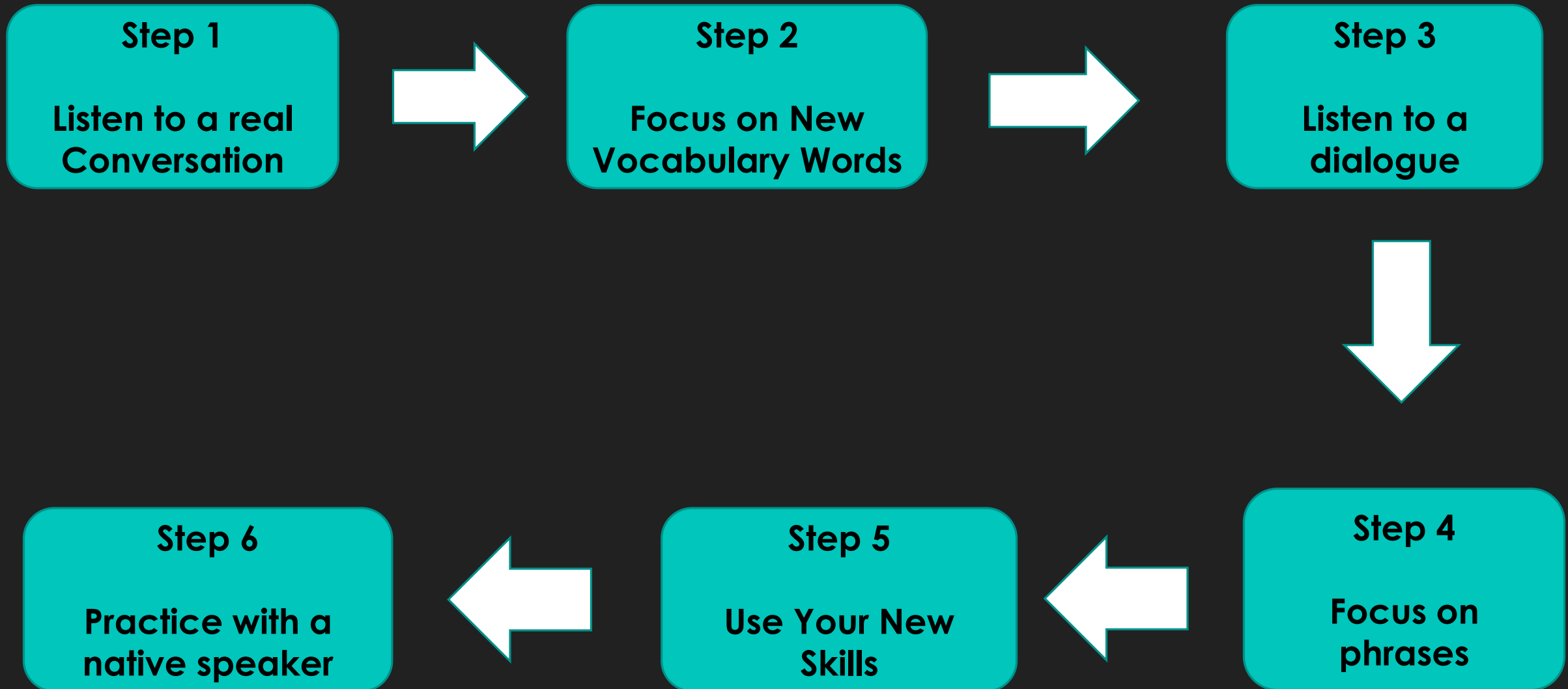




How to Talk About your Family in English

A Vocabulary Lesson

Our Method



Step 1: I Look Just Like My...



Please listen to Audio Step 1 – I Look Just Like My..

Do you take after anyone in your family? Do you look like your mom or dad? Do you act like someone in your family? Today you'll hear a conversation between native speakers about this.

Please view Transcript Step 1-I Look Just Like My...

Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

**Off the top
of one's
head**

I find that

**To have
something
in common**

**To Look Just
Like
(someone)**

Mannerism

To emulate

To Look Just Like (someone)

Expression

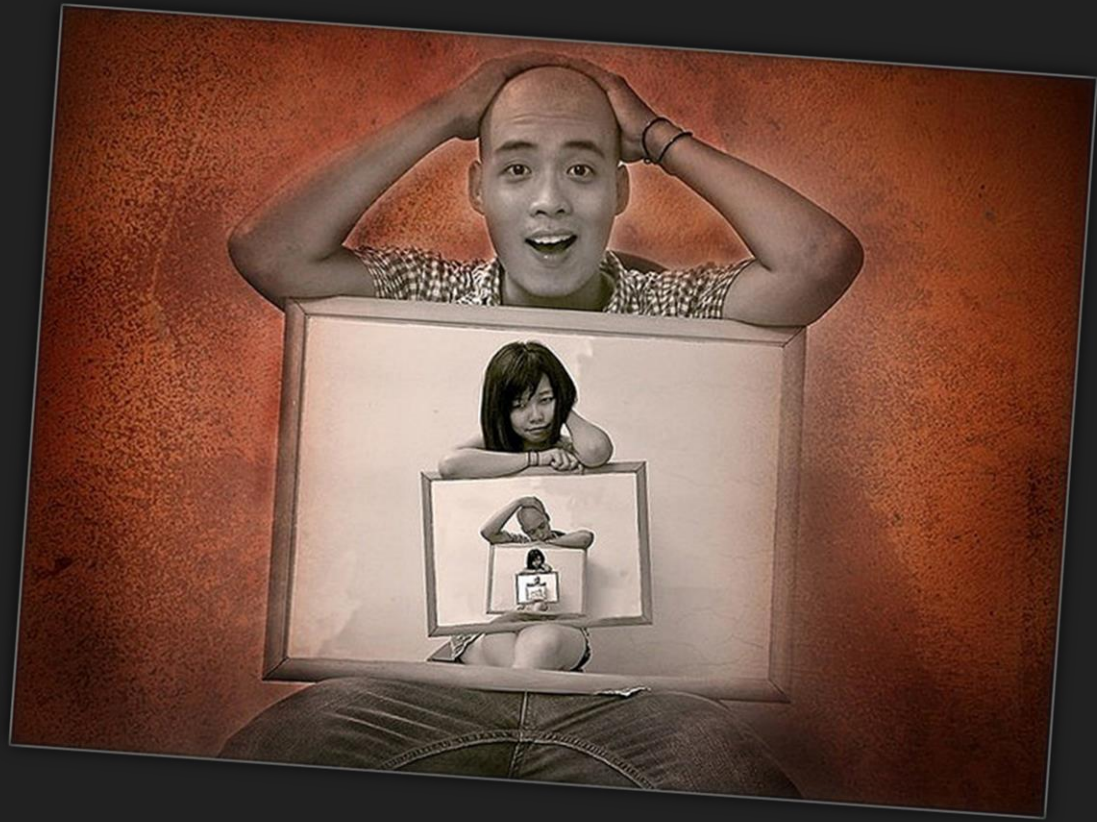


To be similar to someone in physical appearance

“I look just like my mother. We have the same nose.”

