

Philosopher (For)

I'm interested in identity and uniqueness, especially in twins. Twins are often seen as having a 'special bond' – some people think they would be psychologically damaged by being born a few years apart, but actually they would be only as psychologically affected as 'normal' siblings who are exposed to different environments in the womb and once they are born. Having twins a few years apart could even be good for them, as their parents will have more time to look after them.

Fact: Embryos are usually only stored for 10 years in the UK, although in special circumstances this can be extended.

Issue: It would benefit both identical twins and their parents if their birth could be separated by a few years.

Question: Twins are around 5 times more likely to die during pregnancy and the first few weeks after their birth – why wouldn't you want to prevent this by allowing them to be born separately?