



The Italian Family Today

Reading. Paragraphs 2 and 3

Despite these changes, Italy has still managed to retain a traditional and conservative culture, with a strong focus on family values. Whether married, divorced or single, Italians tend to maintain very strong ties with their parents and extended family. House-sharing is still common between grown-up children and their parents. Even if they do not share a home, families will still try to meet up regularly for lunch ('pranzo') or dinner (cena).

In Italy, the elderly are still respected and looked after, whether they live with their children or on their own. Many Italian parents are willing to sacrifice a great deal to better the interests of their children and some might expect their children to do the same for them, later in life. However, some parents can be too controlling and in doing so prevent their children from taking responsibility for their own lives. Such parents might be accused of being overprotective. Sometimes, Italian parents may use other members of the family or society (grandparents, godfathers and teachers, etc) to help look after and guide their children.

Vocabulary

despite	على الرغم من	the elderly (n)	كبار السن
to manage to	لكي يتمكن من	to look after	للاعتناء
to retain culture	للاحتفاظ بالثقافة	whether... or ...	أم... أو
traditional (adj)	تقليدي	to be willing to	أن تكون على استعداد لذلك
conservative (adj)	تحفظا	to sacrifice a great deal	للتضحية بالكثير
a focus on	التركيز على	to better the interests	لتحسين المصالح
whether... or...	أم... أو	to expect someone to do something	توقع قيام شخص ما بشيء ما
to tend to	لتميل الى	controlling (adj)	مسيطر
to maintain ties with	للاحتفاظ على العلاقات مع	to prevent from	ليمنع من
extended (adj)	وسعوا	to take responsibility for	لتحمل المسؤولية عن
house-sharing	تقاسم المنزل	to be accused of	ليتم اتهامه
common (adj)	شائع	overprotective (adj)	مفرطة في الحماية
grown-up (adj)	كبار	a member of a family	أحد أفراد الأسرة
regularly (adv)	بشكل منتظم	to guide	لترشد

Describe the relationship between parents and children in Italian families?

Why do many Italian parents make sacrifices for their children?
