

VOCABULARY

Family and society

- 1 Work in pairs. Describe the pictures (1–2). What is the relationship between the people in each picture?



- 2 Fill in the gaps (1–10) in the article with words or phrases from the box.

birth rate breadwinners childbirth childcare
divorce rates households nuclear family offspring
registered partnership single-parent families

WHAT IS A 'TYPICAL FAMILY'?

The British find it hard to define. It seems that the conventional model of a(n) ¹ _____ (a married couple with children) is not the only option people choose. Many people simply live together with a partner for a time before moving on to a different relationship. And even those who decide to live with a partner often prefer a(n) ² _____ (also referred to as a civil union) to a legal marriage contract. Also, the number of ³ _____ (mothers or fathers raising kids alone) has tripled in the past 30 years.

Britain also has one of the highest ⁴ _____ in Europe: two in every five marriages will probably fail. But some things are more resistant to change. Household chores (e.g. ironing) are still mainly carried out by women, while men are the ⁵ _____, earning a higher salary than their female partners. In addition to the discrimination in wages, women are also responsible for providing ⁶ _____.

The average age of first-time mothers in the UK is now 29 – compared to 26 in the 1970s – and women are having fewer ⁷ _____. This in turn has led to a decline in the ⁸ _____, which is now averaging 1.8 children per couple. With rates of ⁹ _____ and marriage down, and divorce and single-person ¹⁰ _____ up, is Britain at risk of becoming a nation of loners?

- 3 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Are family trends similar in Ukraine?
2 Who usually takes care of children in Ukrainian families? Do you think this is changing?

Housework and repairs

- 4 Complete the questions (1–6) with the correct words (a, b, c or d).

- 1 Do you _____ your bed every day?
a clear b do c take d make
- 2 Who _____ the windows in your home?
a cleans b clears c shines d polishes
- 3 How often do you help _____ the house?
a order in b settle for c tidy up d make up
- 4 How willing would you be to help _____ a new bookcase?
a assemble b install c gather d fix
- 5 Would you be prepared to _____ a leak in the roof?
a complete b fix c renovate d recover
- 6 Have you ever _____ any painting or decorating jobs? What did you do?
a gone b made c taken d done

- 5 Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions in exercise 4.

Relationships

- 6 Match the words from the box with their definitions (1–8). Use each word only once.

acquaintance close friend colleague ex fiancée
mate next of kin sibling

- 1 an informal word for a friend _____
2 someone that you know, but aren't very close to _____
3 someone's former wife, husband or partner _____
4 someone that you know very well _____
5 someone that you work with _____
6 a brother or sister _____
7 a woman who is engaged to a man _____
8 a formal word for someone's closest living relative or relatives _____

- 7 Write sentences using the words from exercise 6.

Oksana Shutko is my step-sister's colleague.

Passports usually contain information about a person's next of kin.

8 Complete the sentences (1–8) with phrases from the box.

broke up close relationship drifted apart
in a relationship in common keep in touch
settle down ups and downs

- I _____ with my cousins through social media.
- Tina phones her mum every day. They have a _____.
- We used to be inseparable, but gradually _____.
- Don't cheat _____. It's better to be honest.
- When is Elsa going to _____ and get married?
- Even though we have our _____, I still love you.
- Jake and his girlfriend recently _____ after a big fight.
- I have a lot _____ with my grandmother.

Conflicts

9 Match the words in bold (1–7) with their definitions (a–g).

- How would you react if a friend **broke a promise** you'd asked them to keep?
 - What would you do if they **threatened** to tell a secret you'd told them?
 - Have you ever **accepted the blame** for something you didn't do? If yes, why?
 - In what type of situations, if any, do you like people to **leave you alone**?
 - How much does it bother you if someone **makes fun of** you?
 - How important do you think it is to **obey** rules at home?
 - How would you react if a friend wanted to **punish** you by not talking to you?
- a laugh at somebody or make other people laugh at them, usually in an unkind way
b stop annoying or talking to somebody
c make somebody suffer because they have done something wrong
d say that something is your fault
e not do what you said you would definitely do
f do what you are told to do
g tell someone you will cause trouble if they don't do what you want

10 Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer the questions in exercise 9.

11 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences (1–5).

- To avoid conflicts with others in society, it is important to **conform/confirm** to rules.
- My parents got into a big **argument/contest** about housework, which they didn't resolve.
- Ross didn't invite Martha to his party, which **accused/offended** her.
- Our school has a new policy to deal with **bullying/cheating** in the playground.
- Robert and I **brought up/fell out** with each other over a misunderstanding.

12 Look at the picture. Describe the situation. Use any suitable words from exercises 1–11 to say what you think is happening and what the people are saying to each other.



