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| **"Me and My Family"** |
| *For the 1-st year students of Baccalaureate* |
|  |
| Friendship and Other Positive Relationships; Dating, Love and Marriage; Types of Families; Relatives; Children in the Family; Generation Gap; Ages and Aging; Family Frustrations. |
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**WORD LIST**

1. abortion
2. acquaintance
3. acquainted
4. adopt
5. ancestor
6. arranged marriage
7. aunt
8. bachelor
9. best man
10. birth control/rate
11. blended family
12. blind date
13. breadwinner
14. bride
15. (bride)groom
16. bridesmaid
17. brother/sister-in-law
18. colleague
19. commuter
20. couple
21. cousin
22. cuddle
23. dedicated parents
24. enemy
25. extended family
26. fancy
27. father/mother-in-law
28. fiancé / fiancée
29. foster brother
30. from the moment I set eyes on
31. frustration(s)
32. generation gap
33. great-grandmother
34. half-brother/sister
35. a hen party
36. honeymoon
37. household
38. housewife
39. hug
40. incompatibility
41. jealousy
42. long-distance marriage
43. love at first sight marriage licence
44. marriage vow
45. maternity leave
46. mistreat
47. mistress
48. neighbour
49. nephew
50. niece
51. nuclear family
52. offspring
53. old flame
54. only child
55. orphan
56. partner
57. prenuptial agreement / contract
58. quarrel (n)
59. rape
60. reception
61. registry office
62. relatives
63. respect
64. row (n)
65. second cousin
66. senile wanderings of the mind
67. sibling
68. single
69. single-parent family
70. spinster
71. spouse
72. a stag party
73. stepbrother, etc.
74. surrogate mother
75. two-person childless family
76. uncle
77. unmarried
78. wedding dress
79. wedding guests
80. wedding present
81. wedding ring
82. widow
83. widower
84. youthful exuberance
85. to apply for divorce
86. to approve of
87. to be close to
88. to be disappointed in
89. to be engaged to
90. to be fed up with
91. to be flesh and blood
92. to be fond of
93. to be hurt by
94. to be jealous of
95. to be proud of
96. to be related by blood
97. to be responsible for
98. to be torn in two
99. to be wrong on both counts
100. to break up with
101. to bring up
102. to chat up
103. to confide in
104. to cope with
105. to depend on
106. to divorce from
107. to feel pangs of remorse
108. to get along/on with
109. to give birth to
110. to grow up
111. to let bygones be bygones
112. to let sb down
113. to look after
114. to make a will
115. to marry (to) sb
116. to miss sb
117. to pick up where you left off
118. to propose to
119. to quarrel with
120. to rely on
121. to row with
122. to start a family
123. to sympathise with
124. to take care of
125. to tell sb apart
126. to tell sb off

# Unit 1

# Friendships and other positive relationships

An **idiom** is a set expression which has a meaning different from the literal meanings of its components. Idioms present a great variety of structures and combinations that are mostly unchangeable and often not logical and may not follow basic rules of grammar.

Jo and I **get on well with** each other. [have a good relationship]

Adrian and Liz don't **see eye to eye**. (often argue/disagree]

**I’ve fallen out** with my parents again. [had arguments]

Tony and Jane **have broken up / split up**. [ended their relationship]

George **is having an affair** with his boss. [a sexual relationship, usually secret]

Children should *respect* their **elders**. [adults/parents, etc.]

Let's try and **make it up**. (be friends again after a row]

**1. Positive relationships**

She's my **junior** / I'm her **senior** / I'm senior to her, so she does what she's told, [refers to the position/length of service at work]

Aliona and I **hit it off** immediately. [liked each other the moment we met]. We're true **soulmates.** [people who feel close to each other in spirit and who understand each other deeply]

Nelly was my mother's **lifelong companion**, [friend who was with her all her life]. The moment I met Rob I could see he was **a man** after **my** own heart. [someone you admire because they do or think the same as you; can also be woman after one'sown heart]

Charlie and I **get on like a house on fire**. [have a very good, enjoyable relationship]

Jim and Tony have been **bosom** friends/buddies/pals for years. [very close, good friends)

Patricia and Carmen are **inseparable**. [always want to be together, very close]

There's always been **a close bond** between Kirsten and her aunt. [relationship or feeling of togetherness]

I think we should all be more careful in the use of the word 'friend'. It does not, and should not, be applied to a **casual acquaintance.** There are **colleagues, allies** and **partners** - all of them pretending to be friends because it suits their purpose. **True friends** want nothing from you and don't expect any special favours. We should ask nothing from them except **loyalty,** despite our faults. They should speak well **behind our backs.** Such friends are hard to find ...

***Other key words:***

Russia and America were **allies** [countries which fight on the same side] in the Second World War.

We were **business partners** (people who own the same business] but now we're **bitter rivals** [people in competition with each other in an aggressive and negative way].

***Examples of problematic friendships***

Terry has been **disloyal** **to** me on a number of occasions.

Jo's always very **critical** **of** her friends. I don't like that.

OK, I was **dishonest with** you. I'm sorry, but I didn't want to hurt you.

Jim has always been **scrupulously honest** in his dealings with us.

I would never expect **complete and unswerving loyalty** from a friend.

Monica has always been my **staunchest ally at** work. I can always **rely on** her to support me. I was amazed that someone who called herself a friend could be so deeply critical.

**2. Types of relationships**

*Mate* is a colloquial word for a good friend. It can also be used in compounds to describe a person you share something with, e.g. classmate, shipmate, workmate, flatmate.

*Workmate* is usual in non-professional contexts; *colleague* is more common among professional people.

*Fiancée/fiancé* can still be used for someone you are engaged to, but a lot of people feel it is dated nowadays. You will sometimes see **husband-/wife-to-be** in journalistic style.

English has no universally accepted word for 'person I live with but am not married to', but *partner* is probably the commonest.

**Here is a scale showing closeness and distance in relationships in different contexts.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| friendship: | best friend | good friend | friend | acquaintance |
| work: | close colleague | colleague | workmate |  |
| love/romance: | lover | steady boy/girlfriend | ex-\* |  |
| marriage: | wife/husband | partner | ex-\* |  |

\* *ex*- can be used with or without (informally) another word: She's my ex. (girlfriend, etc.)

***Liking and not liking someone***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **core verb** | **positive** | **negative** |
| Like | love adore | dislike hate |
|  | worship idolise | can't stand loathe |
| respect | look up to admire | look down on despise |
| attract | turn s.b. on | repel turn s.b. off |
| be attracted to | fancy |  |

She doesn't just like Bob she idolises him! I can't stand him. I really fancy Lisa, but her friend just turns me off.

*Fancy* and *turn off* are informal. *Repel* is very strong and rather formal.

**Ex.1. Complete the sentences on the left with an appropriate word or expression on the right. There is an example at the beginning (0).**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Laurence and I get on really well and do absolutely everything together. He is … | ... my ex-girlfriend. |
| I know Bob, but not very well. He is | ... my fiancée. |
| Jenny and I work together in the same office. She is ... | ... my workmate. |
| Jane and I announced our engagement last week and plan to get married in the summer. She is ... | ... my flatmate. |
| Clare and I used to go out together. She is ... | ... just good friends. |
| Susie and I have been going out together now for a few months. She is ... | ... my best friend. |
| Jordi attends the same English lessons as me. He is ... | .. my steady girlfriend |
| Sarah works alongside me on the production line in a factory. She is ... | .. a good friend. |
| John and I share an apartment in the city. He is ... | .. my classmate. |
| I often go out with Ben to the cinema or the pub. He is ... | .. an acquaintance. |
| Andy and I are going out together, but we haven't told anybody yet. In fact, if anyone asks, we say that we are ... | .. my colleague. |

**Ex.2. The person who typed this book has got some of the phrases and idioms opposite mixed up with one another. Correct them.**

1. Jo and Phil don't get on eye to eye with each other.

2. I fell up with my parents last night. It wasn't my fault.

3. We had a quarrel but now we've made it well.

4. Do you think Jim and Nora are making an affair? I do.

5. I see very well with all my colleagues at work.

6. She should learn to respect her olders.

7. Jo's attractive, but her mate just turns me up completely.

**Ex.3. Fill the gaps with suitable adjectives or adverbs.**

1. You need...................................................allies at work who won't let you down.

2. His...................................................honesty is a quality I greatly admire.

3. I don't know why she was so...................................................critical of him; it seemed very unfair.

4. Her.............................and................................loyalty to him was a mistake. He betrayed her in the end.

5. Ray and Hilary were...................................................rivals at work, but seemed to get on well outside of the office.

6. When all my other so-called friends drifted away, Jack always remained a .........................................friend to me.

**Ex.4. Rewrite these sentences to give the *opposite* meaning.**

1. Rick and his sister shared the same opinion on a lot of things.

2. Her affection for Andrew has grown stronger lately. I expect they'll get engaged.

3. Our relationship stayed firm because we always understood each other.

**Ex.5. Use expressions from the above to describe these situations.**

1. We both thought the other was going to pick up Roger. There was a ...

2. The kids have been unhappy since their parents divorced. They come from a ...

3. Her marriage has been both good and bad at different times. It has ...

4. The two union leaders have had a serious disagreement which has split them. A serious ...

5. Two of the brothers have not spoken to their other brother for twenty years because of something bad that happened. I think it's a ...

**Ex.6. Match these words with the definitions below:**

Friend, colleague, partner, ally, companion, comrade, acquaintance, lover, enemy, accomplice.

