

We get on really well!

1. Complete the gaps to create family members. Explain who the people are.

EXAMPLE:

A granddaughter is my child's daughter.

grand..... grand.....-in-law-in-law	step..... step.....	great..... great.....
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Possible answers: grandfather (your parent's father), grandson (your child's son), mother-in-law (your husband's or wife's mother), son-in-law (your child's husband), stepsister (the daughter of one of your parents), stepfather (the husband of one of your parents; not your biological father), great-grandfather (your grandparent's father), great-granddaughter (your grandchild's daughter)

2. Discuss the questions.

- Which family members do you keep in touch with? How often do you talk?
- Who do you think can be family or like family? Why?
 - a colleague
 - an ex-partner
 - a flatmate
 - a friend
 - a partner you are not married to
 - a pet

3. Choose the correct words.

- a) I've always had a good ... with my grandparents.
 - 1) **relationship**
 - 2) relative
- b) I think friends are just as important as
 - 1) **relatives**
 - 2) generations
- c) Family members don't have to enjoy each other's
 - 1) admire
 - 2) **company**
- d) I think it's better to be an only child because you are never ... of your siblings.
 - 1) **jealous**
 - 2) appreciate
- e) I don't get on ... with some of my family members.
 - 1) good
 - 2) **well**
- f) I think the best way to ... the important people in your life is to tell them that you love them every day.
 - 1) welcome
 - 2) **appreciate**

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g) I am closer to the family members from my ... because we are a similar age.

- 1) **generation** 2) crowd

4. Choose three statements in ex. 3 and say whether they are true for you or not and why.

5. List three advantages and three disadvantages of having a family of more than 30 members.



6. Watch a [video](https://youtu.be/XHiuqRkl1jQ) [https://youtu.be/XHiuqRkl1jQ] about a woman called Marguerite and decide if the statements are true or false. Correct the false statements.

- a) Marguerite has two great-grandchildren. **False. She has 100 great-grandchildren. [00:21]**
- b) Marguerite has siblings. **False. She's an only child. [00:28]**
- c) The new-born baby's name is Koller William. **True. [00:43]**
- d) Marguerite is 100 years old. **False. She is 99. [01:01]**
- e) There is only one person named Marguerite in the family. **False. There are four people named Marguerite. [01:38]**

7. Discuss the questions.

- How is your family similar to or different from Marguerite's family?
- Is there a name shared by two or more of your family members?
- Do you think Marguerite's family members get on well? Why do you think so?
- Would you like to have a family as big as Marguerite's? Why/Why not?

8. Look at the useful language box and rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets.

- a) Families are getting smaller because people have fewer children. (that's why)

People have fewer children and that's why families are getting smaller.

- b) I don't have any family here so I'm going to look for friends. (because)

I'm going to look for friends because I don't have any family here.

- c) They are getting a divorce because they don't get on well. (so)

They don't get on well so they are getting a divorce.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

I'm never alone **because** I have a lot of friends.

I have a lot of friends **so** I'm never alone.

I have a lot of friends **and that's why** I'm never alone.

9. Match the sentence halves.

- a) People appreciate the time they spend alone **4**
b) Nowadays, people don't appreciate **1**
c) It is more important for people to have a healthy relationship **7**
d) Older generations didn't have social media **2**
e) Nowadays, people get jealous easily **5**
f) It was important to get married in the past **6**
g) When a couple stops enjoying each other's company **3**

- 1) the relationships they have.
2) so they spent more time with relatives and friends.
3) they might think about a divorce.
4) because they can do the things they like.
5) and that's why relationships end quickly.
6) because life was easier for married people.
7) than any relationship.

10. Look at some statistics about changes in American relationships and discuss the questions.

Age of first marriage		
year	women	men
1960	22	24
2021	29	30

People living alone	
year	%
1960	12
2021	28

50% of US marriages will end in divorce.

People who don't have a close friend	
year	%
1990	3
2021	12

People who have ten or more close friends	
year	%
1990	33
2021	13

Sources: [census.gov](https://www.census.gov), [americansurveycenter.org](https://www.americansurveycenter.org), [wf-lawyers.com](https://www.wf-lawyers.com)

- Which statements in ex. 9 best explain these changes? Why do you think so?
- What are some other reasons behind the changes?
- Do you think the statistics are similar or different in your country? Explain how.
- Do people feel lonelier now than in the past? Why do you think so?