13 Work in pairs. Take turns to answer the questions.

- How close are you and your family? Who are you closest to? Why?
- What's the best age to have children? Why?
- Do you do housework at home? If yes, what do you do? Who does the most in your family?

- What's more important: having a lot of friends or having just one or two? Why?
- How important is it to you to spend time with your extended family? How often do you see each other?
- Have you ever had a big disagreement with a friend? What happened?

Multiple-choice

1 Look at the pictures (1–4). Match the expressions from the box to each picture.

co-operation emotional support
having fun shared experiences

2 Work in pairs. Talk about what you think is most important in a good friendship. Use the expressions from exercise 1 or your own ideas.

3 Read the first paragraph of a text about friendship. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

The most important people for many teenagers are ...

- A people in their family.
- B friends of their family.
- C a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- D their teenage friends.

WHAT ARE *friends* FOR?

To many teenagers, their most important relationship is not the one they might have with a boyfriend or girlfriend. It's their relationship with their friends. Indeed, most teenagers prefer to spend more time with their friends than with their family. But what does friendship mean?

There is a poem in Sanskrit, the classical language of India, which says that friendship must consist of the following elements: giving, taking, sharing secrets, knowing where your friends are, and giving and sharing food with them. This ancient definition seems like a very apt description. Shared interests and opinions are essential. It isn't easy to get on with someone who can't stand your taste in music or fashion.

Most of us have friends – but it's likely that only a few of them can be described as close friends. Robin Dunbar, a British professor of evolutionary psychology, believes that the maximum number of people we can have in our social group at one time is 150. Many of these are casual friends or *acquaintances*. We don't meet them very often, but we might invite them to a big party, for instance. But – according to Dunbar – we don't normally have more than five close friends.

So who is a best friend? It is someone who's there for you when you're feeling miserable – to give you advice when you want it and to just listen when you need someone to talk to. It might be someone you have known all your life, or someone you've recently met.



It might be someone you only see once a year, but when you do get together it feels like you saw him or her only last week. But can you have a best friend of the opposite sex? In theory, the answer should be yes, but in practice, things can get complicated!

These days, social networking sites offer many opportunities to get to know people online. These are usually people who are into the same things as you are (such as music and films), and can give you advice about the different issues you face. For some people, especially those who aren't so self-assured, making friends online is easier. Online friends aren't going to be as demanding as your friends from the real world might be. Moreover, if you get bored with a conversation online, or if someone's messages are getting on your nerves, you can just ignore them. On the other hand, it may not be realistic to expect your online friends to give you real support when you need it – so a balance of online and real-world friends is probably ideal!

EXAM STRATEGY

- Find and underline the part of the text which contains information about each question.
- Decide which options are definitely incorrect. Then read the relevant part of the text again carefully to decide which of the remaining options is the correct answer.

4 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 What does the Sanskrit poem describe?
A Why friendships were different in the past.
B Why sharing a meal is important.
C What the history of friendship is.
D What every friendship should have.
- 2 What does the word *acquaintances* in paragraph 3 mean?
A people you do not know well
B people you are related to
C people you are very close to
D people you work with
- 3 What should a true friend do, according to the text?
A Hide your secrets from other people.
B Always be ready to give you advice.
C Be there to help you whenever you feel miserable.
D Enjoy the same kind of music as you.
- 4 According to the text, what is **NOT TRUE** about a best friend?
A You might have known them for a long time.
B It isn't important to have grown up with them.
C It's essential that you see them frequently.
D You don't need to see them regularly.
- 5 What does the author say about online friends?
A They are easier to make if you aren't confident.
B You have to share the same hobbies with them.
C They will never judge you, even if you're boring.
D They are harder to ignore than friends in real life.

5 Work in pairs. Do you agree with the definition of friendship from the text?



Words in context

6 Match the words (1–6) from the text with their definitions (a–f).

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1 essential | ___ |
| 2 complicated | ___ |
| 3 demanding | ___ |
| 4 miserable | ___ |
| 5 apt | ___ |
| 6 self-assured | ___ |
-
- | | |
|---|--|
| a | expecting a lot of attention from others |
| b | suitable or appropriate |
| c | difficult to understand or deal with |
| d | permanently unhappy |
| e | having a lot of confidence in themselves and their abilities |
| f | completely necessary, extremely important |

Collocations with *get*

7 Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of *get* and a word or phrase from the box.

bored complicated on my nerves on with to know

- 1 Martha keeps singing the same song. She's really _____!
 - 2 When Tim's sister fell in love with his best friend, things quickly _____.
 - 3 I don't understand why Lily and Dan _____ each other so well – they are so different!
 - 4 If you didn't complain all the time, I wouldn't _____ and stop listening.
 - 5 Did they _____ each other at university?
- #### 8 Work in pairs. Look at the pictures below and discuss how friendships are changing, and what you think about this.