Someone who:

........................ is associated with you in business or plays sport with you.

........................ Helps you in war or confrontation.

........................ You know only superficially.

........................ You disagree with violently or dislike.

........................ Keeps you company.

........................ You have a sexual relationship with.

........................ Is a member of the same political or military group as you.

........................ You like a lot and have things in common with.

........................ Works in the same place as you.

........................ Helps you in illegal or criminal activities.

**Ex. 7. Give the opposites of these adjectives. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

1. loyal 2. truthful 3. honest 4. welcoming 5. contented 6. warm-hearted

**Ex.8. Some words in these sentences have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the sentences using the correct word from A.**

1 We both own the company: we're bitter rivals.

2 I've made several casual colleagues since moving to London, but no close friends yet.

3 Were Britain and the USA colleagues in the First World War too?

4 The two companies hate each other: they're acquaintances.

**Ex.9. Fill the gaps with a suitable preposition.**

1 I know I'm not perfect, but I've never been dishonest.................you.

2 She's very critical.................her colleagues.

3 Why are you always so disloyal.................me?

# Unit 2

# Dating. Love. Marriage

|  |
| --- |
| A **collocation** is two or more words that often go together. These combinations just sound "right" to native English speakers, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and just sound "wrong". Look at these **examples: Natural English - Unnatural English...**  the fast train - the quick train  fast food - quick food  a quick shower - a fast shower  a quick meal - a fast meal  Why learn collocations?  Your language will be more natural and more easily understood. |

**General social relationships: collocations**

The replies in these conversations are another way of saying what the first speak

A: You seem to *be very similar to* Alan - the way you think and look at life. B: Yes, we've always been **kindred spirits**.

A: What a nice wedding! Ian and Sally seem to be perfect for each other. B: Yes, such a **well-matched couple**!

A: Our Spanish friends are always phoning their brothers and sisters. B: Yes, well, I think **family ties** in Spain are much stronger than here.

**Idioms: Love and romance**

When Tom met Lily it was love **at first sight**. [love began the first moment they saw each other]

She fell **head over heels** in love with him. [fell deeply and madly in love]

Nick only **has eyes for** Diana. He's not interested in other girls. [is only attracted to]

I've often seen David and Valerie at the cinema together, but it's purely a **platonic relationship**. [affectionate relationship between people of the opposite sex that is not sexual].

Nora was more than **infatuated with** [romantically obsessed with] Brian; she was **completely** **besotted** **with** [almost stupidly or blindly in love with him].

**A). Read and discuss: Dating Ideas**

Dating practices vary from culture to culture, but before people **get married**, they usually **date or go out** together for a period of time to see if they are compatible. Some people enjoy going out on **group dates** with a number of friends so they feel less pressure and stress of trying to impress the other person. Other people go on **blind dates**, that is, going out with a person that you've never met. In either case, most **singles** try **to date** people with whom you have similar interests and values. If you have things in common, you're more likely to *enjoy each other's company*.

{ A changing custom that can create problems for both men and women is the question of "who pays for whom?" on dates. Traditionally men have paid the expenses on dates regardless of whether the couple's relationship is intimate or merely friendly. Currently some women feel more comfortable paying for themselves and may occasionally pay for the man. "**Dutch treat**" or **“To go Dutch”** refers to a date where each individual pays for him/herself. There are no fixed rules for payment.}

However, be careful when dating because people sometimes don't show their true colors on the first, second, or fifteenth date. Furthermore, although finding dates online has become very popular, it's difficult to get to know someone through email or online. Meeting people in person along with a few friends is probably a safe way to get to know others.

**Discussion:**

**a.** 1. What qualities do you look for in an ideal partner? Explain your reasons.

2. If dating is an institution in your country, when do people begin to date? Are the rules for dating the same for men and women?

3. How important is dating? What are other ways that men and women meet?

4. What are common dating activities? Are *chaperones* present on dates?

5. What role do parents play in dating? Does the man have to meet the parents before he takes the woman out?

**b. Dating can be a fun time in your life if you do it right with some practice.**

- What are some of the best dating ideas you can think of besides going to a movie?

- Describe the ideal date. Where would you go? How would you get there? Who pays the expenses?

- Think of dates for the following situations:

a. outdoors in the summer, d. with a group of friends,

b. indoors on a rainy day, e. on a major holiday in your country.

c. a romantic evening for two,

**Ex.1. Fill the gaps in these sentences.**

1. Rachel only has.............................for Mark these days. She's crazy over him.

2. They look such a.............................couple. I wonder if they will get married?

3. Sheila and I have always got........................like a house.............................. .

4. He's completely...........................with her. I've never known him to be so much in love before. He's like a teenager. (two possible answers)

**B). Weddings, Marriages and Break Ups**

**Marriage** is a noun. It means being husband and wife.

*She was married three times and her last marriage made her the happiest.*

**Wedding** is a noun. It is the ceremony which starts the marriage. *The wedding was at 2.00. The bride wore a beautiful white dress.*

At the wedding there is **the bride** (the woman who is getting married), **the groom** (the man who is getting married), **the bridesmaids** (special friends of the bride) and **the best man** (the special friend of the groom).

After the wedding there may be **a reception,** which is a party for all the guests.

Before the wedding the groom may have **a stag night,** which is a party with all his male friends. The bride may have **a hen night** with her female friends.

A **honeymoon** is a holiday for the bride and groom after their wedding.

People usually celebrate their **wedding anniversary.** This is the day on which they got married.

*We're having a small party on Friday. It's our anniversary. We'll have been married for five years.*

**To get engaged** means to promise to marry someone. Sometimes people give each other rings. *Philip and Rachel got engaged last week.*

After getting engaged people **get married.** If the marriage is unsuccessful they may **break up** or **separate.** If they legally end the marriage they **get divorced.**

**Getting married** can be exciting and nerve-racking at the same time. There is so much planning to do for the wedding. When people **get engaged**, the couple often goes to a jewelry shop to pick out rings. The woman sometimes will wear an **engagement ring**, and **wedding rings** are exchanged at the **wedding ceremony**. The **couple** will also choose where the ceremony and **wedding reception** take place. The ceremony is often held in a church, but some people choose to get married in other settings such as a park, near a waterfall, or in a family's backyard. Traditionally, the couple will wear **formal attire** like a **white wedding dress** and a white **tuxedo**, but these fashions are changing. The wedding is sometimes performed by a religious leader like a **minister**, and the couple exchanges **wedding vows**, which are like promises they make to each other. After the wedding, some couples have a **reception** where families and friends talk, dance, and eat. Of course, **marriage customs** might be different from country to country.

**Ex. 2. Complete the text below with the correct form of these words:**

**PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT:** an agreement made between a man and a woman before marrying in which they give up future rights to each other's property in the event of divorce or death - called also prenup, prenuptial

**Prenuptial Agreement**

|  |
| --- |
| **last contest sign break split up break down work** |

In the USA couples sometimes (1)........a contract before they get married called a 'prenuptial agreement', which puts in writing what will happen to their money and possessions if the marriage (2).........It doesn't surprise me that some of these marriages don't (3)........long. Before it has even started, the happy couple are already planning what to do when the marriage doesn't (4)..........And, of course, a prenuptial agreement only works if both partners are reasonable. But what happens if one person doesn't want to (5)........and (6)........the divorce? Or what happens if someone tries to (7)........the contract? Well, what it really means is lots of work - and money - for the lawyers! Do you think prenuptial agreements are a good idea? Would you have one?

**Ex. 3. Complete the first part of the story below using the words and expressions in the box.**

|  |
| --- |
| tie the knot • split up • engagement • got engaged •courting • living in sin • got on • wined and dined • attracted to • proposed • chatted her up • fallen in love • asked her out • drift apart • cohabiting • go out |

Laurence first met Carol at a party and was immediately 1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her. He 2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and at the end of the evening 3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to dinner at a nearby restaurant. She accepted his offer and the next evening he 4.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her in style, with champagne and delicious, exotic foods. They 5.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well with each other, decided to meet again and then started to 6.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on a regular basis. Laurence's granny was delighted that he was 7.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at last. It wasn't long before they realized that they had 8.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with each other. A few months later, they bought a flat and moved in together. Laurence's granny disapproved of them 9.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but Laurence explained that 10.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was quite normal these days. One day, Laurence decided to ask Carol to marry him, so after a romantic meal, he got down on one knee and 11.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to her. They 12.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the next day announced their 13.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to their friends and family. Their parents were delighted that they had decided to 14.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Laurence's friends weren't so sure, however, and all agreed that they would 15.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and 16.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ long before the wedding.

**Ex.4. Complete the sentences with the words below.**

*Rebecca got married last year. Rebecca married Kevin last year.*

*Emily got divorced a few months ago. Emily divorced Robert a few months ago.*

|  |
| --- |
| married got married divorced got divorced |

1. Laura \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when she wanted to get married again.

2. Steven\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ann last year. He's still really happy, last week.

3. Brian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ It was a lovely wedding.

4. Lisa \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ John because he had met someone else.

|  |
| --- |
| **Socialising** implies simply spending leisure time with other people. This can be done in lots of formal and informal ways. |

**Here are some different ways in which people socialise.**

*a housewarming (party):* a party to celebrate moving to a new house or flat

*a launch (party):* a party to celebrate the publication of a new book or product

*a fancy dress party:* a party where everyone dresses up in costume as other people

*a stag party:* a party before a wedding for the future husband and his male friends

*a girls' night out / a hen party:* an evening just for female friends spent at a restaurant, theatre or club, perhaps;

a hen party is usually just before one of them gets married

*a reception:* a formal party, e.g. after a wedding or to meet an important visitor

Note that the phrase, the *wedding party*, usually refers to the main group of close family and friends at a wedding, rather than to the reception after the wedding.

