**FAMILY**

**1.Let’s talk about your family. What role does it play in each person’s life?**

Pope John XXIII once noted: "the whole world is my family". But it's generally well-known fact that people differ in their values, beliefs, personality and so on. In society everyone has different ideas on what role the family takes in life. To some extent, nobody lоves you more than your family. Your family members are your best friends and your teachers. Family protects you and provides you with home, food, clothes and etc. Children depend on their parents heavily and we must recognize that children are examples of their parents. On the contrary, there are people who spend more time building a career. From their point of view, becoming a rich and influential person is the road to success and happiness. Those people seem to be purposeful, pragmatic and independent. As for me, family means having someone to love you unconditionally in spite of you and your shortcomings. Without my family i couldn't even imagine a single day of my life. There are so many pieces of advice, moral support, a complete sense of security with family. Many people realize one thing that a lot of those who say they are always with you, may not be there all the time for you. But even it's 3 a.m. in the morning, i can always rely on my family.

**2.1. Are you on good terms with your parents and grandparents?**

I come from a fairly close-knit family although we fall out from time to time. I love and respect my parents but I'm especially close to my mother Oksana. She always backs me up and i can count on her. Of course, we quarrel but just occasionally. Needless to say i love my father Victor with all my heart and to my mind i take after him. I have a lot in common with my dad: we have similar interests and we spend a lot of time together enjoying each other’s company. Besides i have some other relatives: grandparents on my father's side and a granny on my mother's side. They are very kind to me but my parents say that my grandparents were much stricter to them: my grandparents punished them and told them off. So, you see, my grandparents lost their temper quite often. Nevertheless my family is the best place for me where i can find support and protection.

**2.2. Do you have your own family traditions?**

It doesn't matter what country we come from, despite our age, social status, living conditions, there are at least a couple of big life events which we celebrate in our families such as an anniversary, a wedding, a birthday and so on. But family traditions are more than just habits your family keeps around the holidays - they are the ideas that create your family culture. Plenty of families have a special family quote, saying or phrase and my family isn't an exception. To my mind, such quotes give the whole family a special language to share with each other. In addition, movie evenings have already become a family tradition. They are perfect for families, who need an evening of relaxation. We dress in pajamas, take food and turn on a movie in my parents' bedroom. This family tradition is as easy as it's fun. Another tradition is to see new year in at home. Finally i want to say that all traditions play a vitally important role in each family because they make it really unique, close-knit and united.

**3.You’ve met a girl or a boy from another country. What would you ask about his/her family?**

My first question will be like this: how many members does your family consists of? The next question is: does your family have a unique tradition? And finally I'd like to find out how often you go abroad with your family on vacation.

**4. What can you advise people who want to have a close and happy family?**

My parents and relatives are some of my closest friends. I respect their opinion and enjoy their company. And of course everyone wants to have such a close-knit and happy family. One of the keys to being on good terms with your nearest and dearest is having fun and friendship. Family time is essential because the family that play together stay together. Turn up the music and have a dance party, play games and have wrestling matches. Anything that makes your family members smile and have fun with you is a worthy idea. That’s because family fun makes friends out of our relatives. Moreover one of the best ways to unite your family is by keeping family traditions. These are the memories that strengthen your family bonds and draw all of you together. In general, i would recommend to respect and listen to each other, prevent conflicts and solve your problems through discussion and communication.

**5.They say that parents and children have difficulty understanding each other because of a generation gap. What do you think of this problem?**

Unfortunately, there are still a lot of family problems in the modern world such as domestic violence, dwelling and financial problems, generation gap, single parenting, child-free couples, a high divorce rate, contradictions between husband and wife and many others. But i would like to analyze only one of them, generation gap. Different generations seem to speak a different language. The age difference between parents and children is often enormous and what's more, they experience their most impressionable years in a different culture. Teenagers believe that they are mature enough and it's time for them to be independent. Some teens feel that their parents need to show more trust and give them more respect but they also realize parents are just concerned about their safety. Nevertheless teenagers need to make mistakes to learn and grow in life but if they only get punished for it, it aggravates the gap. All in all i would advise parents to keep an open mind and understand that children shouldn't be just like their parents were at their age, learn their child's thoughts and listen to what they have to say, and eventually show their kids how much their family loves them because this unconditional love and support are very encouraging.