

FAMILY

LESSON 1. Family ties

Communicative area: speaking about the role of a family in your life

Grammar revision: collective nouns

Active vocabulary: ties, extended family, immediate family, tight-knit, appreciate, to pass away, sibling, single-parent,

(family) background, trouble

1. Discuss the questions below in pairs.

1. How did you spend your summer? 2. Did you spend a lot of time with your family? Why? Why not? 3. What did you do together? 4. Did you enjoy that time?



2. a) Look at the collocations. What collocation is the definition below for?

... – a family consisting of two parents and their children, but not including aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

Family name, family tree, family circle, family doctor, middle-class family, one-parent / single-parent family, family movie, royal family, immediate family, family ties, family background, family member, tight-knit family, extended family.

- b) Write definitions for 3-5 of the collocations above.
- c) Read out your definitions. Can your classmates guess the collocations?
- d) Which collocations didn't get any attention? Why? Either work as a class to define them or ask your teacher for help.
- 3. a) Listen to James Garcia from Vista East High School reading his school report and follow in the book. What are the two things he is most grateful to his parents for?

There is no need to say how important family is for everyone. Your family make you strong by giving you their love.

My family means the world to me. I would do anything for them. I have three <u>siblings</u> and we <u>get on really well</u>. Any time my little brother and sister need something like a new toy or some



money, if I have it, it's theirs. If I don't have it, I will try my hardest to get it for them. Even with my big sister I still try to help but she's more often the one who is there for me when I need it! My parents are the two most important people in the world. I know lots of times I can seem pretty ungrateful but I appreciate everything they have done for me. The number one thing that I really appreciate and I don't know if they know this but it's how they both brought me into this world. The number two thing is how every time I get into trouble or do something stupid, like I always do, they're always on my side no matter if I'm right or wrong, they always have my back to the fullest.

Another person I really appreciate is my big brother Bobbie. He <u>passed away</u> a year ago, but when he was here, he always helped me whenever I got myself into trouble. He may not be here anymore, but I know sometimes when I'm in a bad mood and need help, all of a sudden, the answer to my troubles somehow just comes to my mind, it's him looking down at me helping me out.

My family may not be perfect and neither I am, but I'll tell you what, you will never find another family quite like mine.

- b) Read his report and answer the questions below in pairs.
- 1. Is James talking about his immediate or extended family?
 2. What do the underlined words and phrases mean? 3. What happened to James' brother? 4. How does James feel about it?
 5. What does James mean saying "You will never find another family quite like mine"? 6. What adjectives can describe James' family?
- 4. a) Find the word *family* in James' report. Read out your examples. Is *family* a singular or a plural noun?
- b) Read the information in the box and fill in the gaps with singular and plural.



Collective nouns are words that describe groups of people or things, e.g. family, government, audience.

If you speak about the individuals in a group, a collective noun is treated as 1. ... e.g. *The audience* <u>haven't</u> all arrived yet.

If you speak about the group as a single entity, 2. ... is used. e.g. *The audience* <u>was</u> kind and receptive.

In British English collective nouns are often treated as 3. ..., e.g. *The team <u>have achieved</u> amazing results*. While in American English they take the 4. ... verb form, e.g. *The team <u>has achieved</u> amazing results*.

- c) What other collective nouns do you know?
- 5. a) Complete the quotes with the words in the box.

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roots • arms • trouble • heart • love • life • mother • tree
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- 1. "Our family is the right mix of chaos and"
- 2. "Family gives you the ... to stand tall and strong."
- 3. "Family is the ... of a home."

- 4. "Your background is with you for No question about that."
- 5. "A family tie is like a ...; it can bend but it cannot break."
- 6. "To us, family means putting your ... around each other and being there."
- 7. "Being raised by a single ..., I learnt to appreciate and value independent women."
- 8. "When ... comes, it's your family that supports you."
- b) Work in pairs. Discuss whether you agree or disagree with the statements above.
- 6. Read the rules and play the game in two teams.
 - 1. Each team gets a "my family" card from the teacher. 2. One student (S1) in each group can read the card for two minutes and try to memorise as much information as possible. 3. S1 passes the information to S2. 4. Then S2 retells the information to S3...
 - 5. The last student in each group tells the story he / she got aloud.
 - 6. Read the original story to compare.



7. Work in small groups. Use the questions below to talk about your families.

1. What does your immediate family mean to you? 2. Is your extended family equally important? 3. Do you get on with your siblings? 4. Do your family support you when you are in trouble? 5. Is your family tight-knit? 6. What do you appreciate most about your family?

LESSON 2. The family you come from

Communicative area: speaking about modern families

Grammar revision: tenses

Active vocabulary: orphanage, abandoned, experience, -hood