*A black tie* or *a white tie event* suggests a formal party at which men have to wear black bow ties or white bow ties respectively.

**Ex.5. Decide what kind of party you might be invited to if ...**

1. a friend of yours is about to get married and is having a party before the wedding.

2. you are going to help a friend celebrate on the day of their wedding.

3. some friends have just moved into a new flat.

4. a friend has just had a book published.

5. you have friends who love dressing up as characters from famous films.

**Ex.6. Answer the questions.**

1. Is a hen night before or after a wedding?

2. Is a stag night for men or women?

3. Is a reception before or after the wedding?

4. Which is correct?

*A:* Our wedding anniversary is on October 3.

*B:* Our wedding anniversary is on October 3, 1992.

5. What is the word for the man who is getting married?

6. What is the word of the woman who is getting married?

7. Is a bridesmaid a man or a woman?

8. Does a honeymoon happen before or after the reception?

9. Which happens first?

*A:* You get married. *B:* You get engaged.

10.Which is correct? *A:* Their wedding lasted for eight years. *B:* Their marriage lasted for eight years.

**Ex.7. Put one or more words into each gap to complete the sentences.**

1. You know that Margaret and I have been unhappy for a while, so we've decid­ed to \_\_\_\_\_\_ up.

2. The wedding ceremony was nice but I think everybody enjoyed the \_\_\_\_\_ afterwards most.

3. Before she got married, Helen invited about twenty friends out on her\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. In Britain the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ usually arrives for the wedding before the bride. He's usually very nervous, too.

5. Look. We've been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for years and now I want a divorce so that I can marry Emily.

6. Every year we have a big party on our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Before he got married, Bill went out on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with all his friends.

8. The groom's friend is called the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

9. It was a beautiful wedding. The bride wore white and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_wore love­ly pink dresses.

10. How long were you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_before you got married?

11. They've been married for forty years. It's a very successful\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

12. Victor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_his first wife on Friday and married Carla on Saturday.

13. After we got married we had a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in the Caribbean.

**C). Listening: Arranged Marriage**

*Pre-listening task*

You will hear an interview with an Indian lady, Rajkumari Kejriwal, known to her family and friends as Raj. In the interview she talks about her arranged marriage, and the day she was introduced to her future husband. Work in pairs. Write questions. What information would you like to learn?

*Listen to the interview, and see if your questions are answered.*

**Comprehension check**

1 How did Raj's father find the two men?

2 Was it difficult to find a husband for Raj?

3 Describe the day that Raj met the two men.

4 Why did her father choose Shyam?

5 What happened between that day and their marriage?

**Summary:** *In the following summary there are some factual mistakes and some gaps. Correct the mistakes and complete the gaps.*

Raj's father arranged her marriage when she was still at school. He chose her husband by \_\_\_\_\_. In Raj's case, this, didn't take long, but sometimes \_\_\_\_\_\_ *.* Two men were introduced to Raj and her family, and together they decided \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . The men were of similar background, but one of them\_\_\_\_\_ , and this was the one\_\_\_\_ Raj didn't agree with her father, but she had no choice. She has now been married for twenty two years, and in fact \_\_\_\_\_\_. Most marriages in India are still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the usual age\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion: What do you think?**

1 What was Raj's attitude to her arranged marriage? Did she accept it or resent it?

2 How do you think she felt on the day she met the two men?

3 Raj says that her husband's family wasn't wealthy, but they owned a village and were like princes. What does this tell us about Raj?

4 What else would you like to know, either about Raj's marriage, or about arranged marriages?

5 What advantages does she see to arranged marriages?

**Additional Questions**

1. Do you think that a marriage arranged by parents is better than a love match?

2. Do you think that men and women are equal?

3. Do you think that people should be forced to have a medical examination before marriage to check for sexual diseases and possible genetic incompatibilities?

4. Do you think that couples should be forced to wait for six months before getting married?

**Ex.8. Read the second part of the story you worked with above and choose the correct word for each number.**

A week or so before the wedding, Laurence went out on a **1.stag night / bull night / lion night** with his male friends, while Carol enjoyed her **2.chicken party / duck party / hen party** with her female friends. At last, the big day arrived. Laurence and Carol had wanted to get married in a **3. registered office / registry office / regimental office**, but their parents insisted on a traditional church wedding. The church was packed, friends and family of the **4. bride / bright / blight** on the left, friends and family of the **5. gloom / groom / doom** on the right. Laurence sat nervously at the front with his **6. beast man / bent man / best man**, who was carrying the **7. wedding rings / wedding rinks / wedding rims** in his pocket. The organist started playing the **8. Wedding March / Wedding Crawl / Wedding Stagger** and Carol walked up the **9. aisle / I'll / ail**, accompanied by her father and followed by the **10. brightmaids / bridesmaids / bride's mates**. The priest conducted the ceremony and, after Laurence and Carol had exchanged **11. cows / vows / vowels**, pronounced them husband and wife.

# Unit 3

# Families. Relatives.

**1. Read and discuss: Types of Families**

1. Are all of these families the same? How are they different?

2. Which family is most similar to your family?

3. Which family is most different from family?

A **family** is a group of people that have a common *ancestor*. They usually live together in the same house. Although it is a fact that not all families are the same, they can be categorized into different types.

A **nuclear family** consists of parents and their children living together. In these families, both adults are the biological or adoptive parents of the children. In many countries in Europe and North American this is the most common form of family. There are three types of nuclear families. In the first type the father works and the mother cares for the children. In the second type, the mother works and the father stays at home with the children. In the third type of family, both parents work. This last type of family is the most common in the USA and Canada.

In an **extended family**, different family members such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins live together. In many areas of the world, such as Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Southern Europe, this type of family is common.

Recently in some countries, couples are choosing to have only one child. These types of families are called **single child families**. Some people believe that children raised in these kinds of families are spoilt, selfish and lonely. But research doesn’t support this.

Some families have no children at all. The couples that make up these **childless families** sometimes make the choice not to have children because they want to have more free time. Some couples choose not to have children for financial reasons.

Families with only one parent are called **single parent families**. There are several causes of these types of families. The first reason is divorce. Another reason is that the one of the parent dies, leaving the surviving parent widowed. Additionally, some parents never get married in the first place.

**Blended families and stepfamilies** are generally created by divorce and remarriage. In blended families, biologically unrelated children may live in the same household. For some children this kind of family can be good because there are two parents, instead of just one. But there can also be some difficulties as the two new families try to become one.

In the **commuter families**, the parents live and work in different towns or states. One parent provides the primary residence, and the other parent comes home for short periods of time, such as weekends and holidays. This occurs for different reasons. For example, it may be difficult to find two professional jobs in the same city, or one or both parents may have military obligations that require them to be gone from their families for periods of time

As the basis of all societies, families of all types are very important . This is true now and will be true in the future as well.

**Ex.1. Match each description of a family with its type.**

*1. Nuclear Family; 2. Childless Family; 3. Extended Family; 4. Single Parent Family; 5. Blended Family; 6. Single Child Family*

*Family Descriptions*

\_\_\_\_ Two years ago Darrel and Tanya got married. Before they got married Darrel had three sons and Tanya had a daughter. Now they all live together.

\_\_\_\_Hiroshi's wife died several years ago of cancer. He now raises his two sons Tomo and Taiki by himself.

\_\_\_\_ Jose and Maria live with their 3 children. They also live with their parents, an uncle and an aunt.

\_\_\_\_ Husband and wife Dalee and Meegung have been married for two years. They are both very successful business people and don't have any children

\_\_\_\_ Harry and his wife Jane have been married for six years. They have one daughter named Melissa.

\_\_\_\_ Jack and Betty, who have been married for over 15 years, have two children named Daniel and Chirstine.

**Ex.2. Answer these questions in small groups. Share your answers with your class.**

1. Which type of family do you live with?

2. Which type of family do you think is best? Why?

3. The article did not list all the possible types of families. Can you think of some more types of families?

In both nuclear and extended families, the culture imposes set roles upon parents.

Traditionally the male has been responsible for financial support of the home and family members. The female has often been responsible for emotional support, child raising and ***housekeeping***.

However, among some people in parts of the United States, these parental functions are no longer fixed. The prescribed role of the man as a "***breadwinner*”** and the woman as a ***housewife*** is changing. These changes include working mothers, "househusbands", and an increasing number of ***daycare centers*** for children. Yet, traditional roles may be preserved even in households where the wife is working.

**Discussion: Answer the following questions about your own culture. Then discuss intercultural similarities and differences.**

**E[[1]](#footnote-1).** - What is your idea of the "ideal family"? Describe the roles of the family members and the beliefs that unite the family.

- What kinds of activities does your family do together for fun? Are these activities done with the nuclear family or with the extended family and friends?

**E.** - Is the family unit changing in any way in your country now (for example, number of children, education level of family members, etc.)? What changes have been recently taken place to the families?

**E.** - How important is a family in the life of a person, in functioning of a society, in identification of a nationality?