Off the top of one's head

Idiom

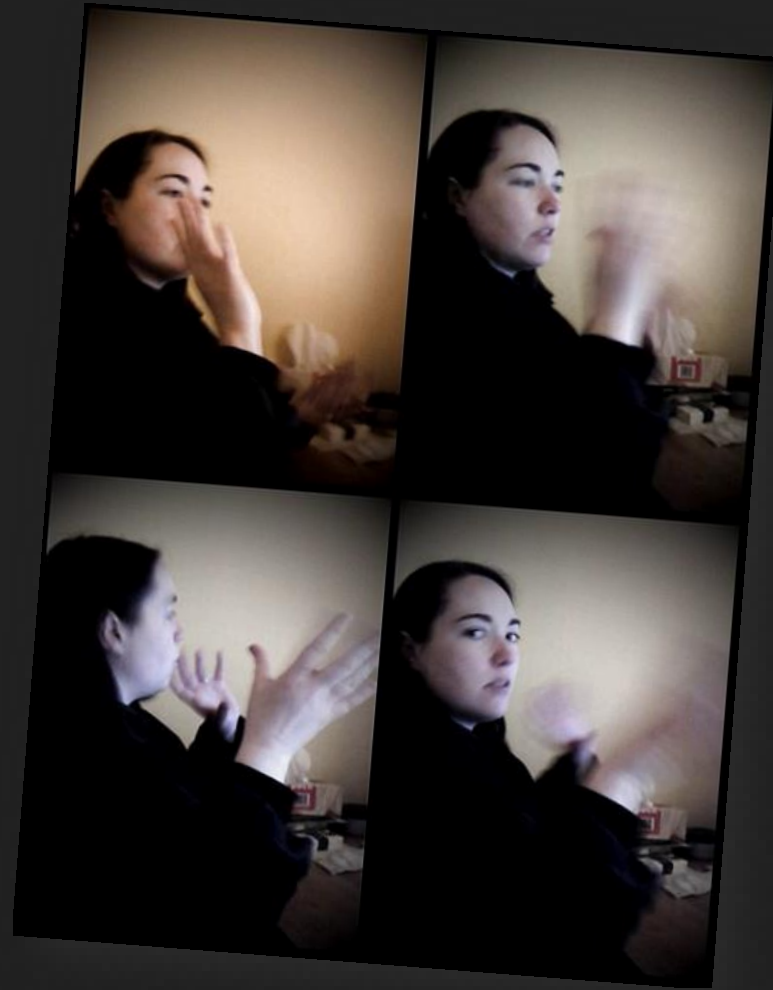


To think of something instantly, without taking much
time

"I can't think of any similarities off the top of my head"

Mannerism

noun



A way of making physical gestures

“Your mannerisms are so similar to your brother’s”

I find that
expression



I have seen that..., I observe that....

*“I find that a lot of my female friends tend to follow in
their fathers’ footsteps.”*

