? What do your parents do? What do you do in your free time? And, most important of all, do you like pizza?

**Closures**

(Lots of) love  
All the best  
Bye for now  
Cheers

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Best wishes

Cathy

**Your signature**

PS We also have a bulldog called Britney, so I hope you aren't allergic to animals.

PS  
PPS

for anything you might have forgotten.

Write an informal reply of about 150 words in which you describe the most important things about yourself and your family.