**E.** - A family – is it a social, national or a personal unit?

**After you have finished your discussion, choose one member of the group to give a brief summary to the entire class.**

**Ex. 3. Choose the most suitable word or phrase to complete the sentences below.**

1. There's a ... of twins in our family - on my father's ....

a story b geography c history d tree e side f line

2. I was ... child, though.

a an only b a missing c a single

3. All the members of our football team arerelated ... marriage.

a by b to c on

4. When Motherremarried**,** her second husband, my .... gave me a new bicycle.

a forefather b stepfather c grandfather

5. He said to me, 'Look, I know you're not my own ..., but let's be friends.'

a flesh and blood b blood and guts c skin and bones

6. My ...originated from a tribe of Red Indians.

a ancestors b ancients c antiques

7. Not many of my … relatives are still alive

a blood b skin c heart

8. My ... -grandfather fought at the Battle of Waterloo.

a grand grand grand b great grand grand c great-great-great

9.I was left £50 and a cat by ... relative; I believe it was a ... cousin — or perhaps it was a... -aunt.

a a distant b an unclear c a long-distance d double e second f dual g grand h great i large

10. Peter is an **orphan;** he was ... at the age of two.

a adjusted b adapted c adopted

11**.** Paul comes from a **broken home;** he has lived with a number of... parents.

a loan b foster c second-hand

12. Mary was from a **single-parent family;** now she's **looked after** by her ....

a keeper b warden c guardian.

13**.** I'm off to have Sunday lunch with my ... now.

a outlaws b by-laws c in-laws

**2. Relatives (= members of your family)**

These are the most important relatives (also called **relations):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **female** | **male** |
| Your parents' parents | grandmother | grandfather |
| Your parents' brother and sister | aunt(s) | uncle(s) |
| Your aunt's/uncle's children | cousin(s) | cousin(s) |
| The father and mother of the person you marry | mother-in-law | father-in-law |
| The brother and sister of the person you marry | sister-in-law | brother-in-law |
| Your brother's/sister's children | niece(s) | nephew(s) |
| The person you marry dies, so you are a ... | widow | widower |
| Your mother or father remarries, so you have a ... | step-mother | step-father |

**Ex.4. Family Relationships: Who is it?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your father's sister is your \_\_\_  Your sister's husband is your \_\_\_  Your mother's mother is your \_\_\_  Your sister's daughter is your \_\_\_  Your son's son is your \_\_\_ | Your sister's brother is your \_\_\_  Your mother's brother is your \_\_\_  Your uncle's son is your \_\_\_  Your brother's son is your \_\_\_  Your mother's father is your \_\_\_ |

**Ex.5. Answer the following questions about yourself:**

* How many uncles or aunts do you have?
* Do you have any nieces or nephews? Why or why not?
* Do know the names of your great –grandfathers? Do you do you know where they were born?
* What nationalities are in your background?
* Who is the newest member on your family tree? How old is he or she?
* Does your family know the names of many of its ancestors?

**\*Ex.6. Trace - draw a scheme - of a part of your family tree including members of the nuclear and extended family. How many generations could you put on your family tree?**

# Unit 4

# Children and the Family

|  |
| --- |
| **English phrases:** It would be a mistake to translate your thoughts from Ukrainian into English in conversation. Let's face it: in addition to the fact that they speak in a foreign language, native English speakers often speak in images that are quite different from ours. It means that they express their thoughts in other words than we do. English and Ukrainian phrases used in the same situation are in most cases very different from each other. So, how do we deal with this problem?  The best way is to learn useful phrases frequently used by native speakers in speech and writing.  You can divide phrases into two large groups: 1. Phrases for general use; 2. Topical phrases for certain situations. |

**Ex.1. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases. Consult a dictionary if necessary.**

1. to confide **in** someone 9. to be engaged **to** someone
2. to trust someone 10. to let someone **down**
3. to rely **on** someone 11. to reciprocate
4. to feel comfortable **with** someone 12. common interests
5. to empathize **with** someone 13. loneliness
6. to sympathize **with** someone 14. fiancé, fiancée
7. to be hurt **by** someone 15. affection
8. to be disappointed **in** someone

**1. Children and the Family**

**Ex.2. Complete this case study with appropriate words and expressions from the box.**

|  |
| --- |
| Adolescence ● authoritarian ● brought up ● dependents ● divorced ● extended ● formative years ● foster family ● juvenile delinquency ● lenient ● nuclear family ● overprotective ● responsible ● running wild ● siblings ●  single-parent family ● strict ● upbringing ● well-adjusted |

Bob's problems began during his (1) ………... His parents got (2) ………...when he was young, and neither of his parents wanted to raise him or his brother and sister, so he was (3) ………...by a (4) ………...chosen by his parent's social worker. Unfortunately, his foster-father was a strict (5) ………...and often beat him. Bob rebelled against this strict (6) ………...and by the time he was eight, he was already (7) ………...stealing from shops and playing truant. By the time he reached (8) ………...sometime around his thirteenth birthday, he had already appeared in court several times, charged with (9) ……….... The judge blamed his foster parents, explaining that children needed (10)………... parents and guardians who would look after them properly. The foster father objected to this, pointing out that Bob's (11)………... – his two brothers and sister – were (12) ………...children who behaved at home and worked well at school.

This has raised some interesting questions about the modern family system. While it is true that parents should not be too (13) ………... with children by letting them do what they want when they want, or be too (14) ………...by sheltering them from the realities of life, it is also true that they should not be too strict. It has also highlighted the disadvantages of the modern (15) ………...where the child has only its mother and father to rely on or the (16)………..., in which the mother or father has to struggle particularly hard to support their (17) ………...In fact, many believe that we should return to traditional family values and the (18) ………...family: extensive research has shown that children from these families are generally better behaved and have a better chance of success in later life.

**Discussion: Use words and expressions from the vocabulary box in Ex. 1, and any other words or expressions that you think would be relevant.**

1. Some people believe that children nowadays have too much freedom. Others believe that children are protected too much by their parents. Which of these statements do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your decision.

2. **E.** Why is it important for a child to have both parents?

3. **E.** Compare the roles which a father and a mother have in raising a child.

**Exercise 3. Now complete these sentences using the preposition. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

1 She's absolutely devoted..........................her mother and visits her every day.

2 I've always had a lot of respect..........................my boss, and I do enjoy my job a lot.

3 She's been so loyal..........................me all these years, I can't let her down now.

4 He's very supportive..........................his colleagues; they're very lucky.

5 I'm quite fond..........................Larry, but that doesn't mean I want to marry him.

6 He puts a lot of trust..........................me, and I feel I can trust him too.

**Ex. 4. Fill the gaps in this old man's memory about his life.**

I grew up in an (1).................................family as my grandparents and a couple of aunts and an uncle, who was a (2).................................bachelor, lived with us. We saw a lot of our (3).................................relatives as well as our close ones. I think that families tended to be much more (4).................................then - we talked to each other more and did things together more.

I’m sure there are far more (5).................................families now than there used to be - you know, where parents hardly spend any time with their children, or with each other - and a lot of parents who are divorced. My (6).................................wife, who died two years ago, used to say that it is not fair on children to let them grow up in (7).................................homes.

# Unit 5.

# Age and Aging

**Useful Hobby:** There are two great hobbies that can help language learners to improve their pronunciation and speaking skills. The **first** is watching films in English with English subtitles, writing out phrases, discussing the language in situations, learning useful dialogues by heart, and so on. The **second hobby** that we recommend as very interesting and useful is learning by heart and singing loudly the lyrics of English songs. In our teaching experience, students who like to recite poems or sing English songs master English pronunciation easier and faster.

**Ex.1. Read (listen to) the poem.**

**The Seven Ages of Man** *William Shakespeare*

All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players,

They have their exits and entrances,

And one man in his time plays many parts,

His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,

Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.

Then, the whining schoolboy with his satchel

And shining morning face, creeping like snail

Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,

Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad

Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,

Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,

Jealous in honour, sudden, and quick in quarrel,

Seeking the bubble reputation

Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice

In fair round belly, with good capon lin'd,

With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,

Full of wise saws, and modern instances,

And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts

Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,

With spectacles on nose, and pouch on side,

His youthful hose well sav'd, a world too wide,

For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,

Turning again towards childish treble, pipes

And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,

That ends this strange eventful history,

Is second childishness and mere oblivion,

Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

**Match the words and phrases at the top to their definitions.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. creeping | b. furnace | | c. hose |
| d. lean | e. pard | | f. players |
| g. puking | h. sans | | i. saws |
| j. shrunk shank | k. the bubble reputation | | l. the cannon’s mouth |
| m. whining | | n. with good capon lin’d | |

1. actors

2. complaining, or expressing disappointment

3. facing guns, in battle

4. fat from eating good chicken

5. leopard

6. looking good by doing pointless things

7. moving slowly and quietly

8. object containing a fire for heating metal etc

9. proverbs

10. smaller legs

11. stocking

12. thin and healthy

13. vomiting

14. without

**Discussion**:

1. What according to Shakespeare are the acts in man's life?

2. What is Shakespeare's concept of life?

3. Read the following and answer the questions:-

*Sighing like a furnace, with a woeful ballad*

*Made to his mistress' eyebrows.*

a. Name the stage in man's life.

b. What is 'woeful ballad'?

4. *"Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel*

*seeking the bubble reputation*

*Even in the cannon's mouth.*

a. Who is referred to here?

b. What are the distinguishing features of the soldier?

5*."For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice*

*Turning again toward childish treble.*

a. In which act is man playing this part?

b. What features of old age are mentioned here?