To emulate

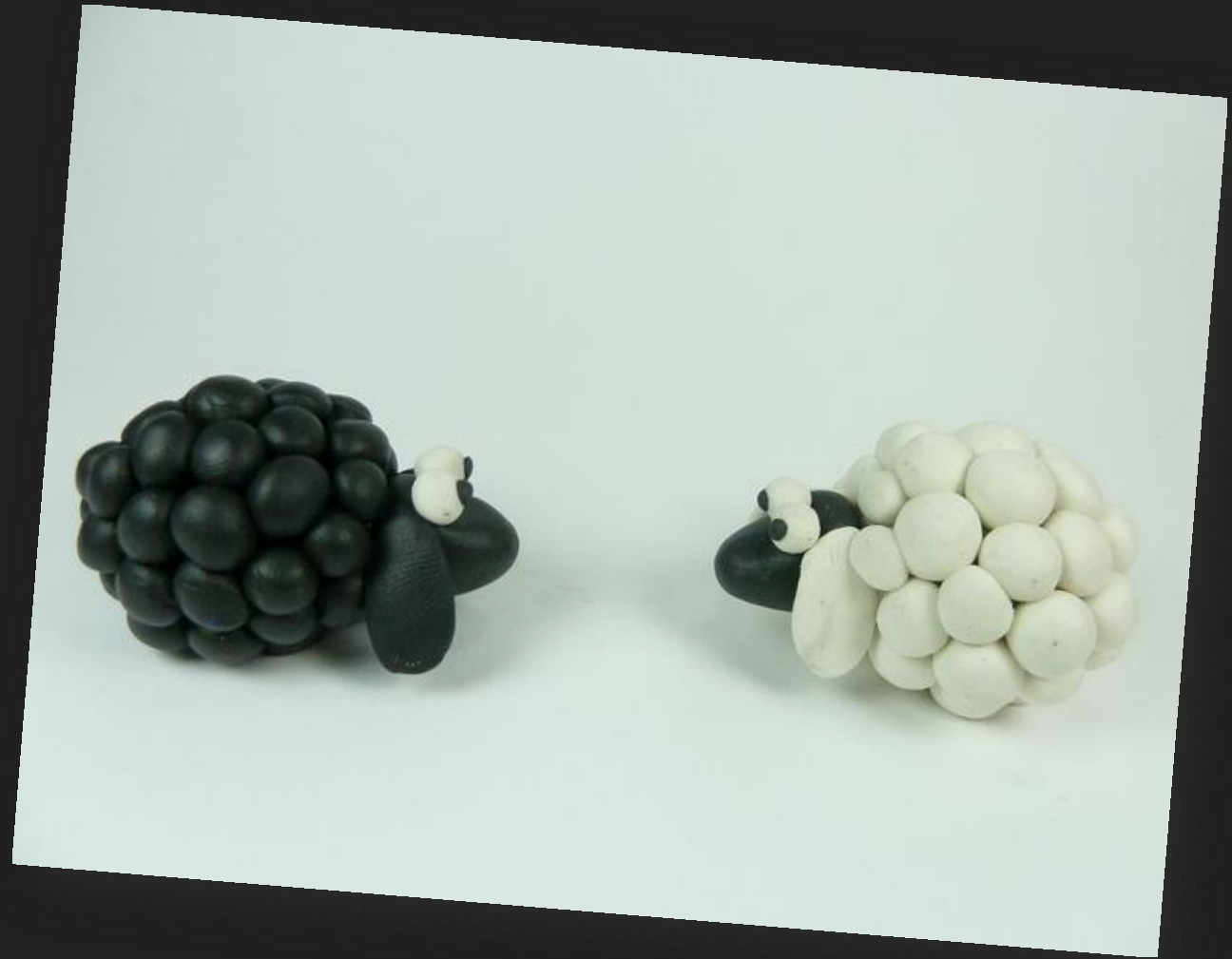
verb



To follow, to mimic, to be like someone

“My sister admires me so she emulates my behavior”

To have
something in
common
expression



To share something, such as an interest or a hobby

“My older brother and I have nothing in common.”

Step 3: Twin Sisters

Listen to two people talking about a twin sister.

Listen to Audio Steps 3 and 4- Twin Sisters



Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – Are You Addicted to Facebook?

- “Actually I look just like my older brother”
- “Do you and your twin have the same mannerisms?”
- “I’m finding that...”
- “...did she try to emulate you at all?”
- “Do you have anything in common?”

Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

Click on the file “Say It Another Way”

Step 5: Use Your New Skills

**To have
something in
common**

**Off the top of
your head**

To emulate

**To look just
like someone**

Mannerism

I find that

A: __1__ (do you notice) that you have a lot
__2__ (of common interests) with your
mother?

B: Not really. I used to try to __3__ (be like) her
but then I developed my goals and interests.

A: But you and your mother have the same
__4__ (gestures).

B: I know. __5__ (without thinking) I can come
up with 3 times that we used the same
gesture in the same situation. It's incredible.

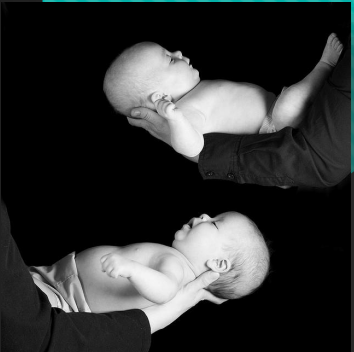
Answers to Step 5 Quiz

- 1) Do you find that
- 2) In common
- 3) Emulate
- 4) Mannerisms
- 5) Off the top of my head



