

Unit 1

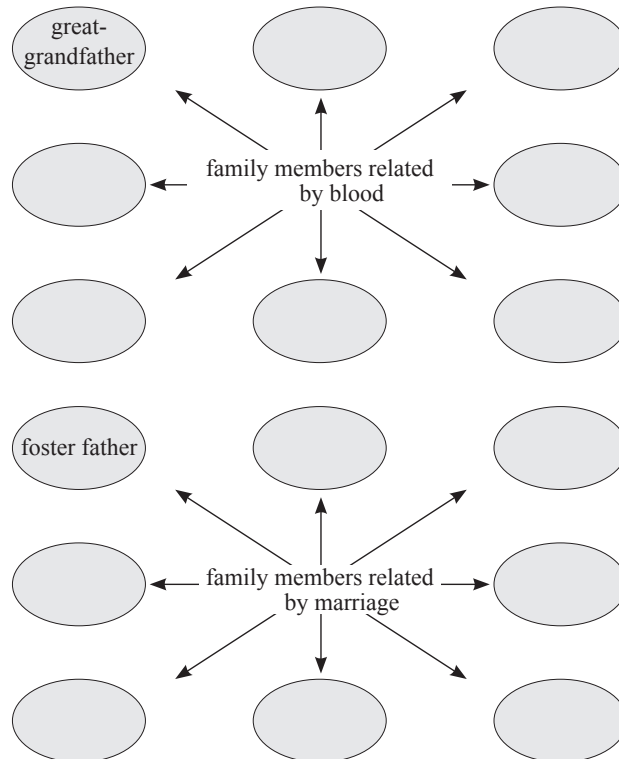
Family



I The Importance of Family

1. Family members

Step 1 Brainstorm as many family members as you can.



Step 2 Introduce your family members to the class.

Here I'd like to talk about my family. _____

Step 3 Describe a family member to your partner.

You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Describe someone in your family you like.
You should say:
 who the person is
 what this person looks like
 what kind of person he/she is
and explain why you like this person.

Word bank

Appearance:

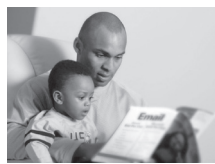
| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| oval | plump | bald | fringe |
| long nose | well-built | dyed hairs | receding hairs |
| a pointed chin | a double chin | chubby cheeks | a haggard face |
| a man of stout build | in his 30s | | |

Characters:

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| caring | diligent | understanding | sympathetic |
| ambitious | creative | enthusiastic | amiable |
| motivated | independent | versatile | single-minded |
| adventurous | determined | humourous | goal-oriented |

2. Family roles and activities

Step 1 Match the traditional family roles with respective family members, and describe their roles.



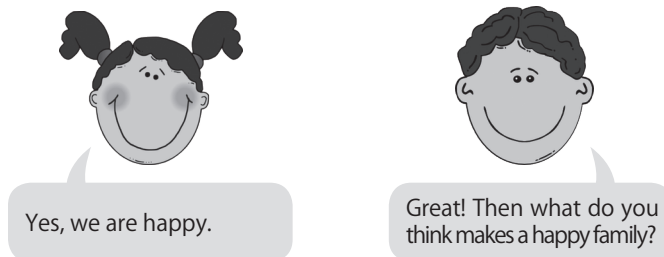
| | | |
|--|---|---|
| A. care for the house | B. care for the children | C. prepare meals |
| D. provide physical resources (food, shelter, clothing, etc) | E. provide emotional support (comfort, warmth, reassurance, encouragement, etc) | F. maintain appropriate roles with respect to extended family, friends and neighbours |
| G. take the responsibility of decision-making | H. teach and discipline the children | I. respect and cooperate with their parents |
| J. enjoy their remaining years | K. handle family finances | L. help children develop life skills |

Step 2 Work with a partner. Take turns asking and answering the following questions. Then complete the chart with your answers.

| Questions | My Answer | My Partner's Answer |
|---|-----------|---------------------|
| How many people are there in your family? | | |
| What are your parents? | | |
| What do your family usually do together? | | |
| Do you think your family is a happy one? | | |
| Do you think it is harder for parents to raise children these days? | | |

Step 3 Show interest and ask follow-up questions from Step 2.

Example:



Step 4 Form a group and report what you've learned from your partner about his/her family.

