

Family

Let's get started...

Before you begin discussing today's topic, take a few moments to complete the following activity. First, discuss any new vocabulary words with your Talk Time leader. Then, try to find some people in your class who have the characteristics described in the activity. Write a different person's name on each line. You can use the following words to ask questions: "Are you _____?", "Do you have _____?", and "Have you _____?". Ask your Talk Time leader to model this activity before you begin.

Find someone who...	
1. is an only child	_____
2. has twins in his/her family	_____
3. has lived with a grandparent	_____
4. has a large family	_____
5. has a small family	_____

Did you learn anything new about your classmates?

New words and Idioms:

household, sibling, only child, twins, remarry, divorce, generation, family tree, single parent, in-laws, step-parents, step-sister, step-brother, adopt, divorce, extended family, nuclear family, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree," "to be a chip off the old block," "home is where the heart is," "it runs in the family," etc.

Background:

Family is important to many Americans. There are many different types of family *households*. In the United States, the most common type of family household is the *nuclear family* household, which includes the (2) parents and their children. Sometimes grandparents or other family members, such as aunts, uncles, or cousins, stay with the nuclear family in the same house. Family members other than a father, mother, and children make up an *extended family*.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Draw your family tree on a blank piece of paper, and introduce your family to your group. Ask your Talk Time leader to model this activity before you begin.

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

Who is the oldest person in your family? Who is the youngest?
How many siblings do you have? How old are they?

With whom do you have the closest relationship in your family?

What are two to three important things that you learned from your parents?

What is your favorite family memory?

How did you get your name? Are you named after another family member? Does your name have a meaning in English?

Do you resemble someone in your family? If yes, describe how you resemble that person.

How many people do you have in your immediate family? What do they do for a living?
Where does your family live?

What are some fond memories from your childhood?
What do you and your family like to do together?

In your culture, at what age is it common for children to leave home?

How often do you get together with your extended family and friends? What do you like to do together?
How many people do you have in your extended family?

In the U.S., many people try to adopt children from the U.S. or other countries if they are unable to have their own children. Is it common for people in your native country to adopt children?

In your native country, who lives together in the same house?

Where do couples live when they get married?

Who decides what a child's name will be?

At what age do people typically get married and/or have children?

Who takes care of the children? Who takes care of the home?

Whom can you ask for advice?