

I can talk about families

A Family relationships

Marilyn Monroe was an **only child** from a **single-parent family**, but she lived with **foster parents** until she was seven, and then she was **adopted** by her mother's best friend. She got married at sixteen, and she got **divorced** three times.



Bill Clinton's father died before he was born. His mother, Virginia, had to find a way to **support** Bill, so she studied nursing, and Bill was **brought up** by his grandparents. When Bill was four, his mother married Roger Clinton, who became Bill's **stepfather**. Roger and Virginia had a son called Roger, who is Bill Clinton's **half-brother**.

Glossary

only child a child with no brothers or sisters.

single parent a mother or father who looks after their children alone.

foster parent sb who looks after another person's child in their home for a time.

adopt a child take sb's child into your family and legally make them your child.

get divorced legally end your marriage. **SYN** get a divorce.

support sb help someone live by giving them money, food, or a home.

bring sb up look after a child and teach them how to live.

stepfather a man who has married your mother but is not your father (related words: **stepmother**, **stepson**, **stepdaughter**, **stepbrother**, **stepsister**).

half-brother, **half-sister** a brother or sister who has either the same mother or the same father as you.

1 Complete the words or phrases.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ▶ <u>step</u> mother | 3 f_____ parents | 6 ad_____ a child |
| 1 an o_____ child | 4 s_____ father | 7 s_____ parent |
| 2 h_____ sister | 5 get _____ orced | 8 br_____ somebody up |

2 Same or different? Write S or D.

- ▶ She's a single parent. | She's a foster parent. D
- 1 He's an only child. | He hasn't got any brothers or sisters. _____
 - 2 He's my half-brother. | He's my stepbrother. _____
 - 3 He's my stepson. | He's my wife's son by her first marriage. _____
 - 4 She was adopted as a baby. | She lived with foster parents as a baby. _____
 - 5 She's my half-sister. | She's my mother's sister. _____
 - 6 Our uncle supported us. | Our uncle brought us up. _____

3 Complete the questions.

- 1 Where were you b_____ up?
- 2 Have you got any brothers or sisters, or are you an o_____ child?
- 3 Do you have any h_____ -brothers or -sisters?
- 4 Do you know anyone who is a s_____ parent? If so, who?
- 5 Do you know anyone who has recently got d_____?

ABOUT YOU

4 ABOUT YOU Write your answers to Exercise 3, or ask another student.

B Family history

I'm **related to** a member of the **royal** family.

We have **ancestors** who were Russian **immigrants**. They **emigrated from** Russia **to** Britain in the nineteenth century.

I'm from London, but **previous generations** of my family lived in Malta.

Some of my **relatives** were **originally** from China.

I **look like** my grandmother, but I **take after** my father. We're both very lazy!



queen

king

Glossary

be related to sb

member

royal

ancestor

immigrant

emigrate from ... to ...

previous

generation

originally

look like sb

take after sb

- be in the same family as sb. **relative** N. SYN **relation**.
- a person who is in a group such as a family or a club.
- relating to a **king** or **queen** (see picture).
- a person in your family who lived a long time ago.
- a person who comes to a foreign country to live there.
- leave your country in order to live in another.
- happening before the one you are talking about.
- all the people in a family born at about the same time.
- in the beginning, before other things happened.
- have the same appearance as sb.
- be like an older member of your family.

5 Circle the correct answer.

- Our ancestors were Italian (immigrants/members).
- 1 She's one of my ancestors/relatives; she was born in 1880.
 - 2 Janet looks like/takes after her daughter.
 - 3 My ancestors emigrated/related to Australia a century ago.
 - 4 Are your relations/immigrants from Italy?
 - 5 I'm originally/previously from Rome: that's where I was born.
 - 6 He's married to a member/generation of the royal family.

6 Complete the questions.

- What do you know about your ancestors _____ ?
- 1 Are you r_____ to anyone famous?
 - 2 Do you have a r_____ family in your country?
If so, do you have a king or a q_____ ?
 - 3 Where do/did the p_____ generations of your family live?
 - 4 Which m_____ of your family do you look l_____ ?
 - 5 Do you take a_____ your mother or your father? How?

ABOUT YOU

7 ABOUT YOU Write your answers to Exercise 6, or ask another student