Example:

I'm very pleased to describe my partner's family to you. His family consists of three people, my partner and his parents. His father works as a manager in a big company and his mother is a housewife. As the breadwinner of the family, his father is hardworking and responsible. He also tries his best to spend some time with my partner every week, talking about his life and study.

His mother is a lovely woman. She smiles a lot and keeps the apartment tidy and cozy. What's most amazing, in my partner's eyes, is that she is a great cook! Also, she is a caring and patient listener, and my partner can always find comfort and reassurance by talking with her after a day's hard work.

My partner loves his parents and shares his ideas on almost everything with them, such as studies, hobbies, movie stars, fashion, likes and dislikes, and so on. What's more, realising the difficulty of raising a child in the family, he has got a part-time job, hoping to earn some pocket money.

In general, this is a happy family. They share happiness and sorrows, respect each other and love each other.

3. Children & parents

Step 1 Listen to a poem and fill in the missing words. 🎧

Children Learn What They Live

- If children live with criticism, they learn to _____.
- If children live with _____, they learn to fight.
- If children live with fear, they learn to be _____.
- If children live with _____, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
- If children live with ridicule, they learn to be _____.
- If children live with _____, they learn what envy is.
- If children live with shame, they learn to feel _____.
- If children live with _____, they learn to be patient.
- If children live with encouragement, they learn to be _____.
- If children live with praise, they learn to _____.
- If children live with _____, they learn to like themselves.
- If children live with _____, they learn to find love in the world.
- If children live with recognition, they learn to have a _____.
- If children live with sharing, they learn to be _____.

If children live with honesty and fairness, they learn what truth and _____ are.
 If children live with _____, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those around them.
 If children live with _____, they learn that the world is a nice place in which to live.
 If children live with serenity, they learn to have _____ of mind.
 With what are your children living?

By Dorothy L. Nolte

Step 2 Discuss the proverb “Like father, like son” with your partner, list different ways in which children are influenced by their parents, and then complete the following passage.

Parents’ influences:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The development of a child’s understanding of language, learning patterns, curiosity, etc are greatly influenced by the parents. To begin with, the child’s understanding of language, _____
 _____. Then, learning patterns of the child _____
 _____. In addition, curiosity in a child _____.
 Parents also play a strong influence on the development of the child’s characters. If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. _____.

Step 3 Listen to two dialogues and identify conflicts between a father and a son. Then give personal examples of generation gap between you and your parents, and explain the reasons why generation gap exists between parents and children. 🎧

| Examples of Generation Gap | Father’s View | Son’s View |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Being late for home | | |
| Hairstyle | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Reasons for generation gap:

1. The different living environment of the two generations.
2. _____
3. _____

Step 4 Listen to a passage and put down the solutions to the problem of generation gap. 🎧

Word Tips

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| chasm <i>n.</i> 分歧 | interpret <i>v.</i> 理解；说明 |
| substantially <i>adv.</i> 大体上；大量地 | in a different light 以另一种视角 |
| proactive <i>adj.</i> 采取主动的；事前付诸行动的 | be tolerant of 对……容忍的 |

Solutions to generation gap:

One way is to _____.

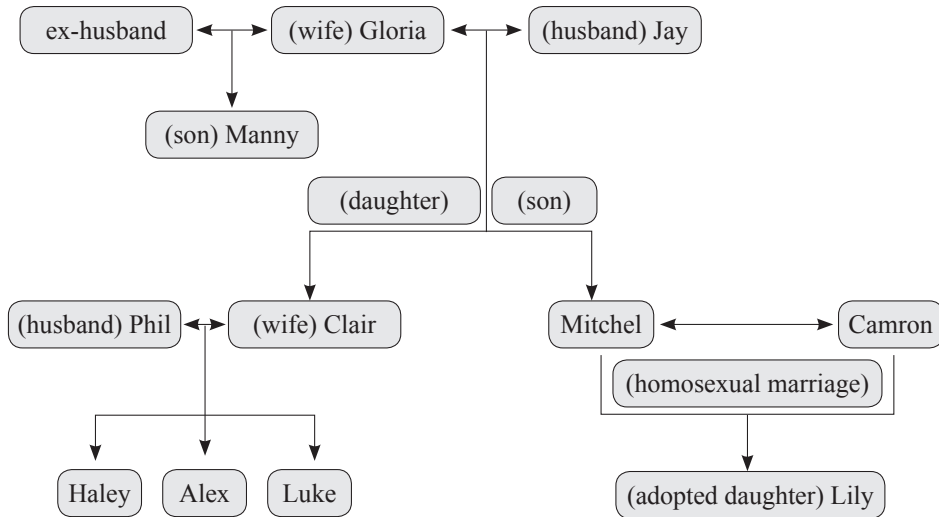
Another is to _____.

