

Topic: Family

Let's get started...

Take a minute to think of an interesting or funny story about your family. It could be about a family member, or it could also be about an interesting experience that happened to one or all of you. Share your story with the rest of the group

What did you learn about your classmates?

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 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:

What family traditions do you practice in your family? Give one or two examples.

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 or 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?

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

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

Where do couples live when they get married?

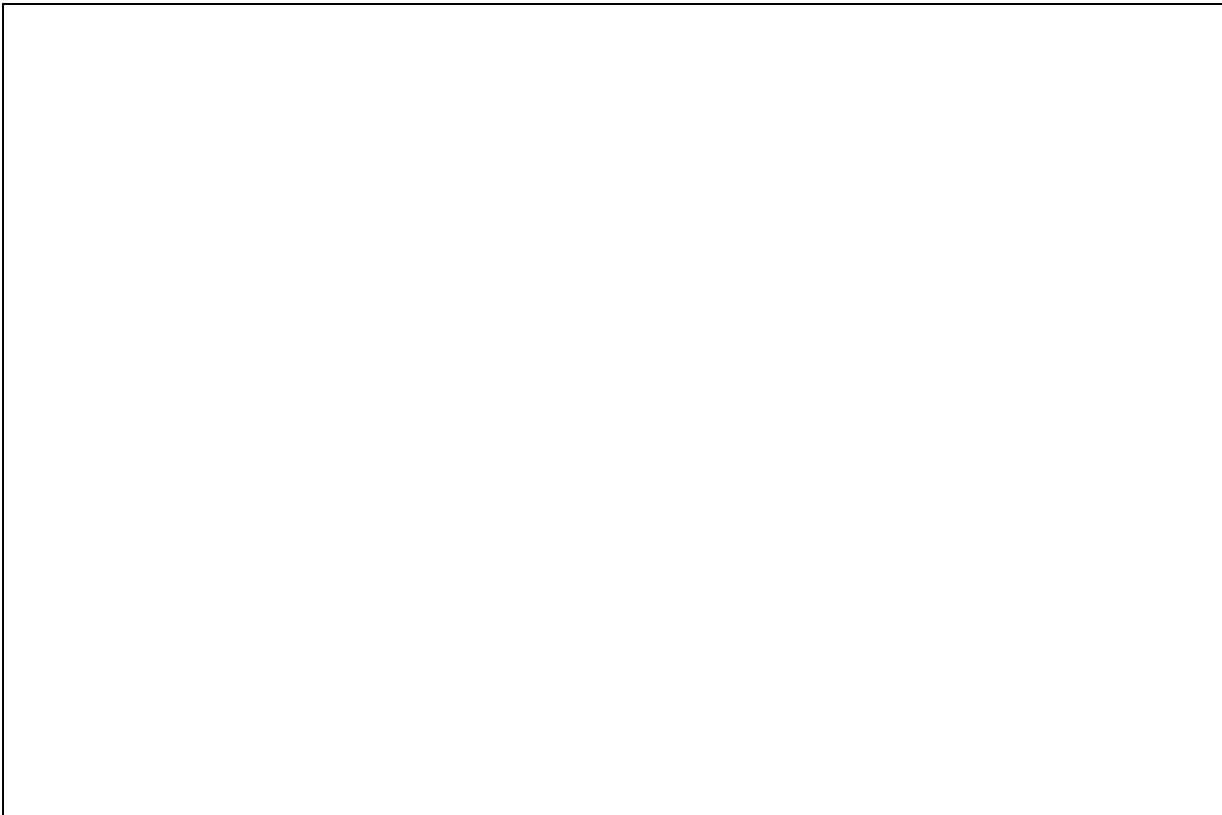
Who decides what a child's name will be?

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

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

Who can you ask for advice?

Draw your family tree in the box. Introduce your family to your group.



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.