

LESSON 5. Family breakdown

Communicative area: discussing the role of the family in society

Active vocabulary: divorce, values, identity, to interact, breakdown

1. Look at the picture. Why do you think people started living in families? Were families in the past different from the families today? In what way have they changed?





2. Discuss the questions below in small groups.



1. Why do people live in families today?
2. Are traditional families still popular today?
3. Why do social scientists consider family breakdown a national tragedy?

3. a) Read the statements and explain what the words in *italics* mean.

1. Our families give us *identity* [aɪ'dentɪti].
2. One of the *primary* functions of the family is to produce and reproduce people.
3. *Divorce* is a common issue these days.
4. The common thing these days is to place the elderly in a *nursing home*.
5. Children are often left to hang around aimlessly and this may lead to *trouble*.
6. Families influence *values* ['vælju:z] and expectations of their children.

7. Kids watch their parents *interact* with others and learn.
8. The family is necessary to form an *economically productive household*.
9. Families *provide* material and non-material care and support to its members.

b)   Listen to Colin, Lena, Noah and Jess speaking about the role of the family in society. Which speaker says the statements in ex. 3a?

c)   Listen again. Write down some details to explain or develop the statements in ex. 3a.

4. Work in small groups. Discuss if you agree or disagree with the statements in ex. 3a. Give arguments and examples to support your ideas.

5. a) Take a minute to think how you would answer the following interview question: What is the role of the family in society?

b) Role-play the street interview. Have the interview recorded.

LESSON 6. Family glue

Communicative area: speaking about family traditions in the UK and in Belarus

Active vocabulary: get-together, generation

1. Unjumble the saying about family traditions. Can you explain it?

is / meaningful experience. / At the heart / family tradition / of every

2. a) You are going to listen to a psychologist speaking about the importance of family traditions. Before you listen, can you predict the reasons in favour of family traditions?