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow:

*All the world's a stage*

*And all the men and women merely players.*

*They have their exits and their entrances;*

*And one man in his time plays many parts,*

*This acts being seven ages.*

a) To what in man's life does the poet compare the exits and entrances the stage to?

b) Explain the phrase "one man in his time"

7. *Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel*

*And shining morning face, creeping like a snail*

*Unwillingly to school.*

a) Which stage of human life is described in the above lines?

b) What are the words or phrases which indicate that the boy is not willing to go to school?

8. *And then the lover,*

*Sighing like a furnace, with a woeful ballad*

*Made to his mistress's brow.*

a) Why does the lover sigh?

9. *Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,*

*Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,*

*Seeking the bubble reputation*

*Even in the cannon's mouth.*

a) Which stage of human life is described in the above lines. What are the main characteristics of this stage?

b) What is the "bubble reputation"? How is it linked with the cannon's mouth?

10. *And then the Justice,*

*In fair round belly with good capon lined,*

*With eyes, severe and beard of formal cut,*

*Full of wise saws and modern instances,*

*And so he plays his part.*

a) How does a man look in this stage of life?

b) What does he do to show his wisdom? Why?

11. How is a man's last stage of life described?

**Ex.2. a) Do any of the words refer to only males (M) or only females (F)?**

Young, juvenile, adolescent, teenager, mature, grown-up, veteran, retired, elderly, senile, ancient, baby, man, boy, lady, girl, toddler, kid, youngster, senior citizen, OAP

**b) Complete the chart using the above words.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Infancy** | **childhood** | **youth** | **adulthood** | **middle-age** | **old age** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Age and Aging**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **period of life** | **Stage** |
| 0-1 approximately |  | a baby |
| 1-2 |  | a toddler |
| 2-12 approximately | childhood | a child |
| 13-17 approximately |  | a **teenager** (14 = early teens) |
| 18+ |  | an adult |
| 20-30 |  | in your twenties (24-26 = mid twenties) |
| 30-40 |  | in your thirties (38 = late thirties) |
| 40+ |  | people are middle-aged; in middle age |
| 60 or 65 |  | **retirement** (= when people stop work; they are **retired)** |
| 75+ |  | **old age** (you can also use **elderly**) |

***Note:*** For boys, the period between 14-17 approximately (slightly younger for girls) is called **adolescence,** i.e. you are an **adolescent. In** law you are an **adult** at the age of 18, but many people think of you as an adult when you leave school.

**Ex 3. What do the following expressions mean if the speaker is:**

**-20? - 40? -60?**

a. He's getting on a bit.

b. She's pushing 40.

с. He's no spring chicken.

d. She's in her prime.

e. He's well past his sell-by' date.

f. He's a bit *past it.*

g. She's got one foot in the grave.

h. She's just a *babe in arms,*

i. He's rather young for his age.

j. He s over the hill.

**Do you think these expressions are neutral, formal or informal?**

**Ex. 4. What stage of life are these people at?**

1 Paul isn't 2 yet, so he's still a..............................

2 Albert was a bus driver for 40 years but stopped

3 Susan is 25, so she is in her.................................

4 Caroline is 50 this year so she is now in her.......

5 Ron is 33 and his wife is 32, so they are both in.

6 Joan is 75 this year, so she is quite,......................

7 Jason was born six weeks ago, so he's a..............

**8** Leyla is 13 this year, so she'll soon be a..............

9 Ravi is 18 this year, so legally he becomes...........

10 It is often a difficult age for boys going through ……..

**Ex.5. Find the logical ending for each of the sentence beginnings on the left and construct a paragraph.**

E.g. Sam **was born** in Scotland but when he was two, his father got a new job in London and he **grew up** in the south of England. He **went to university** at **18** where he ...

a) Rebecca's life.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 Rebecca was born | was a boy at her secondary school. |
| 2 She grew up | in her early thirties. |
| 3 Her first boyfriend | on a farm with lots of animals. |
| 4 She went out with him | when she was in her late twenties. |
| 5 She went to university | in a small local hospital in 1972. |
| 6 She fell in love | for six months. |
| 7 They got married | just after the baby was bom. |
| 8 She had a baby | with another student doing medicine. |
| 9 Her father retired | when she left school. |

**b)** How many of the sentence beginnings on the left you can answer about your own life? Answer the ones you can.

**Ex. 6. Choose the most appropriate adjective to complete the following sentences:**

a. The level of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ crime is beginning to worry police.

a) childish b) immature c) juvenile

b. Joan would be a good candidate. She is a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ campaigner.

a) seasoned b) grown-up c) old-aged

с. One of the features of this property is the number of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_trees.

a) seasoned b) mature c) veteran

d. There is a London to Brighton roily of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_cars every year.

a) seasoned b) mature c) veteran

e. Why don't you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you silly boy!

a) come of age b) mature c) grow *up*

f. Don’t worry about his loud behavior. It's just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ exuberance.

a) childish b) immature c) youthful

**Ex.7. Fill in the gaps with the most appropriate words from the box.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **retirement** | **relax** | **free** | **hobby** | **sixty-five** |
| **work** | **productive** | **useless** | **retire** | **important** |

Generally speaking, Americans (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until they are (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Then they (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can be very difficult for people because their work was so (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_to them. Often people work so much that they do not take the time to (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or to have a(n) (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Then when they retire, they don't know what to do with all the (8) \_\_\_\_ time on their hands. They also can feel (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because they are not being (10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.Retirement isn't easy.

**Ex.8. Complete these dialogues with a word or phrase. Don't repeat the word in italics.**

*Example: A:* She was lovely at *six months old.* B: Yes, she was a lovely .....

1 A: Were you happy *as a child?* B: Yes, I had a very happy.............................................

2 A: It's a terrible time *when you're 14 or* 15, don't you think? B: Yes, I do. I think life is very difficult during….............

3 A: I'm sure you had *arguments* with your parents then. B: Oh yes, we had hundreds of.

4 A: Did your parents enjoy their *40s and* 50s? B: Yes, I think people are more relaxed in.............................................

5 A: Do you think you'll be bored *when you finally stop work?* B: No, I shall enjoy my.............................................

6 A: Life can be lonely for some *elderly* people. B: Yes, things are rough for some people in.............................................

7 A: My parents have been *married for 28 years.* B: Yes, and it has been a very happy..............................., hasn't it?

8 A: Did you know Carol was expecting a baby? B: No, I didn't know she was.............................................

**Ex.9. Choose a correct word to fill in the gaps:**

1: Many women prefer to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in hospital these days.

be born give birth born birthday

2: Shakespeare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1564.

born was born was birthed birthday

3: 'Darling, I love you. Will you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me?'

get married married marry be married to

4: When I get married I want a big white \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a church - no expense spared. marry get married marriage wedding

5: You know what they say, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the only certainty about life.

dead die death died

6: 'She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after a long and courageous battle against cancer'

dead die death died

**Ex.10. Match sentences 1-12 with a second sentence A-L. Use the key words in bold to help you.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Mr and Mrs White are very authoritarian parents.  2. Mr. Bowles is considered to be too lenient.  3. Mr and Mrs Harris lead separate lives.  4. Billy is a well-adjusted kid.  5. The Mannings are not very responsible parents.  6. My parents are separated.  7. Parents must look after their children, but they shouldn't be over-protective.  8. Professor Maynard has made a study of the cognitive processes of young children.  9. I'm afraid my youngest child is running wild.  10. She looks quite different from all her siblings.  11. There are several different and distinct stages of development in a child's life.  12. Tony was raised by a foster family when his own parents died. | A. They don't look after their children very well.  B. He is fascinated by the way they learn new things.  C. He very rarely punishes his children.  D. I live with my mother and visit my father at weekends.  E. He never listens to a word I say, and is always playing truant from school.  F. Brothers and sisters usually bear some resemblance to one another.  G. Although they are married and live together, they rarely speak to each other.  H. They are very strict with their children.  I. Of all of these, the teenage years are the most difficult.  J. Children need the freedom to get out and experience the world around them.  K. He's happy at home and is doing well at school.  L Foster families take in children who are not their own. |

**1. Texts for reading and discussions about the stages in life.**

**A). Having a baby**

The day I got the results of the **pregnancy test,** I was over the moon. I couldn't believe it: me a **mother-to-be!** Actually **pregnant! 'An expectant mother'** - that was my favorite description of me. I went along to the **ante-natal clinic** every fortnight. And I read book after book on the subject of **childbirth:** how big the **foetus** is in the **womb** [wu:m] at the various stages, and how 15% of **pregnancies** end in **miscarriage.**

That was a pretty exciting moment when I felt the first **kick.**

When the time came, I was **in labour** for twenty-three hours. I remember shouting through a haze as they took me into the **labour ward. I**n the end it was a **delivery**. After all that, I just looked forward to the simple joys **of motherhood.**

On June 21, 1983 everybody was crying in the delivery room of the hospital, even the doctors. That day, Ham Peizer **gave birth to** six babies. Unfortunately, one baby died, but four boys and one girl lived. Soon, everyone heard the news about the five babies, the Peizeri **quintuplets**.

When the babies came home from the hospital, it wasn't easy **to tell them apart**. The Peizers would just count them to be sure all five babies were there.

At first, both Pam and Danny stayed home **to take care of** the quintuplets. Later, while the children were growing up, Danny stayed home with them while his wife went to work. The Peizers also had two baby nurses, and often the grandparents helped with the **babysitting**. But even with a lot of help, it's not easy **to bring up** five children, especially when they're all the same age.

It wasn’t an accident that Pam Peizer had so many babies. She had quintuplets because she took a special drug called "pergeno”. Although there are fertility drugs like the one Pam Peizer took, it's stillunusual to have quintuplets. Fewer than fifty families in the world have quintuplets.

