

COMMUNICATION

Exploring modern forms of family

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1081X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can describe different family situations.
- I can talk about modern forms of family.



Warm-up

Describe two of your family members briefly, using the vocabulary below.
You can do this activity **with a partner in breakout rooms**, or **as a whole class**.



parents

grandchildren

siblings

cousins

uncle and aunt

mother-in-law

niece and nephew

brother-in-law

grandparents

stepsister

What does a typical family in Australia look like?

Dan (30) from Melbourne

My parents split up when I was young. Back then, it was quite unusual to get a divorce. Being an only child, I felt pretty lonely sometimes. Still, I'm glad they decided to go their separate ways. Both of them remarried, and they're very happy with their new partners. My dad actually had another child recently. Finally, I get to have the sibling I've always wanted!



Maria (23) from Sydney

I come from a multicultural family. My dad is Italian, my mum was born in Australia. As my grandparents from Italy are getting older and need more help, my dad decided they should move to Sydney to live with us. Now we're all under the same roof, which can be quite difficult sometimes and I've realised that it's time for me to become independent. You have to leave the nest at some point!



What does a typical family in Australia look like?

Lisa (28) from Canberra

I'm now at an age where people often ask me when I'm going to have kids. Well first of all, I don't know if I want to have kids at all. I love being independent and I want to travel the world. I would much rather adopt a dog instead – that's enough responsibility for me. And secondly, that's really none of their business!



Lucas (37) from Perth

I've been married to my husband Andrew for 5 years now. We adopted a little girl - Michelle is 2 years old now. Since Andy didn't want to give up his job as a doctor, I decided to stay at home with Michelle. To be honest, that's exactly what I've always wanted. I love being a stay-at-home dad and I couldn't imagine a life without my family.





Match the phrase from the text to the definition

Here are some quotes from the people you read about on slides 4 and 5. Do you know what the words and phrases in bold mean?

1 *Back then, it was quite unusual to **get a divorce**.*

2 *We **adopted** a little girl - Michelle is 2 years old now.*

3 *Both of my parents **remarried** and they're very happy with their new partners.*

4 *Being an **only child**, I felt quite lonely sometimes.*

5 *I love being a **stay-at-home** dad and I couldn't imagine a life without my family.*

a a child who has no siblings

b to end a marriage

c a parent who stays at home to take care of the children

d to marry again

e to take another child into your family and take care of them as your own child



My parents **split up**.

They decided to **go their separate ways**.

What do the highlighted phrases mean?

Now we're all
under the same
roof.



It's time for me to
leave the nest.



That's none of your
business!



What's another way of
saying this?
How many people live
in your house?

What does this phrase
mean?
Where do you think this
phrase comes from?

In what situations
might you say this to
someone?



Describing family situations

Match a sentence on the left with its corresponding sentence on the right.

1 Jack and I just don't love each other anymore.

2 I don't want to live under the same roof as my parents anymore.

3 I've always wanted siblings.

4 I want to spend as much time as possible with my child.

5 My parents don't live together.

a I want to move out.

b That's why I'm a stay-at-home dad.

c We're getting a divorce.

d They split up when I was a small child.

e Unfortunately, I'm an only child.



Discuss

What's your opinion? In the text at the beginning of the lesson, you read about four different family situations from people in Australia. Now think about your own situation and experiences and answer the questions down below.



Do you still live with your parents?
If not, when did you move out?

Do people ever ask you when you're going
to have children?

Would you like to be a stay-at-home parent
(or do you know anybody who is)?

Do you think it is difficult to be a parent and
have a successful career?



Different decisions

Tom: So, how's it going with Lilly? Does she like it at nursery school?

Kayla: Oh yes! She always gets super excited when I tell her to get ready in the morning, which is a good sign.

Tom: Great to hear. I'm glad it's working out. And what about you? How's work?

Kayla: Well I have to say, I'm much happier now that I'm back at the firm full-time. For me, it was definitely the right decision to send her to school, no matter what people say. When I'm at the office, I'm able to focus on work. And when I get home, I can spend quality time with Lilly. I think we all benefit from it.





