





- Describe the pictures. What kind of family does each one show?
- What are the differences between the pictures?
- What kinds of family have you encountered? What do you think are their advantages and disadvantages?

TOPIC CARD

Modern Families

DISCUSS

What does family mean to you? Do you have a mental picture of what a typical family is like? Do the families you know generally fit this image, and in what ways?

What do you know about the family structures of the past? What is alike and different between current families and families in the past?

What different family and household structures do you know from among your friends, acquaintances and relatives? What about in media, such as in films, or in other countries and cultures? What do these have in common and what is different?

What duties do you think parents owe their children? And what responsibilities do children have to their parents?

Are you interested in learning about the history of your family? Why or why not? Do you think it's important to know one's family roots?

JUST IMAGINE

Your class is going to shoot a comedy about a local community for a series of TikTok videos. Your job is to cast everyone in your class, deciding on their family relationships and connections. Decide who everyone is, how they are related or connected and how they feel about each other. Remember to include yourself, and don't be unkind.

QUOTES

> *"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."*
>
> **Jane Howard**, novelist

> *"Friends are the family you choose."*
>
> **Jess C. Scott**, artist

> *"A dysfunctional family is any family with more than one person in it."*
>
> **Mary Karr**, poet

> *"You are born into your family and your family is born into you. No returns. No exchanges."*
>
> **Elizabeth Berg**, writer

WORD BANK

mother, mummy, mommy, mom, ma / father, daddy, dad, pop, pa / parents / step-parents / adoptive parents / birth parents / biological parents / married / in a relationship / partner / marriage / civil partnership / separated / living apart / divorced / single-parent family / to have custody of a child / shared custody / access (= a parent's right to see a child after a divorce) / brother / sister / sibling / twin / half-sibling / step-sibling / in-laws (= your spouse's relatives) / mother-, brother-, son-in-law, etc. / cousin / aunt / uncle / grandparents / great-grandparents / grandchildren / great-grandchildren / nephew / niece / extended family / immediate family / nuclear family (= two parents and their children living together) / close-knit / distant / estranged (= no longer on speaking terms) / children's home / sheltered accommodation / surrogacy (= a woman having a baby for sb unable to do so) / to adopt / to put up for adoption / to foster (a child) / foster parents / found family, family of choice (= group with family-like relationships but no biological ties)

WATCH OUT!

False friends and common mistakes

- **Half-siblings** share one biological parent; **step-siblings** have no biological relationship and are siblings only because of their parents' marriage.
- Different generations of grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, etc. can be added with repeated "**greats**" (e.g. great-great-great-great-grandfather).
- **Cousin** most commonly means the children of one's aunts and uncles, but correctly speaking, these are your **first cousins**. It can also refer to any relationship that does not have its own specific title.