

A

Relatives*

RELATIVES



My father died when I was nine, and so my mother was a **widow**¹ with four young children. She **remarried** five years later, so now I have a **stepfather**. As he is not my real father, I call him by his first name, which is Dieter. I've got an **elder**² brother called Thomas and two younger sisters, Anya and Claudia, who are **twins**³. We're a **close family**⁴.

My mother is an **only child**⁵, but I've got two uncles on my father's side. One is married with two children, and the other is married with three children, so **altogether** I have five **cousins**. I **get on well with**⁶ Uncle Rolf, and he always tells me I'm his favourite **nephew**. Of his **nieces**, I think he likes Anya best.

Recently my brother Thomas **got married**. His wife's name is Sabine, so I now have a **sister-in-law**⁷ as well.

* members of your family; *syn* **relations**

¹ a woman whose husband has died

² older

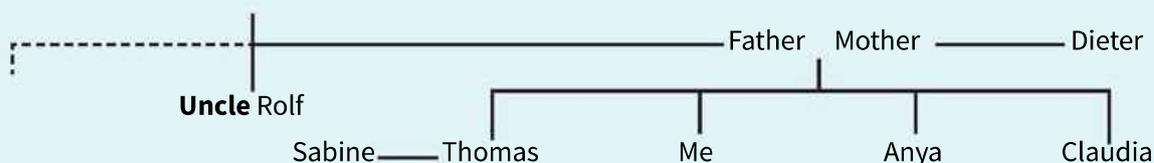
³ two children born to one mother at the same time

⁴ a family who like each other and stay together a lot

⁵ without brothers or sisters

⁶ have a good relationship with

⁷ (also **mother/brother/son-in-law**, etc.)



Common mistakes

It's more common and more natural to say '**Thomas's** wife' (NOT ~~the wife of Thomas~~) or '**Anna's** younger sister' (NOT ~~the younger sister of Anna~~).

B

Friends

FRIENDS

My **best friend** is Florian, an **old school friend**¹. We **got to know each other**² when we were in the same class at school. We've been **mates**³ **ever since**⁴, and our **friendship** is very important to both of us. He spends a lot of time with my family, and his **current**⁵ girlfriend is actually one of Thomas's **ex-girlfriends**. But we all get on really well.

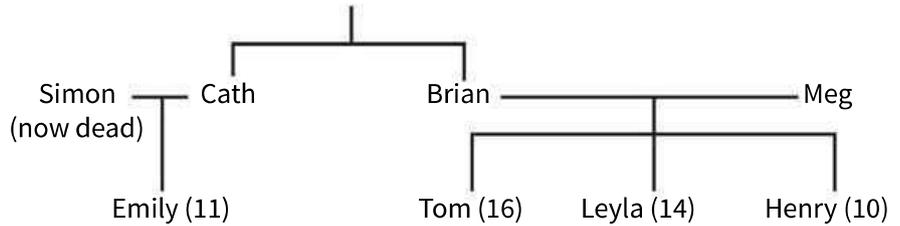


Language help

We use the prefix **ex-** for a relationship we had in the past but do not have now, e.g. *The children stay with my **ex-** husband at the weekend; I saw an **ex-** girlfriend of mine yesterday.*

Exercises

13.1 Look at the family tree, then complete the sentences below.



- 1 Simon died two years ago, so Cath is a *widow*
- 2 Leyla is Cath's
- 3 Tom is Cath's
- 4 Cath is Meg's
- 5 Simon was Brian's
- 6 Tom is Leyla's brother.
- 7 Emily is Leyla's
- 8 Emily is an child.

13.2 Which words are being defined?

- 1 Your *current* boyfriend is the one that you have now.
- 2 means get married again.
- 3 are all the members of your family.
- 4 Your friend is the one you like more than any other.
- 5 An friend is someone you have known for a long time.
- 6 are two children born to one mother at the same time.
- 7 is an informal word for a friend.
- 8 is the noun when two people are friends.
- 9 Your is the man who is married to your mother but is not your father.

13.3 Complete the text.

“I was still going out with James when I met my husband, Ben. We ¹ *got to know* each other because we went to the same gym twice a week. We went out with each other for about 18 months, and we got ² three years ago, so ³ we've been a couple for almost five years. We've continued to go to the gym ever ⁴ we got married, and I still quite often see James when we're there. It's nice if you can still ⁵ with an ⁶-boyfriend or -girlfriend.”

13.4

Over to you

Answer the questions for you, then, if possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

- 1 Are you an only child? If not, do you have elder brothers or sisters?
- 2 Do you get on well with other members of your family?
- 3 Are you a close family?
- 4 Who was the last person in your family to get married? When?
- 5 Who's your best friend?
- 6 How long have you known him/her?
- 7 How did you get to know each other?