Different decisions

Tom: Fantastic! I know you were quite unsure about what to do in the beginning.

Kayla: And what about you and Marcus? How's Harry? He's grown so much in that picture you sent me! What age is he now, eight months?

Tom: Yeah, they grow up so fast! Marc and I are doing well. Of course, it's not always easy. Being a stay-at-home dad is a lot harder than people think. I do miss some things from my old life... like not being tired all the time. But nothing makes me happier than spending time with Harry. And whenever I do need some rest, the LGBTQ family is more than happy to help me out.

Kayla: Yes, make sure to take care of yourself, too!



nursery school



Did you go to **nursery** as a child?

LGBTQIA



Do you know what each letter stands for?



Discuss



Kayla

It was definitely the right decision to send her to nursery, no matter what people say.



Tom

Being a stay-at-home dad is a lot harder than people think.

Is it common for children to go to nursery school in your country?

Why is it difficult to be a stay-at-home parent?

Have you ever had to make similar decisions to Kayla and Tom?

How do you know when a decision is right?



End of the lesson

Idiom

It runs in the family

Meaning: to say that something like having blue eyes, becoming bald at a young age, being punctual or being funny *runs in the family* means that it is shared by many family members, even if it is not strictly genetic.



Additional practice



Categorise

Match the words and phrases in bold on the left to their definition on the right.

- 1 My parents waited until I was at college to **get a divorce**.
- 2 After her husband died, Muriel decided to **remarry**.
- 3 Sarah and Tim **adopted** a boy last year.
- 4 My friend is an **only child**, so she wants to have lots of kids.
- 5 I'm planning to be a **stay-at-home** mum. I can't wait to watch my baby grow!

- a to marry again
- b to take another child into your family and take care of them as your own child
- c to end a marriage
- d a parent who stays at home to take care of the children
- e a child who has no siblings



What's the word or phrase?

Read the definitions and come up with the correct word or phrases.



1 to end a relationship or marriage



2 to move away from home



3 to live in the same house



4 a place where young children can go while their parents are at work



5 to tell someone that it's private information you don't want to share







Vocabulary practice

Sort the words and phrases into the categories.



1 to adopt

2 to remarry

3 stay-at-home parent

4 to split up

5 nursery

Vocabulary related to children

Vocabulary related to marriage



Complete the sentences

Fill in the blanks with the correct word / phrase.



- 1 Lucas doesn't have any siblings. He's an _____.
- 2 Lara still lives with her parents. She's not ready to leave the _____ yet.
- 3 My parents _____ up when I was a little boy.
- 4 Dan and I would like to _____ a child.
- 5 I love being a _____, because I can spend a lot of time with my children.





Discuss

Do you think that friends can be another kind of family?



Is it possible to be independent, even when you live with your parents?



Discuss

“It is none of people’s business if someone wants to have children or not. They should stop asking that question.”

Do you remember what *none of your business* means?

Do you agree with this statement?

Has anyone ever asked you this question?





Discuss

“

The typical family no longer exists.

What does this statement mean?

Do you agree with this statement?

Is your family situation different to your parents' or grandparents' situation?





Answer Key

P. 6: 1. (b) 2. (e) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (c)

P.9: 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (e) 4. (b) 5. (d)

Additional Practice

P.19: 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (e) 5. (d)

P.20: to split up/ to go separate ways; to leave the nest; under the same roof; nursery school; none of your business

P.21:

children: to adopt, stay-at-home parent, nursery

marriage: to remarry, to split up

P.22: only child, nest, split, adopt, stay-at-home mum/dad



Summary

Vocabulary:

- To get a divorce, only child, to remarry, to become independent, to adopt, nursery, LGBTQ!

Real life language:

- to split up/ to go separate ways
- to be/live under the same roof, to leave the nest, none of your business



Vocabulary

to split up

to go separate ways

under the same roof

to leave the nest

none of your business

to get a divorce

to remarry

to adopt

only child

stay-at-home parent

to become independent

nursery

LGBTQIA



Notes

