Different ways in which the blood relation questions may be asked in the competitive exams, for the assistance of candidates:

- **Dialogue/ Conversation Based –** In such questions, one person describes his/her relation with another person (this may or may not be related to the person with whom the conversation is being made).

- **Based on Puzzles –** To make the questions complex, blood relation questions are also being asked in the form of a puzzle. A piece of brief information about multiple people being interrelated is given and sub-questions based on the same may be asked.

- **Coding-Decoding –** The relationship between two people may be denoted using symbols. This has become a common method of asking blood relation questions in competitive exams, nowadays.

There also are a few things which need to be kept in mind while solving the blood relation questions. Given below are few such important pointers:

- You cannot assume the gender of the person based on the name
- If the statement says X is the son of Y, the gender of Y cannot be determined unless mentioned in the question
- In puzzle-based questions, a web of relations can be formed, so do not solve such questions in a haste
- These questions are scoring and easy to solve, so do not panic if the question seems lengthy
- In case of coding-decoding blood relation, use a pictorial description to solve the question. This will make the symbols and relation more clear
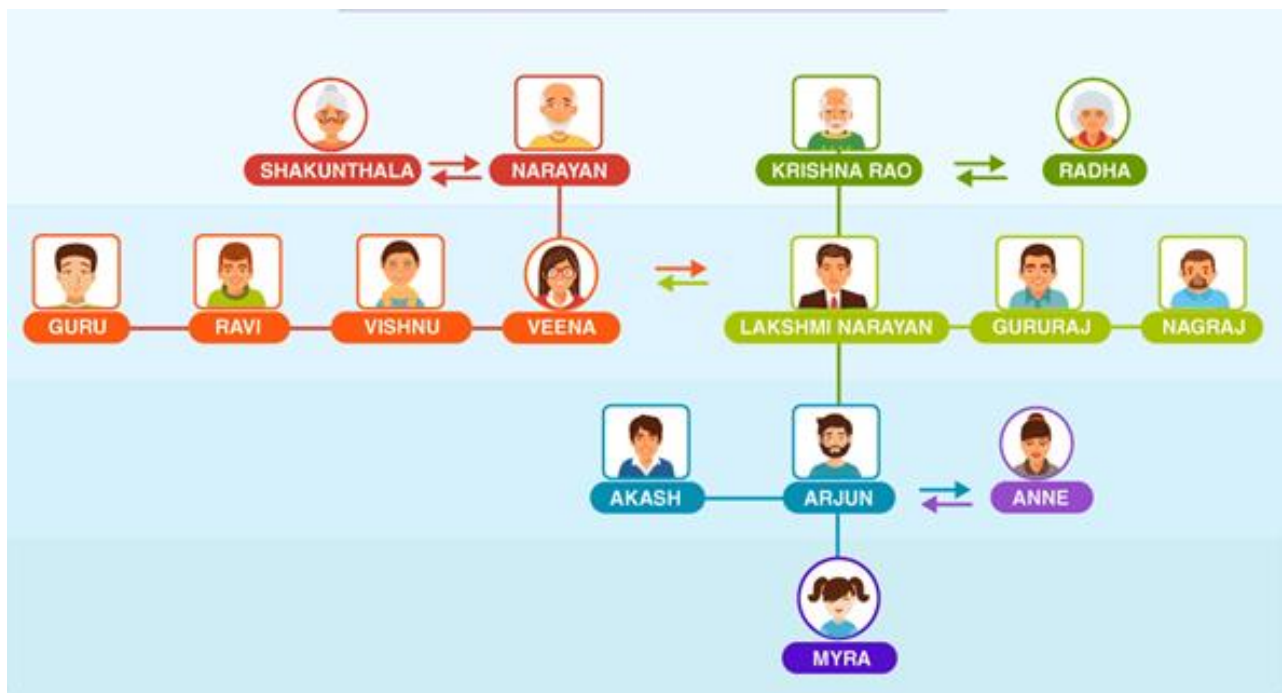
Family Tree

To solve the problems in blood relation, one should know how to draw a family tree.

A family tree is a pictorial representation of genealogical data.

The following points help in drawing a family tree.

1. All the female members of the family are represented by a circle. The name of the person is written inside the circle for convenience.
2. All the male members of the family are represented by a square. The name of the person is written inside the square for convenience.
3. The relation between two members of the family is shown by connecting a double-headed arrow.

4. The spouse relation is represented by the two ends of a double-headed arrow.
5. All the family members of the upper generation are represented above in the family tree. Ex: father, mother, uncle, aunt etc. The logic can be extended by representing the grandparents above the parents in the family tree. Ex: grandfather and grandmother.
6. All the family members of the same generation are represented in the middle of the family tree. Ex: brothers, Sisters, cousins, wife, husband, etc.
7. All the family members of the next generation are represented below in the family tree. Ex: Daughter, son, niece, nephew.

Observations from the family tree

1. Akash and Arjun are brothers and Anne is the wife of Arjun.
2. Myra is the daughter of Arjun and Anne.
3. Veena is the mother of Akash and She has three brothers, Vishnu, Ravi and Guru.

4. Lakshmi Narayan is the father of Arjun and the son of Krishna Rao and Radha.

5. Narayan and Shakuntala are husband and wife and are the parents of Veena.

Type of Relationship	Terminology in Use
Mother's or Father's son	Myself/Brother
Mother's or Father's daughter	Myself/Sister
Mother's or Father's brother	Uncle
Mother's or Father's sister	Aunt
Mother's or Father's father	Grandfather
Mother's or Father's mother	Grandmother
Son's wife	Daughter-in-law
Daughter's husband	Son-in-law
Husband's or wife's sister	Sister-in-law
Husband's or wife's brother	Brother-in-law
Brother's son	Nephew
Brother's daughter	Niece
Uncle or aunt's son or daughter	Cousin
Sister's husband	Brother-in-law
Brother's wife	Sister-in-law
Grandson's or Granddaughter's daughter	Great-granddaughter