Finally, _____.

II The Change of Families

1. The change of family forms and roles

Step 1 Read the family tree of *Modern Family*, an American sitcom, and fill in the table.



Word bank

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| nuclear families | extended families | single-parent families | same-sex parents |
| remarried families | step family | childless/DINK families | |

The Differences Between Traditional Families and Modern Families

| | Traditional Families | Modern Families |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Family forms | | |
| Man's role | | |
| Woman's role | | |
| Children's role | | |

Step 2 Discuss and answer the questions with a partner.

Q1: What is the difference between traditional and modern families?

Great changes have taken place in the make-up of families, and modern families are different from traditional ones in many ways. The most fundamental one is _____. A second difference would be _____. Apart from that, _____.

Q2: What have caused these changes?

Actually, I believe more than one factor lead to this trend. The chief contributing factor is _____. Consequently, _____.

Q3: What are the advantages and disadvantages of a traditional family?

Clearly, the advantages of a traditional family include _____. And of course, it's positive also due to the fact _____. There may be some drawbacks involved. The main problem associated with traditional families is _____. And worse still, _____.

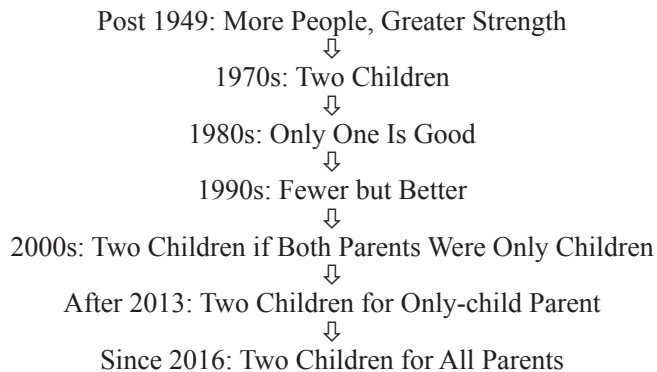
Step 3 Listen to a conversation, imagine your future family and describe it to your partner. 🎧

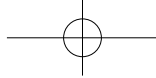
2. Family planning in China

Step 1 Look at the pictures, read the flow chart about the change of family planning policy in China and discuss with a partner about the advantages and disadvantages of having the only child in the family.



The Evolution of China's Family Planning Policy





雅思口语教程

Advantages:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Disadvantages:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 2 Talk with a partner about the pictures below and complete the passage with the reasons why a lot of couples are unwilling to have a second child.

Efforts to relax China's family planning policy have reached a milestone. All couples are allowed a second child now. Many experts say this is a move to counter the rapid ageing of the population. But there are concerns over rearing a second child. As for limited resources in China, _____
 _____. When it comes to expensive undertaking of raising a second child, _____
 _____. Furthermore, young couples are much concerned about the quality of their life. They are not sure _____
 _____. With skyrocketing real estate prices, rapidly inflating cost of food and other essentials, it hardly comes as a surprise that many families choose to stick with raising only one child, despite being allowed to have a second.



W: Honey, shall we have another child?
 M: I'd rather die than do that.



3. Empty nesters

Step 1 Tell your partner who your grandparents are living with.

My grandparents are in their 70s. Ever since their retirement, _____

 _____.

Step 2 Read the following statistics about empty nesters in China and analyse possible causes.

China's empty nesters have increased fast in the past decade. According to the sixth national census, at least 31% of Chinese households with old people are empty nesters. The number of empty nesters in China has risen nearly 9% from 2000 to 2010.

Possible causes of rapid increase of empty nesters:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 3 Listen to a father who joins empty nesters when his only son leaves home for college abroad and retell how he has adjusted to the change. 🎧

Empty nesters who are only in their 40s and 50s need to adjust their child-oriented mindset, lead a healthy lifestyle, and gain more emotional support from each other. This father tells us how he did it. _____

4. Left-behind children

Step 1 Describe the life of a left-behind child you know to your partner.