To have
something
in
common

Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards

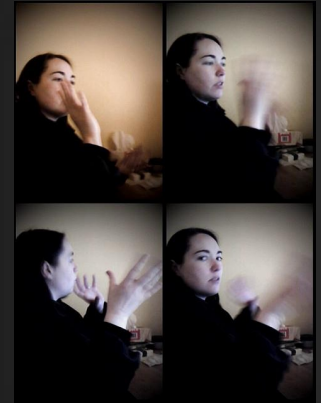


To Look
Just Like
(someone)

Off the
top of
one's
head



Mannerism



To emulate



I find
that



Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Do you **look just like** anyone in your family? Please describe the person's appearance and the ways in which you resemble him or her. Do you look very different from someone in your family?
- Do you and a family member have the same or similar **mannerisms**? Describe the mannerism and when and how you both use it. Do you think that mannerisms can be cultural? Can you describe a **mannerism** that you noticed in another country that you don't see in your country? What does it say about the communication style of that culture?

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Hey it was great meeting your dad. You ____ (look just like) him. I couldn't believe it.

B: Oh yeah I guess we do but we are different people.

A: I thought it was interesting that you have the same ____ (mannerisms) and the same interests also. Like father like son I guess.

Bonus Conversation 1 Answers

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) Hey it was great meeting your dad. You two have a strong resemblance. I couldn't believe it.*

B: Oh yeah I guess we do but we are different people.

A: *I thought it was interesting that you have the same gestures and the same interests also. Like father like son I guess.*

Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Do you **have a lot in common** with your siblings? **Have you found that** that has changed as you have gotten older?
- What about your parents or your extended family? Do you have any interests or hobbies **in common**?

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) _____ (have you found that) your relationship with your brother has changed over the years?

B: Oh yeah. We used to have _____ (nothing in common) but these days we hang out a lot. Now that we are adults we both like to go fishing and we bring our kids together to go camping a lot. We have a blast together.

A: That sounds nice. I hope my brother and I have a relationship like that someday.

Bonus Conversation 2 Answers

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Have you noticed that your relationship with your brother has changed over the years?

B: Oh yeah. We used to have no common interests but these days we hang out a lot. Now that we are adults we both like to go fishing and we bring our kids together to go camping a lot. We have a blast together.

A: That sounds nice. I hope my brother and I have a relationship like that someday.

Step 6: Practice with a Native

- **Off the top of your head**, can you think of any trait of your own that you would like your kids to **emulate**? Why do you want your kids to emulate that trait? How do you think that will help them in life?

Bonus Conversation 3: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Did your little sister _____ (emulate) you when you two were kids?

B: Oh yeah all of the time. _____ (Off the top of my head) I can't think of an example but I used to get so angry when she tried to follow me and play with my friends.

A: Oh she looked up to you. That's cute. Do you guys get along now?

B: Not really. Actually I haven't spoken to my sister in years. We had a big fight ten years ago and it hasn't been the same since.

A: Jeez you should try to patch it up.

B: I know. Maybe I will.

Bonus Conversation 3 Answers

Bonus Conversation 3: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student)* Did your little sister act like you when you two were kids?

B: Oh yeah all of the time. Right now I can't think of an example but I used to get so angry when she tried to follow me and play with my friends.

A: *Oh she looked up to you. That's cute.* Do you guys get along now?

B: Not really. Actually I haven't spoken to my sister in years. We had a big fight ten years ago and it hasn't been the same since.

A: *Jeez you should try to patch it up.*

B: I know. Maybe I will.

Additional Conversation Questions

- Do you consider yourself close to your family members? Do you like to spend a lot of time with them? How do you feel when you are spending time with your family?
- Describe your best family memory from your childhood. Explain where you were, what you were doing, how you felt, and why the experience has remained in your memory.
- What are the differences between the US and your country in terms of family living arrangements? Is it common to live with your extended family like uncles, aunts, and cousins in your country or is it just the nuclear family? Do you like the way it is done in your country? Why or why not? What are the pros and cons?

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