**B). Child Raising**

In the United States it is not uncommon for parents to put a newborn in a separate room that belongs only to the child. This helps to preserve parents' privacy and allows the child to get used to having his or her own room, which is seen as a first step toward personal indepen­dence.

American English expresses these value preferences: children should **"cut the (umbilical) cord"** and are encouraged not **"to be tied to their mothers' apron strings."** In the process of their socialization children learn to **"look out for number one"** and to **"stand on their own two feet."**

One of things I have discovered is that raising children in different cultures is often shaped by social expectations and family background. When I was a child, parents in the US tended to use **an authoritarian style** where they **led the family** like a military leader and lectured ("my way or the highway") and often **punished physically**. With my own father, he gave us a look, and we knew we had **to obey**. No questioning. I really **respected my father**, so I tended to obey.

Now, I tend to take more of a **counselor method**, trying to validate and listen to my kids as they try to **solve their problems**. However, I teach my kids to be accountable for their actions. If they make a choice, there is always a consequence, and they can't choose the consequence. I don't **pamper** my kids, and I have told them early in their life that they should plan to a good part of their college education because I want them to learn how to manage their lives better.

**Discussion:**

**-** What are your thoughts on the topic? What kinds of parenting methods do parents use in your own culture, whether they are effective or not? Share your ideas.

- What is the role of the father (mother) in raising a daughter (son)?

**C). Young Adulthood**

Upon reaching an appropriate age (usually between 18 and21 years), children are encouraged but not forced **to “leave the nest”** and begin an independent life. After children leave home they often find social relationships and financial support outside the family.

In many families, parents feel that children should make *major life decisions* by themselves. A parent may try to influence a child to follow a particular profession but the child is free to choose another *career.* Sometimes children do precisely the opposite of what their parents wish in order to *assert* their independence. A son may deliberately decide not to go into his father's business because of a fear that he will lose his autonomy in his father's workplace. This independence from parents is not an indication that parents and children do not love each other. Strong love between parents and children is universal and this is no exception in the American family. Coexisting with such love in the American family are cultural values of *self-reliance* and independence.

**Discussion:**

- What do you think your parent's role is in shaping up your personality?

- Will you raise your children in the same way your parents brought you up?

Write the answers to these questions:

1. How has your relationship with your parents and other members of your family changed as you have grown older?

2. At which age would you most like to stop the world for ten years so you could enjoy it? Has that age passed or is it still to come?

3. Some people say there are a lot of similarities between childhood and old age. Do you agree?

4. Do you think young people are growing up faster these days? If so, give examples.

5. Do you agree or partly agree with the saying 'Life begins at forty'?

**D). Retirement**

Americans spend most of their lives working, being productive. For most Americans, their work defines them: They are what they do. What happens, then, when a person can no longer work? Most Americans stop working at age sixty-five or seventy and retire.

Because work is such an important part of life in this culture, **retirement** can be very difficult. **Retirees** often feel that they are useless and unproductive. Of course, some people are happy to retire; but leaving one's job, whatever it is, is a difficult change, even for those who look forward to retiring. Many retirees do not know how to use their time or they feel lost without their jobs.

Retirement can also bring financial problems. Many people rely on Social Security checks every month. During their working years, employees contribute a certain percentage of their salaries to the government. Each employer also gives a certain percentage to the government. When people retire, they receive this money as income. These checks do not provide enough money to live on, however, because prices are increasing very rapidly. Senior citizens, those over sixty-five, have to have savings in the bank or other retirement plans to make ends meet. The rate of inflation is forcing prices higher each year; Social Security checks alone cannot cover these growing expenses.

The government offers some assistance, Medicare (health care) and welfare (general assistance), but many senior citizens have to change their lifestyles after retirement. They have to spend carefully to be sure that they can afford to buy food, fuel, and other necessities. Of course, many senior citizens are happy with retirement. They have time to spend with their families or to enjoy their hobbies. Some continue to work part time; others do volunteer work. Some, like those in the Retired Business Executives Association, even help young people to get started in new businesses.

Many retired citizens also belong to "Golden Age" groups. These organizations plan trips and social events. There are many opportunities for retirees. American society is only beginning to be concerned about the special physical and emotional needs of its senior citizens. The government is taking steps to ease the problem of limited income. They are building new housing, offering discounts in stores and museums and on buses, and providing other services, such as free courses, food service, and help with housework.

Retired citizens are a rapidly growing percentage of the population. This part of the population is very important and we must respond to their needs. After all, every citizen will be a senior citizen some day.

**Discussion:**

1. One problem for senior citizens is financial. List some sources of income that retirees in the U.S. have.

2. Does your country have a social security system similar to the one in the United States? How does the system work? Do senior citizens have enough money to live on?

3. Another problem that retirees face is what to do with all their free time. What are some of the activities mentioned in the reading?

4. What do you think are the most serious problems of old age? Write #1 next to the most serious problem for the elderly.

In your home country: \_\_\_ financial \_\_\_physical \_\_\_psychological \_\_\_housing

In the United States: \_\_\_financial \_\_\_physical \_\_\_psychological \_\_\_housing

5. Read these two opinions about retirement. Which is more positive? Which do you think your parents will have when they retire? How about you?

1. "I've never been happier. I finally have time to do all the things that I had always wanted to do."

2. "I have too much time and I don't always know what to do with myself. I almost never see my friends from work."

**E) A Japanese experiment**

**a) Read this magazine article and find information in it which surprises, impresses or shocks you.**

Kotoen in the Edogawa district of Tokyo is a home for the elderly, so you might expect it to be a gloomy place. However, the people who live there are always bright and cheerful. The reason for this is the happy voices of the children who attend the Edogawa Nursery School located in the same building. The nursery school on the ground floor accommodates 80 pre-school children aged one and a half to five or six. Kotoen, on the first and second floors, is the home for about 100 senior citizens.

Although many of the elderly residents live in the home by choice, they still long for family life. Being in the same building allows them to visit the nursery school whenever they wish, while the children often go upstairs to play. In the morning, both old and young gather outside for exercises. Special times such as Christmas and sports days are always celebrated together.

"We find the children learn how to care for others by talking and being with their older co-residents." – explained Maeda Takumi, the director of Kotoen. "As for the elderly through their association with the children they become more alive and their health improves. Seeing these old people, many of whom we thought had forgotten how to laugh or even express their thoughts, holding the children and happily talking with them, brings home just how important an affectionate relationship between the very old and the very young can be”.

The success of Kotoen has created a sensation in Japan and brought responses from all over the country. The declining number of children now being born each year has left unused space at many nursery schools. It has therefore; been suggested that these surplus areas are utilized by the elderly. In this way, in spite of living in small nuclear households, children can experience the advantages of close contact with people of a much older generation.

**b).**

**Now answer these questions by choosing the best alternative. A.B.C.or D.**

1. What is unusual about Kotoen home for elderly?

A. Old people choose to go there.

B. The residents look happy.

C. The residents live in family groups.

D. It is next door to a nursery school.

2. According to the home's director, the old people's health improves because they

A. do a lot of exercise.

B. are looked after by young people.

C. have close contact with children

D. learn how to express themselves.

3. According to the text, children in Japan

A. live in large families.

B. go to school at one and a half.

C. go to crowded nursery schools.

D. celebrate Christmas.

**c) Answer the following questions:**

***-*** A recent study about old age showed that older people were happy with their lives but that young people thought that senior citizens were lonely and worried. Think about a senior citizen you know. Is that person lonely or unhappy? What does this person do with his or her free time?

- The United States is often criticized for being a country where everyone wants to be young, especially older people. Think about older people you have seen in the United States. Write some positive aspects of their lives and some negative aspects:

*Positive Negative*

**d). Generation Gap.**

**Ex. 11. Match the words in column A with their definitions in column B.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Generation gap 2. Curfew 3. Allowance 4. Growing pains 5. Latchkey child 6. Sibling rivalry 7. Autonomy 8. Privacy 9. To socialize 10. (with s.b.) 11. Adolescence | 1. Emotional adjustment encountered during stages of development; 2. A difference in attitude and behavior between older people and younger people, which often causes them to argue; 3. The desirable state of being away from other people; 4. Money given by parent to child weekly, often earned by doing chores; 5. Natural hostility and competition between siblings; 6. Young child of working parents who spends part of day at home unsupervised; 7. Independence, ability to control one's own life; 8. Time, set by parents, at which child must return home, especially in the evening; 9. Period of growing up, from puberty to maturity; 10. To spend time with others in a friendly way. |

**Generation gap** is nothing but certain psychological and emotional gap between parents or elder people and the younger ones. Bulging generation gap creates misunderstanding and lack of attachment between the parents and children. The success of parenting lies in how effectively they avoid the generation gap or ignore the differences with kids.

Generation gap is the result of the fast paced development of the society. In earlier times two or three generations live in the same lifestyle and environments as the development was so slow. But today, nearest past is very much outdated and the world is more advanced each day. Parents do not even know many of the modern technologies and equipments children use.

