



Worksheet: Data without context

Read through the interview abstract from the collection, [Mothers and Daughters: Accounts of Health in a Grandmother Generation](#), from Mildred Blaxter. Write down your initial thoughts about the individual. Where do you think she lives? How old do you think she is? What might her hobbies be? Who might be her friends? Consider if you need any of this information in order to analyse the data.

Note

G19: Interviewee (Grandmother 19)

LP: Interviewer

H: Interviewee's husband

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G19: An' a bottle o' Dettol wis aye... an' TCP.. that wis her. She niver gaed to the doctor. She wis a walkin' doctor. She didnae need a doctor... we wis never nae weel. Ken. We hidnae much clathes, it wis a gym costume an' a white blouse an' that woman brushed it doon every night wi' Dettol an' water... it wis brushed, this wis to keep the germs aff ye. It must have worked, cos we wis niver nae weel, but we wis brought up on, fit, soup, tatties... butter, eggs.. fit else? Veggies. A real... a substantial meal. I mean, we niver got steak an' things like that.. I mean there wis meatless days, some days you couldnae get meat. I believe we wis healthier than what my kids were. They got a' this... a' the goodness has gone oot o' the grub, I think.

LP: Uh-huh... you think that food's got quite a lot to do with it?

G19: Well, my bringin' up made us healthier than the brinin' up I've gien them... comin'... wi' the things we ate. Wi' the things that we was forced to eat or do withoot. But nowadays... baked rice... now, you got baked rice. It wis made wi' eggs an' there wis currants in it, an' this wis a luxury, mind?

H: Nowadays, they'd sooner buy a tin.

G19: Nowadays they get a tin an' there's nae eggs .in it an' the goodness is oot o' it. Like... have you ever had frozen stuff an' you've cooked it an' you feel as though it didnae taste right... efter ha'in a fresh bit o' steak an' onion. Ken fit I mean? The juice... there's nae the juice in it. Well, that's whit we find wi' the things nowadays an' a, the richt good is out o' them... the body-buildin' material.. afore you eat it. I mean, tinned soup, I would niver hae it in the hoose unless it wis maybe Karen comin' in an' I wis gaun away in a hurry an' gettin' a tin o' soup... I wouldnae gie it to him... we were nae brought up like that, we wis brought up to get a' thing oot o' the groun' and intae a pot... My father grew a' thing. As I say we niver had the money that they've nowadays. My mother could have niver bought four tins, five tins of soup to pit in a pot. It would have cost her very little to put on a pot o' soup an' gettin' the full body o' that pot o' soup, ken? Makin' toast at the fire wis a great thing... you niver tasted toast at the fire that you will in a grill, it's nae the same taste. An' baked tatties in a fire. Used to sit aoun' an' bake tatties, or bake chestnuts... it wis somethin'... we wis happy sittin' singin'... even when the kids were little we used to say "Come on, kids, come on an' we'll hae a little concert". We used to dress them up an' they used to sing an' dance. It wis great, ken... nowadays they'd think we was feel! And now, you see, when they're up we could sit an' speak about this an' laugh about it . what we used to dee, an' this an' that, an' dress them up an' mak' them sing an'... Isabel wis that fat, but she wis goin' to be a ballet dancer an' she wis gaun about Like an elephant! Ken. We all laugh about this nowadays. They were happy, days. Kids are nae happy nowadays. They're gettin' too much. They're never deprived of onythin', they get it eventually. Even wi' the school... they're nae feart at their teachers the wey we were. The wey they were, we used to come hame... "I got the strap" an' then get a punch up for gettin' the strap. Karen comes hame an' says to me "I got the strap today". I says "Oh well, ging back an' get anither een"... she thinks I should ging up an' say to the teacher "Dinna strap my daughter". Ken fit I mean? It's a difference... they're defiant wi' the strap they were feart at the strap. They come hame an' telt us they got the strap.. we wanted to know what for... an' then we got a punch up for... gettin' it.