Example:

There is a little girl in my neighbourhood who is about _____ years old. Her parents have been working in _____ and only come back once a year during the Spring Festival. She _____



Step 2 Complete the following passage with supporting details.

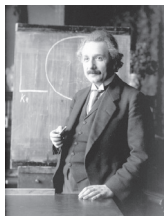
How to solve the problem about left-behind children is not only related to family happiness, but also an issue for the well-being of the society. First of all, favourable policies should be taken to develop local economy in remote areas. _____

The next step is to improve educational system. _____
 _____ . Ultimately, to create new jobs for people in rural areas and increase their income can be an effective way. _____

III Reflections on Other Types of People

1. Get to know about them

Step 1 Talk about the pictures with your partner, and make an oral presentation before the whole class after the example.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

Word bank

Picture 1: famous/well-known/renowned/prestigious, Theory of Relativity, physics, dedication, advance

Picture 2: bosom/close friends, ordinary friends, friendship, affection, intimacy, shared experience, trust, reliable, caring, generous, loyal

Picture 3: neighbourhood, community, genuine, shared facilities, disputes, tension, keep an eye on, exchange cell numbers, turn to each other for help, invite neighbours to functions

Example (Picture 1)

Albert Einstein was an outstanding professor of physics in Germany, and he is one of the most distinguished scientists in history. His well-known Theory of Relativity, which is one of the most significant advances of our time, proves to be profound for most people except a few scientists and experts in that field. I admire his dedication to his research and the great accomplishments he has made.

(Picture 2)

A friend is _____. Friendship is based on _____. I think the only way to have a friend is to be one. And to nurture friendship, _____.

(Picture 3)

As a Chinese saying goes, a good neighbour is better than a distant relative, so it's important to help each other in the neighbourhood. _____.

However, neighbourhood disputes are a very common occurrence. _____. Robert Frost said, "Good fences make good neighbours". For my own part, to be on good terms with our neighbours, _____.

Step 2 Match related information with the following types of people.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| A. painters | B. neighbours | C. friends | D. singers |
| E. movie stars | F. entrepreneurs | G. parents | H. colleagues |
| I. sports stars | J. successful people | K. teachers | L. politicians |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | enjoy a household name | | play roles in box-office hits |
| | experience a lot of ups and downs | | release an album and it turns out to be an instant hit |
| | be forward-looking leaders who always plan for the future | | use colours to express their emotions |
| | make money in property | | be glamorous as they play their famous roles |
| | share food and borrow things from each other | | chat online or spend time together |
| | work hard to support the family | | impart knowledge and educate people |

(to be continued)

(continued)

| | |
|--|---|
| see signs of progress in students' reading and writing | enjoy many of the same activities and have lots of things in common |
| get along well even if competition exists | multiply joys and divide grievances |

2. Helping people

Step 1 Listen to an interview on different ways neighbours help each other and take down the interviewees' opinions. 🎧

Ways That Neighbours Help Each Other

| | |
|---------|--|
| Jean | |
| Michael | |
| David | |
| Cecelia | |
| Ben | |
| Amy | |

Step 2 Discuss with a partner and list the ways we help friends and maintain friendship.

| My View | My Partner's View |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Step 3 Listen to an audio *Family, Friends Help You Live Longer*, and find out how we benefit from good social connections. 🎧

Step 4 Brainstorm more benefits from social contact.

| Psychologically/Socially | Physically |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Cope with stress. | 1. Exercise more. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| ... | ... |

3. Doing charity

Step 1 Talk about famous people and charity with a partner.

In recent years, many celebrities have founded charitable organisations, such as Jet Li's One Foundation and Faye Wong's Smile Angel Foundation. What do you think of celebrity effect and charity?

Step 2 Put down the ways or channels ordinary people have to help those in need.

1. Hope Project

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

IV A Virtual Interview

Part 1

Neighbours

How well do you know the people who live next door to you?

How often do you see them? Why/Why not?

What kinds of problem do people sometimes have with their neighbours?

How do you think neighbours can help each other?

Part 2

Describe a person who has impressed you.

You should say:

who this person is/was

how you know about him/her

what you know about him/her

and explain why this person impressed you.

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you are going to say.

You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Part 3

Discussion topic:

Helping others in the community

What are some of the ways people can help others in the community? Which is most important?

Some people say that people help others in the community more now than they did in the past. Do you agree or disagree? Why?