

Describe your neighborhood.

The neighborhood/neighbourhood is in a good location. We're close to the bus and train. We have some good restaurants, and it's easy to buy food here. We're downtown/in the city centre, but it's safe.

How do people choose their place to live?

They choose where to live based on location, money, and what is available. If they need a roommate/flatmate like me, they also need to think about that.

Describe your family. Are you married? Do you have children? Brothers and sisters?

I'm not married yet. I have a younger brother who still lives at home with my parents. I have an older sister who got married recently. I don't live with my family now because I'm studying in a different city.

What are some things you enjoy doing with other members of your family?

When my brother and I are together, we always like to play soccer. We play it a lot at the park near my parents' house. We watch soccer matches on TV, too. Sometimes when I visit my sister, we cook a meal together, or we sit around and talk about old times.

Who in your family are you particularly close to? Why?

This might sound funny, but I am close to my mother. She is someone I can always count on. If I have a problem at school, I can tell her about it and she helps me figure out a solution. My father isn't like that. It's harder to talk to him.

Do you spend more time with your family or with friends? Why?

Right now I spend more time with my friends because I'm living away from home. Also, I have a lot in common with them. We take a lot of the same classes, so we help each other study. When we have free time, we enjoy doing the same things, like going to the movies or going to parties.

Part 2

NOTE: Gift/present

A really special gift I received was a set of cuff links and a key chain. My sister gave them to me when she got married. I helped a lot with the wedding arrangements. I helped organize everything, and I arranged for my friends' band to play the music at the reception. My sister gave me the cuff links and key chain to thank me for all my help. They are made of silver with a modern design, and the key chain has my initials on it. I use the key chain every day. I wear the cuff links on special occasions. They're really only for formal wear. I wore them at my best friend's wedding last fall, for example. Occasionally I go to a formal dance, and I wear the cuff links then. This gift is important to me because it has a personal meaning. I was happy to be able to help my sister on an important day in her life, and this gift reminds me of that. It reminds me of how important my sister is to me.

Part 3*Do you think people generally enjoy giving and receiving gifts? Why or why not?*

Some people might enjoy giving gifts, but I think it has become an obligation in many cases. If it's a birthday or some other occasion, you have to get a gift. You may not have the time and money to spend shopping for a gift and wrapping it up, but you have to do it anyway. I think children like getting gifts, but adults don't always. Often the gift you get is something you really don't like and can't use. But gift-giving is a custom, it's a tradition, so we have to do it.