**Ex. 12. Every age is beautiful in its own way. At the same time there are problems typical only for a certain age. Below are some of them. Match them with a particular age period and try to continue the list.**

* falling down and having bruises
* rearing children
* growing pains
* being rejected by peers
* diaper rash infant diseases
* not getting along with parents
* separation and divorce
* anxiety for children
* choosing a college
* dating someone
* empty nest syndrome
* being shy and tongue-tied

**Ex. 13. Fill in the gaps in the text that follows with the words given in the list. Think up an answer to the question at the end.**

**peers, taken up, commute, grades, glued, salaries, alienation,**

**top, let their hair down**

Do you think that parents and children spend less and less time with one another? Children's time is \_\_\_\_\_\_ with after-school activities, homework, dating and the rest. Parents are forced to throw themselves into their work in order to provide a family living, give time to \_\_\_\_\_\_ to and from work, keep up the house, entertain, and so on. And nearly everyone watches television or is literally \_\_\_\_\_\_ to it. As parents and children have fewer and fewer common interests, it makes it difficult for the family to reduce the \_\_\_\_\_\_ between each other and give individuals a place where they can \_\_\_\_\_\_ think out loud, and be themselves.

At the same time, parents are satisfied when they see their children succeed. They are pleased when their children walk at an early age, talk before their \_\_\_\_\_\_ , are better looking than other children on the block, earn good \_\_\_\_\_\_ , perform well in athletics, graduate at the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of their class, go to college and so on. Is this parental love, parental pride or maybe something else? Do you know?

**Ex. 14. Parents and children may not see eye to eye on a lot of things. Parents may scold you for the way you wear your hair or for coming home too late. Below are some examples of "misconduct" that may easily make some parents angry. Rank them in decreasing order and continue the list.**

* listening to music at full volume
* tying up the telephone
* dating the wrong person
* inviting some friends over when parents are out for the weekend
* overlooking one's studies
* going to a night club

**Ex. 14. In American English there are many idiomatic expressions that manifest high respect of the Americans towards such values as independence and individualism. Look up the explanations of the phrases that follow in a dictionary such as the *Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture*and be ready to discuss them in class. Are there any similar expressions in your native language?**

* To stand on one's own feet:
* To cut the (umbilical) cord:
* To be (off) on one's own:
* To leave the nest:
* To have a mind of one's own:
* To make it on one's own

**Conversation Practice**

**1.** Discuss the following cross-cultural questions in section A. Then continue with the questions for discussion in section B Work in groups of three and choose someone to report the overall opinion of the group.

**Section A.**

At what age do people start being off on their own in your country? Are children encouraged to work for money outside of their homes? If yes, at what age? If no, what are the reasons?

At what age are people considered to be adults in your country?

At what age do people usually move away from their parents' home?

Do different generations of the family share the same apartment or house?

**Section B.**

* What problems may cause the generation gap?
* What conflicts do parents have with children?
* What are the usual areas of misunderstanding between children and parents?
* What do you think are the key issues in establishing one's own autonomy from the parents?
* For teenagers what is more important, parents' or peers' approval?
* What may be the reasons for conflict among peers?
* Does gender, in any way, influence the peers conflict, i.e. are there similar reasons for misunderstanding between two girls and between two boys?
* Do males make better friends than females?

2. Adolescence may lead an individual through a lot of frustration. Failing to get along with peers or not being accepted by the group is a painful experience. Can you recall a situation from your past when you had to act against the majority? What caused it? How did you cope with the situation?

3. Do people see you in the same way as you see yourself? Work with a partner. Write a few lines about yourself and compare what you have written with your partner's description of yourself. Count how many words and phrases from the following list of useful vocabulary you have in common.

**Useful vocabulary:**to trust somebody; to be impulsive; to be a natural leader; to be quick at making decisions; to be venturesome; considerate, charming, amusing, sensible, sensitive, moody, cautious, shy, indecisive; to be sure of oneself; etc.

4. Read the following dialogues. Say who the participants are, how they are related, how old they might be and what problems they are discussing. What side are your sympathies with? Choose a dialogue to act out.

**a.**

**-** You know dear, I'm a little concerned about Jenny's poor grades on her history tests.

- Well, I am too, it's strange that on all her assignments, she seems to be doing fine, but when it comes to writing the test, she freezes or something.

* Maybe we need to help her study better or quiz her before each exam. She seems to like the class all right.
* And maybe we could talk to the teacher to see if she's noticed anything strange about Jenny's grades.

**b.**

* My parents are from the dark ages or something! They think they can run my life? Well I've got news for them!
* Well my folks are like that too - they give me a 9:30 p.m. curfew. and force me to finish all my homework before I can go out with my friends.
* Oh man, . . . sometimes, I just wish I could move out now and make all my own decisions.
* Really? Wouldn't your parents freak out if you ever mentioned that?
* Well I suppose, but it's still a possibility.

**c.**

* C'mon mom, I can't come now - this movie is so awesome.
* Jonah, you said you'd help me hang the laundry right after dinner and what time is it now? . . . I would like you to do it now please!
* Oh man, it's like the best part. Can't I help later?
* I said immediately Jonah! This is your last call or I will have to get your father!

**5. Work in a small group. Consider the following situation.**

Mike is almost 20 years old. He knows that his parents take a great deal of pride in seeing him succeed. He has been angry with them for a long time for not accepting him for who he is, for not taking better care of him, and for downplaying any accomplishment that doesn't fit in with their own tastes. He flunks out of college, which embarrasses and worries them.

**Think of possible dialogues that might take place between:**

* Mike and one of his parents;
* Mike's parents;
* Mike and his girlfriend;
* Mike's parents and a good friend of theirs who went through the same problems with his son.

**6. Interview one of your parents asking the following questions. Be sure to write down the responses.**

1. Did you get any pocket money as a child? What were your household duties?
2. Did you have any misunderstandings with your parents when you were young? If yes, what were the reasons?
3. How old were you when you started living on your own?
4. How old were you when you got married?
5. In the course of years do you start to understand your parents better?
6. Have you ever repeated your parents example while handling me?
7. When was it more difficult to bring me up ? when I was a toddler? An adolescent? Or now?

**7. Role-play.**

Contradiction between what one wants and what one may afford is a reason for many conflicts. On the one hand, children want their parents to leave them alone and not to interfere with their things. On the other hand, parents feel they have a right to give advice to their children as they care for them and earn the living for the family.

**Work in groups of three. Assume the roles of a parent, son/daughter and a consultant. The parent and a child will discuss the problem based on the contradiction mentioned above. The consultant will advise and reconcile the two parties.**

# Unit 6

# Family Frustrations - Divorce; Abortion; Surrogate Mothers

**Frustration:** n. a feeling of disappointment, exasperation, or weariness caused by goals being thwarted or desires unsatisfied.

**Ex.1. Study the following expressions and collocations on the relationships and then learn the poem "Careless" by heart.**

Relationships can *break* *down* because of genuine misunderstandings.

A *rift* [serious disagreement that divides people] can develop between two people or groups.

There's been a lot of *discord* [disagreement and discontent] in the office lately.

My father and I *don't see eye to eye* [have different opinions) on most things.

His *love affair* with Anna has turned sour [become bad]. I think they'll *split up* [separate].

Our marriage has had its *ups and downs* [had good and bad moments], but basically we're OK.

a *bumpy relationship* [up and down like a car on a road with bumps]

a *broken home* [family split up by divorce]

a *family feud* /fju:d/ [quarrel in a family causing bad feeling for many years]

**A.** **"Careless"**

Our *friendship*, shattered like a crystal bowl

lies on the floor between us, while we stand

knowing that neither time, nor skillful hand,

nor all our sorrowing, will make it whole.

But only yesterday it was a wonder:

so clear it was, and skillfully wrought.

I set it on the mantel of my thought

to see it broken by a moment's blunder.

Careless, I placed it perilously high.

Careless, you made a clumsy move

which sent it crashing to destruction on the grate.

Oh, we have both been careless, you and I

like children playing with an ornament

who do not know its worth until too late.

**B). Divorce.**

**Read these two opinions about divorce. Which one do you agree with more?**

**Read these two opinions about divorce. Which one do you agree with more?**

***A. Julia Casper - getting divorced for the sake of the children***

The only surprising thing about divorce is that it doesn't happen more often. What people want from a marriage may be the same when they get married, but, as we all know, people can change.

What he wants may be very different from what she wants five years down the line. Very often, men have the attitude of, "She looks after me and she is there when I want her; but I have my own life." Women, on the other hand, think, "He is my best friend; I want him to share my interests, my emotions and my life." One or both of the partners begins to feel trapped. They start to live separate lives, which results in tension, arguments and battles, which then also has a negative effect on the children if there are any. So, what is the point of staying together? It's better for children to grow up in a relaxed, loving environment with one parent than in a tension-filled home with both parents.

Of course it's better to avoid splitting up - it hurts everyone, especially the children - but if a marriage is over, it's best to accept the situation and move on before more harm is done.

***B. Sue Hardcastle - staying together for the sake of the children***

Too many people see divorce as the easy way out. I admit that in some cases it may be necessary - for example, if your partner was physically or mentally abusing you. Getting divorced should be absolutely the last option. It's not just a lifestyle choice. Part of the problem is that people seem to have an impossibly idealistic view of marriage. They expect love, romance and excitement to fill their lives all the time. But the fact is, married life is not always perfect love and harmony. There will be arguments and disagreements. It is boring at times and, especially when children come along, it can be hard work! You've got to be willing to make the effort to make a relationship work. It is this effort which makes marriage a rich and satisfying experience.

And what example is it to children if you decide to split up? What message does it give? "When things get difficult, you can just quit." It's no surprise that people whose parents divorce often get divorced themselves. How can they believe in the possibility of a permanent relationship if the people they most trusted couldn't do it?

