

# Family ties

Spotlight 11 Module 1

## Compare and contrast the pictures:


- 1) What do they have in common?
- 2) How different are they?



**Use:** They (are quite similar because they) both/ all show/have/are...  
There are .....in both/all of them.  
There are some differences. One.....but the other .....  
The one on the left is/shows/has .....but the one on the right ....  
The left photo ..... while the right one.....

# Family Idioms

- ▮ **It runs in the family** - an ability or talent that is passed on through the generations (*My brothers and I have red hair. It runs in the family.*)
- ▮ **your own flesh and blood** - a member of your family, do not forget it!
- ▮ **blood is thicker than water** - family ties are stronger than any others, despite arguments
- ▮ **bad blood** - hostility or unfriendliness between two families or family members
- ▮ **black sheep of the family** - the worst member of the family

- 1  Close your eyes and listen to the music. Think of your family at home on a cold, snowy, winter Sunday evening. What can you see, hear, smell? How does it make you feel?

## study skills

### *Reading for specific information*

Underline the key words in the questions. Read the text(s) and find phrases which match the underlined key words. The information may be paraphrased. This helps us do the task.

# Reading

2




Read the text on pp. 10-11. Which person/people ...

- 1 explains that their behaviour can affect their family's reputation?
- 2 say that people have high regard for the older generation in their countries?
- 3 doesn't have any siblings?
- 4 won't choose their own husband/wife?
- 5 don't live with both parents?
- 6 wishes they could see a member of their family more?



3

 Listen and read the text again. Match the words in bold in the text to their meaning.

*idea, seniors, customs, boring, walk, help, scheme, become less, mother's, is the most important thing, continue to be, ranking, comply with, no brother or sisters, good reputation*

## Vocabulary

4

**a** Write the male/female equivalent.

1 stepfather ....., 2 brother-in-law .....,  
3 nephew ....., 4 half-sister .....,  
5 mother-in-law ....., 6 grandson .....,  
7 great-grandfather ....., 8 ex-husband .....,  
9 widow ....., 10 twin sister .....

**b** Write five family names on a piece of paper.  
Swap papers. Find out how your partner is  
related to each person.

► *Who's Peter? He's my grandfather. He died before I was born.*

5

Complete the sentences with the words in brackets. Check in the Word List.

- 1 Weren't the ..... vows beautiful at Anna and Nick's .....? (**wedding/marriage**)
- 2 There are just four people in my ..... family, but more than twenty in my ..... family. (**extended/immediate**)
- 3 My ..... grandmother lives in a little ..... cottage. (**old/elderly**)
- 4 My ..... who came to the family celebration spanned three .....! (**generations/relations**)
- 5 Some ..... of ours recently gave us a photo album full of pictures of our ..... (**ancestors/relatives**)
- 6 A ..... family consists of father, mother and children whereas a ..... family consists of one parent and children (**single parent, nuclear**)

6

Fill in: *engaged, married, divorced, separated, single, get, widow, foster, stepmother, in-laws.*

- 1 My sister is ..... to be ..... to a wonderful man.
- 2 When she ..... from her husband, she moved to her parents' house.
- 3 It's difficult to be a ..... parent.
- 4 Her parents didn't ..... on well so they decided to get .....
- 5 Mrs Hams' husband died four years ago and she hasn't married again. She's a .....
- 6 When his parents were both killed in a car accident, he was placed with ..... parents.
- 7 These are my husband's parents. They're my .....
- 8 When her mother died, her father got married to another woman. Her ..... looked after her well.



# Speaking

**7**

Answer the questions. Use your answers to tell your partner about your family.

- Who's in your immediate/extended family?
- How do you get on with your family members?
- What family cultural traditions are there in your country?
- What is important in your family?
- What does family mean to you?

# Writing

**8**

Use your answers in Ex. 7 to write a short text about your family for the “Teens” magazine.  
(60-80 words)