

ESL Topics: Family & Friends

Sample Questions & Answers:

Beginner:

1.) How many **siblings do you have?**

I have one brother who is three years my senior.

2.) Are you an **only child?**

Nope, I have an older brother.

3.) Were you the first born?

No, I was the second born.

4.) Who is your best friend? Is he close like a brother / sister?

My best friend is Jay. Even though I've only known him for a short time he's like a brother to me. He's quite caring and funny.

5.) Growing up, who **raised you?**

My mother raised me since my father worked full-time. In the summer I lived with my grandparents in Poland. So, they raised me as well.

6.) Who are you closest to in your family?

*I'm closest with my father. My mother and I are actually very **distant**. Our personalities clash, and we don't get along well.*

7.) Do you have a close relationship with your **extended family?**

Actually I don't have a close relationship with my extended family. All of my cousins, aunts, and uncles live in Europe. So I've only met them on several occasions.

8.) What **qualities do you value the most in friends?**

Loyalty is most important to me. It's good to know when someone has your back.

9.) How do you maintain the friendships you have? How often do you see your friends?

the older I get the harder it is to keep good relations with friends. I try to remember important dates like birthdays and see them once a month. Even if I don't see them in months it's like I saw them yesterday when we finally do meet.

Intermediate:

1.) Who wears the pants in your family? Who is the bread-winner?

My mom wears the pants in my family. She is definitely the boss of the house. However, my father is the bread-winner. He's always working overtime and bringing home the bacon.

2.) Is it important for families to have dual incomes? What is your, and your cultures opinion of stay-at-home dads?

Nowadays, it's quite common for both parents to work. Growing up in Canada it wasn't always necessary for both parents to work but recently it's quite common. Stay-at-home dads are definitely not as common as stay-at-home mom's but they are out there. Part of being a man is still about supporting your family, so I think most men would like to work if given the opportunity.

3.) Who do you turn to for advice, your family or friends?

I always turn to my friends, even for very sensitive issues. My parents are both very conservative so I don't want them to worry about me.

4.) Do you or did your parents push you to follow in their footsteps?

My father was a butcher. So he really wanted me to do something else with my life and not follow in his footsteps. I still deeply respect him though.

Advanced:

1.) What is the most important thing you've learned from your parents?

*My mother taught me to never settle for less. If you want something go out and get it. My father taught me to work hard and be patient. Good things take time to come to **fruition**.*

2.) If you decide to have your own family one-day, what would you do differently from your parents with regards to **childrearing?**

My parents never really stressed the importance of a good education. Rather they wanted me to work at an early age instead of studying and better myself academically. I want to make sure my children understand the importance of an education.

3.) Would you like to **rekindle some friendships from the past that have **grown apart** over the years?**

I would definitely like to rekindle a few relationships that have grown apart over the years. However, with age, people have their own families and lives so I can understand why things are the way they are.

Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited answer in column 2.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.) siblings | a.) reconnect |
| 2.) extended family | b.) no brothers or sisters |
| 3.) fruition | c.) main income earner |
| 4.) rekindle | d.) raising / taking care of |
| 5.) childrearing | e.) successful project |

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6.) only child | f.) not close |
| 7.) bread-winner | g.) brothers and sisters |
| 8.) distant | h.) grandparents, aunts, etc. |

Answers:

Questions:

- 1.) Who do you get along with best in your family?
- 2.) How many siblings do you have?
- 3.) Do you come from a big family?
- 4.) Who wears the pants in your family?
- 5.) Do you want your spouse to work?
- 6.) Will you follow in your parents footsteps?
- 7.) Would you like to be a stay at home parent?
- 8.) Who do you turn to for advice?
- 9.) Who is wiser your mother or father?
- 10.) How often do you see your best friend?
- 11.) How many close friends do you have?
- 12.) Would you like to rekindle and hobbies you had as a kid?

Vocabulary:

- **siblings:** Brother and sisters. *"I have three siblings."*

- **"only child":** No brothers or sisters. Do not say "alone child". *"I'm an only child."*
- **"raised you":** Who took care of you growing up. *"My mother raised me well."*
- **distant:** To grow apart over time. To not be close. *"We became very distant after I moved to South Korea."*
- **extended family:** Everyone outside of your immediate family. For example, your aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. *"Most of my extended family lives down the street."*
- **qualities:** Same as characteristics. *"She has many good qualities that I look for in a friend."*
- **"wears the pants":** The boss of the household. *"My mother wears the pants in the house. She can be really tough sometimes."*
- **bread-winner / bringing home the bacon:** The parent who makes the most money in the household. *"Even though both my parents work, my father is the bread-winner."*
- **duel income:** When both parents work. *"We are a duel-income family."*
- **"stay-at-home dad":** When the mother works and the father raises the children. *"I think it's cute that he is a stay at home dad. He's a great father."*
- **"turn to":** Who you go to for advice or to solve a problem. *"I always turn to my friends when I have problems in my personal life."*
- **"follow in their footsteps":** To pursue the same job as your mother or father. *"My father wants me to follow in his footsteps and become a doctor too."*
- **fruition:** When a plan or project is finished and realized. *"All his hard work and dedication finally came to fruition when he was handed his degree at graduation."*
- **childrearing:** The process of raising and taking care of children. *"Childrearing is no simple task."*
- **rekindle:** To revive something that has been lost like a friendship or hobby. *"I look forward to reuniting with my brother and rekindling our friendship."*
- **grow apart:** When a relationship slowly starts to fall apart over time due to neglect. *"After graduation my friends and I slowly grew apart except for me and Jay."*

Daily Expressions, Phrasal Verbs & Idioms:

1.) "Grow on me": Something or someone you start to like more and more as time goes on.

"I wasn't a big fan of Psy until I moved to South Korea. His music has really started to grow on me over the years."

"It took a while but your mothers cooking has really started to grow on me."