**C). Surrogate mothers: Whose Children Are These?**

"I cannot remember if the day was sunny or …I lost my sense of awareness during the twenty-six hour labor before my son was born that Sunday morning, November 9, 1980. My newborn son lay peacefully in the arms of his new mother: not in my arms." These are the words of Elizabeth Kane, the nation's first legal surrogate mother, eight years after delivering the son she has never seen since.

Like many surrogate mothers she thought it would not matter to her if she ever saw her child again. She had vowed not to intrude on the lives of her son, his biological father, and his new mother. "Eight months after the birth of my son, I was still unable to push away the thought of him," said Ms. Kane in a recent interview. What she imagined as a selfless act for an unknown family turned out to be a selfish act toward her own family. "What right did I have to put them through a test of courage I thought would be only mine to bear? I had no idea my children would bond with their brother during the pregnancy or would spend years to come aching for the touch or sound of him." Like many so-called surrogate mothers Ms. Kane now believes that what she did is not right. She has never tried to see or get her son back as she feels it would cause too much damage, but on Mother's Day she aches for that child and realizes that she is not a surrogate mother but a birth mother. She also realizes she will never be able to get over having given him away. Many women say that their participation in "surrogate parenting had begun with a deep empathy for childless couples. They feel every infertile couple has a right to a child genetically linked to at least one parent. Most legal surrogate mothers are married and already have children. They feel that they are helping others and doing them a great favor. The money couldn’t be much of a factor as legal surrogate mothers are paid between $8,000 to $20,000. Ask any woman walking down the street if she would take that amount of money for carrying a child for nine months and then give that child up at birth: The answer would be no! At least that's the response I got when I asked five different women on campus.

The recent trail regarding Baby M received nationwide coverage. Following giving birth to Baby M, her surrogate mother (birth mother) Mary Beth Whitehead decided that she did not want to give her child up and wanted legal custody. After a long-drawn-out battle Judge Sorkow of New Jersey awarded custody of Melissa to her biological father, William Stern. The case was promptly appealed to New Jersey's Supreme Court. Even if Judge Sorkow were upheld on every point, the defenders of surrogate *motherhood* and theentrepreneurs who profit from its promotion may *find that* the *саsе* has not been entirely to their advantage. It has even persuaded some observers whose ethics are strictly pragmatic that the bad effects of surrogacy outweigh the good.

Surrogate parenting is wrong. I shudder to think of the loss of self-esteem when today's surrogate children are told they were bought and sold. I can only imagine what will take place years from now when these children are grown and hire attorneys. Will they sue their fathers for denying them the right to have relationships with their biological mothers? Will they sue their birth mothers for signing them away before they were even conceived? Is this a better fate for these children than having never being born? What right do we have to play God? Is it necessary to do something just because we have the technology?

What rights do the children have? In Florida a woman was contracted to carry a child for a couple. On delivery she would be paid $10,000 for a girl child and $15,000 for a boy child; she delivered twins, one of each. The biological father and new mother were only legally responsible to take one child and they wanted the boy. What rights do these children have? The birth mother said she would keep and raise both rather than have the children split up, but the biological father is fighting for the custody of the boy.

**Discussion**: The questions surrogacy raises are deeply disturbing.

* *Do we have the right to make children for those who can't?*
* *Just because the technology is available is it morally and ethically sound for the woman to carry a child that she will never see again after birth?*
* *What price do we put on our children's life?*
* *A surrogate mother is a substitute for a natural parent, but isn't the birth parenting the natural parent?*

The idea of surrogacy and the issues around it need to be thought over in greater detail and long and hard before any more children are dragged through the courts or separated from their twins or for that matter their natural siblings.

**Ex.1. Match the sentences on the left with a suitable response on the right. Use your dictionary to look up the meanings of the words and expressions in bold.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. They were going to get married, but at the last moment Allison **broke it off**. | A. Me too. We have similar feelings and get on really well. |
| 2. I've got lots of friends, but only one real **soul mate**. | B. She certainly is. She likes attracting the attention of all the men in the office. |
| 3. How do you get on with your **in-laws**? | C. Not yet, but we are separated. |
| 4. Didn't you meet your future wife on a **blind date**? | D. Yes. My friends arranged it for me. |
| 5. I'm sorry you and Melanie have split up, but don't worry; there are **plenty more fish in the sea**. | E. That's true; I should get out a bit and meet more people. |
| 6. Don't go out with him; he's a real **ladykiller**! | F. Although we don't go out together any more, we're still good friends. |
| 7. Sally came to the party with her latest **toy boy.** | G. Poor Ian! He must have been really upset. |
| 8. Your new secretary is a bit of a **flirt**, isn't she? | H. Really? I thought they were getting on so well together. |
| 9. Is Meg still **on the shelf**? | I. I know. He seems to spend all his time chatting up women. |
| 10. Chris and Jo's marriage is **on the rocks**. | J. Not well, I'm afraid. They've never forgiven me for marrying their son. |
| 11. How do you get on with your **exboyfriend**? | K. No. Haven't you heard? She met the man of her dreams a few weeks ago. |
| 12. Are you **divorced**? | L. I'm not surprised. She's always preferred younger men. |

**D. Abortion**

**Ex. 2. Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I . foetus  2. expecting  3. pro-life  4. pro-choice | a. in favour of a woman's right to have an abortion  b. a baby before it is born  c. against abortion  d. pregnant |

**What is the legal position in your country regarding abortion?**

Before you read the text, which of the following is closest to your own view of abortion?

*a. I’m deeply, morally against it.*

*b. l don't see anything wrong with it.*

*c. I don't feel strongly either way.*

*d. I think it depends on individual circumstances.*

Do you know of any countries where abortion is illegal?

**Reading:** *As you read about this young woman's experience, try to answer this question: Was her decision a positive one or one she regrets?*

**Why I had an abortion**

The reason I had an abortion was because I knew I was far too young to have a baby - it was the wrong stage of life. I could have taken care of a baby because teenagers do it all the time. But basically, I didn't want a baby. I wanted to wait until I was married so that my husband and I could give our baby all the love and care it needed. I don't think I was ready for all the responsibilities of motherhood. There were so many other things going on in my life at the time. It wouldn't have been fair to the baby if I couldn't be there for it. There was also a chance my boyfriend and I would break up and the baby would grow up without a father. And it wasn't fair on my mother who would have had to help bring the child up. I also had big plans to go away to university to train as a nurse. I knew that would be virtually impossible with a baby. I listened to my heart and after lots and lots of soul-searching, I knew abortion was the right answer for me. *(Fifteen-year-old girl)*

**Discussion:** *Do you think the girl acted responsibly? Why / Why not?*

Here is the opinion of a retired British doctor. She worked as a doctor both while abortion was illegal and for about 30 years after it was legalised.

***"Before abortion was made legal, all my colleagues and I were in favour of it, but over the years my views have changed. I think it should still be legal, but young girls today are using it as another form of contraception. That is wrong and it was never the intention of the reformers that this should happen."***

How do you react to the doctor's view?

How do doctors in your country feel about this issue?

**Ex.3. Look at the text again and match the reasons the girl gives for having the abortion:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. I was far | a. without a father. |
| 2. I wanted to wait | b. plans to go away to university. |
| 3. I don't think I was ready | c. too young. |
| 4. There were so many other things | d. going on in my life. |
| 5. It wouldn't have been | e. until I was married. |
| 6. It was the wrong | f. to the baby. |
| 7. The baby would grow up | g. for all the responsibilities. |
| 8. It wasn't fair | h. stage of life. |
| 9. I also had big | i. on my mother. |

**Work in pairs. Do you think any of the above reasons are good ones for having an abortion? What about the father?**

**Read this short article. Do you think the man has a right to do what he has done?**

**Father’s Rights**

A man has successfully managed to prevent his former girlfriend from having an abortion - at least for the time being. The clinic where the operation was due to take place agreed yesterday that they would not continue with the procedure until further medical enquiries had taken place. Stephen Curtis. 24. took legal action against the clinic, saying that the termination was against the Abortion Act rules because only one doctor was consulted instead of two, and other checks on the physical and psychological state of the woman had not taken place. Mr Curtis took the legal action because he is opposed to abortion. His victory is only temporary, however, as there is nothing to stop the woman going to another clinic. He hopes to be able to persuade her to change her mind.

**Discussion:** *Work in pairs or small groups and decide whether you agree or disagree with the statements below:*

1. It should be the woman's right to choose. Ultimately, it's her body and so it's her decision alone.

2. If you're mature enough to make a baby, then you're mature enough to take care of it.

3. A baby is still a person even before it is born.

4. Abortion is for the irresponsible.

5. I believe all life is sacred and so abortion is a criminal act to me.

6. With so many other options, like adoption, I don't see why an abortion is ever necessary.

7. I don't agree with late-term abortions, but I think the so-called 'morning-after pill' is basically OK.

8. I don't believe in abortion laws - it's usually men who make them.

9. If abortion is illegal, it only means more backstreet abortions will happen and that is dangerous for the women concerned.

10. Abortion is wrong and should be stopped at all costs, including bombing the clinics if necessary. One doctor from an abortion clinic was shot last month. He got what he deserved.

**Finally, here are some arguments put forward by the ProLife Alliance in the UK:**

*Your life in your mother's womb started at conception. Your heart started to beat 3 weeks after conception. Your brain waves could be detected at 5 weeks. Your organs were all formed at 10 weeks. Your hearing was perfect at 16 weeks. Over 180,000 abortions are performed in Britain each year. Abortion is the most common surgical operation in the UK. 97% are of healthy babies. 90% are for social rather than medical reasons.* **What is your reaction to these arguments?**

1. Topics for examination. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)