

WHAT IS FAMILY?

FOCUS ON VOCABULARY

Exercise 1. Transcribe the following words.

Visualize, steady, divorcee, nuclear, memorable, naughty, kind-hearted, cousin, nephew, orphan, Christian, in-law, patronymic, generous, stubborn

Exercise 2. Choose the correct words to complete the text. You don't need all the words.

half-sisters, husband-to-be, stepmother, ex-wife, orphan, widower, twins, adopted, widower, new wife, only, half, stepsisters

I went to a party on Saturday to celebrate my dad's wedding. My ... has ..., so there'll be only five of us in the family. I'm looking forward to our living together. It'll be better than being an ... child. I hope my dad and his ... have a baby soon. I'd really like to have a ... brother. My ... are only six years old, so I'll be the oldest of the children because I'm already ten. My mother's engaged to be married, too. Her ... is a ... who has an son called Jack. Jack's real parents died, so he was an ...

FOCUS ON READING

Exercise 1. Read the following text:

What is Family?

People are searching for things in life. And people want to have a family, because they want some person to be around them, somebody with whom they can be confident. Only in the family you can find moral support, understanding, help or advice. People are looking for the person, who is easy to deal with, with whom they have much in common. To have a family means to have loving and thoughtful people around you. Nothing else but the family can be an emotional centre of people's lives, can be transmitter of culture and raising children. This process is a difficult one. It requires work, much respect and tolerance. In happy families the parents are frankly honest with their children without moralising, and children in their turn learn how to encounter other people, how to form their relationships among themselves.

Every family begins at marriage. Marriage is considered a matter of individual responsibility and decision. In some countries it is preceded by dating. Marriage is different from love. There is a proverb: "Love begins at home". It is short but full of sense. Young people go out on dates. They try to look primly, be polite and nice, they want to please each other. And when they fall in love and decide to get married, they think that their love will be strong at all hazards. And when they barge against domesticity, they can understand that their love sometimes wasn't true. Marriage is a good institution but it must be added that a lot depends on the person you are married to. The way of matrimonial happiness is barred to no one. It is all a matter of choice. One shouldn't look for perfection, because there is no person, who is perfect in all respects, everybody has shortcomings.

So, after their marriage a young couple is free to decide where to live and how to start a family. They plan their future life and the number of children. In some countries there is the practice of limiting the size of families and the state encourages increasing or decreasing the number of children in families. In many families the husband and the wife usually share important decision making. And if the children are old enough, they participate as well.

Sometimes if the couple finds that their marriage was a mistake, they are free to get a divorce. There are many reasons for divorces, but everyone must remember that successful marriage depends on the qualities of both the wife and the husband and only one of them can't be to blame.

There is a proverb: "Men make houses, women make homes". It means that roles of women and men were determined many ages ago. The man built a house, earned money, settled important decisions. He

was always considered the head of the family. And the woman in her turn brought up the children, kept the house, created warm atmosphere at home. She obeyed her husband, but she was always the hostess in their home. This counterbalanced their rights: the man was the head of the family and the woman was the head in the household. But the time passed and some problems concerning equality of men and women arose. Nowadays many members of the women's liberation movement believe that equality of men and women requires changing the traditional roles of women and men at home. They say that men should take on some of the responsibilities for child care and household work. As for me, I don't bear feminists. I think that complete independence of women will bring nothing good. Both women and men must be at their places. The man must earn money and bring them home, and the woman must bring up the children and keep the house, she must take care of her husband, help him to relax after his hard working day to be fresh and full of energy next day. And only then there will be the complete harmony in our society.

There is an opinion that the family is not complete without children. And for many people to have a family means to have children. Of course, children create a lot of problems, but nothing can be done with it. One says that little children create little problems and big children create big problems. Of course, people bear a big responsibility when they decide to have children. Parents must take care of their children and bring up worthy members of the society. They must teach their children how to live, communicate with other people and become a personality. Many parents say that there are many problems especially with teenagers. Young people are often maximalists, they see only white or black, they don't like to compromise and they are often impatient. Young people often perceive advice of adults as moralising. To say in one word, the conflict of parents and children was ever. And day after day new problems between them arise, but almost all of them can be resolved without quarrels and spoiling of relations. The elder the children are, the more responsibility they bear for their deeds. Young people must realise that they are the members of the society and must obey definite rules. So, if parents have raised good children, they can consider their life to be a success.

When the children become self-sufficient they can decide to have their own family. But every young family has a lot of problems. The housing shortage is one of them. Most of couples don't wish to live together with their parents after they get married. I support this opinion. If they live together with parents they have many problems. And if a young couple lives apart it has more harmonious relations with each other and with their parents, they also can build their family independently, without interference of parents. Of course, this can firm a young family, but because of housing and pecuniary shortage many of young families have to live with their parents.

So, what's a friendly family? Understanding between people in the family and consideration for the others are very important in the family relationships to make it a unit of friendly and loving people. Tenderness and respect must always be present in the family. And then there is no place for selfishness in the family, when you take care of others in the family, show them your love, tenderness and attention in everyday life. Members of a friendly family are intelligent and respectful people. They do their best to take care of each other and they always share joys and sorrows of others in the family. They are always ready to come to help each other, cause they are also great-hearted, supportive and thoughtful. Only in the friendly family you can release your tension. Members of the friendly family do their best to avoid conflicts and to forgive willingly. They are tactful, loyal and tolerant people. In their family they always share domestic chores and housework. So, people live in harmony in the friendly family.

Exercise 2. Find in the text definitions of:

- 1) a friendly family;
- 2) marriage;
- 3) the women's liberation movement

Exercise 3. Complete the following sentences.

1. Marriage is
2. Parents must
3. A young couple must
4. If a young couple lives apart

5. In a friendly family all the members
6. There is no place for selfishness... .

Exercise 4. Make up an outline of the text.

Exercise 5. Speak on the text.

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

Exercise 1. Think over and give your answers to following questions.

1. «Love begins at home», «Men make houses, women make homes». Give your comments on these sayings.
2. Express your views about the question of household duties. Must they be equally divided between the husband and wife?
3. Speak about advantages and disadvantages of living with parents.
4. What are good parents like according to the author? Do you agree? What are *your* parents like in terms of family relations?
5. Children do not choose their parents. They are fortunate or not fortunate to be born in this or that family. What do you think of *your* parents? What do *you* love and respect *your* parents for?

Exercise 2. Think of some positive and negative features of character for:

	<i>positive features</i>	<i>negative features</i>
a) a husband		
c) a father		
b) a wife		
d) a mother		