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Starting off

Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- What aspects of family life does each of the photos show?
- What might the people in the pictures be saying or thinking?
- How are each of these aspects of family life important?
- How important is it for families to spend time together? Why?
- Imagine a photo of your own family life and describe it to your partner.

In the first picture, I can see a father and daughter...
This shows the aspect of...
The top right photo depicts an extended family...
It highlights the importance of...
In the bottom left picture, there are grandparents...
This illustrates the aspect of...
The last photo shows a brother and sister...
This represents the realistic aspect of...

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Listening Part 1

- In Listening Part 1, you listen to people talking in eight different situations, which may be either conversations between people, or just one person speaking.
- You answer one question for each situation by choosing A, B or C.
- This part tests your ability to understand a variety of things, including the general idea being expressed, a detail, a reason or a purpose.

Exam info

1 **Work in pairs. You will hear people talking in eight different situations. Before you listen, read questions 1–8 and underline the main ideas in each. The first one has been done for you.**

1 You hear a woman talking to her brother about an old family photo. What is she doing?

A making fun of his fashion sense
B explaining how alike they are
C complaining about his pose

2 You hear a man talking to a woman about the sale of his family home. What upsets him about his parents' decision?

A leaving behind a piece of family history
B having to find a new house
C being far away from his friends

3 You hear a woman talking about her childhood. The woman remembers her bedtime routine as

A crazy.
B irritating.
C tiring.

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4 You hear a woman talking about her experience of working from home. How does she feel about it?

A concerned about not seeing her colleagues

B pleased to be spending less money on travel

C surprised that she's become more efficient

5 You hear a journalist talking about an article he has written on family life. What point is he making about the article?

A It is based on his own experiences.

B People's reaction to it surprised him.

C He hoped it would be beneficial to families.

6 You hear a woman talking to her father about her new job. What does the woman feel pleased about?

A the paid holiday allowance

B the flexible working hours

C the working environment

7 You hear part of a conversation about buying presents. The man is annoyed because

A he hasn't bought any presents for his family yet.

B he has to buy presents for people he may not see.

C his relatives sometimes surprise him with unexpected gifts.

8 You hear two friends talking about a presentation they've just attended. What do they agree about the presenter?

A He was able to keep the audience engaged.

B He explained complicated ideas clearly.

C He displayed good time-management skills.

Wordwall:
Speaking cards

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Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs

1 **Read the extracts from Listening Part 1 and match the highlighted phrasal verbs (1–6) to their definitions (a–f).**

1 *It's only a one-hour drive to the city, but it does make it trickier to hang out with her friends who live there.*

2 *Quite a few people have got in touch to say how helpful they found it, which is what I was counting on, really …*

3 *They've caught me off guard a few times, so now I have to have a few extra presents, just in case, to avoid it turning into an embarrassing situation.*

4 *The data he presented was so surprising; I thought he was making it up at first.*

5 *My dad would grab a worn-out football made of foam and play with me in the tiny hall of the flat. We'd carry on playing for ages!*

6 *There are a few people in my family who think it's hilarious to say they're not coming, then turn up for lunch and go: 'Surprise!'*

a rely on; depend on
b continue
c become; transform
d arrive; appear
e spend time with someone
f invent; lie

2 **Complete the sentences with a phrasal verb from Exercise 1.**

1 In what situations do children ..... excuses?

2 Do you think parents should ..... supporting their children financially when they are adults? Why / why not?

3 What do you usually do when you .....your family over the holidays?

4 Do you like it when friends or family ..... at your house unexpectedly? Why / Why not?

5 At what points in your life might you ..... your family and friends for support?

6 How do discussions between friends sometimes ..... arguments?

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3 Take turns to ask and answer the questions in Exercise 2.



Children usually make up excuses when they haven't done their chores or their schoolwork. In fact, the picture shows a classic example—a boy whose dog is literally eating his homework, which is the most famous excuse of all!

In my opinion, parents shouldn't carry on supporting their children financially once they finish their education and find a job. It is highly important for young adults to learn how to budget, pay their own bills, and become fully independent.

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Reading and Use of English Part 6



- In Reading and Use of English Part 6, you read a text of 500–600 words with six gaps where sentences have been removed.
- You choose one sentence from a list of seven sentences (A–G) for each gap; there is one sentence you will not need.
- This part tests your ability to understand the structure of the text, how the argument develops and how ideas in the sentences A–G refer and link to ideas in the text.

Exam info

1 **Work in pairs. You are going to read an article about a wedding. Before you read, write these adjectives in the correct column below.**

~~anxious~~ bad-tempered bossy bright considerate dishonest enthusiastic hard-working impatient mature organised polite quiet reserved responsible sensitive unreliable wise

usually positive	usually negative	could be either
	anxious	

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2 **Add one of the prefixes *dis-*, *im-*, *in-*, *ir-*, *un-* to each of the words to make opposites.**

considerate	inconsiderate	concerned
enthusiastic		mature
organised		polite
responsible		sensitive

Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

1 What would the perfect wedding be for you?
Think about:

- food
- location
- music
- number of guests
- venue

For me, the perfect wedding would be..
I would choose a location like...
The ideal venue should be...
As for the food, I would like to have...
The music is really important, so I would hire...
I would invite...

2 Some people hire a wedding planner to help them organise their wedding. Using the adjectives in exercises 1 and 2, what are the best and worst characteristics of a wedding planner? Why?

3 What kinds of things can go wrong at a wedding?

In my opinion, the best characteristic of a wedding planner is being...
A good planner must be... because...
The worst thing a wedding planner can be is...
If a planner is too..., it would ruin the preparation because...
One of the biggest disasters could be..
Something that often goes wrong is...
There might be problems with people, for example...

4 **Read the article carefully, ignoring the gaps. What is Sophie's problem?**

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5 **Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A–G) the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need. Underline the key words and phrases in the sentences before and after each gap to help you. The first one has been done for you.**

A I don't think this should be too hard to arrange, but it's yet another thing to have to keep in mind.

B We love our families dearly, but they're all so different in their own ways that this is proving way harder than we'd anticipated.

C He has gone to great lengths to ensure he can be there, despite how busy he is with work.

D Perhaps that's what we should do, considering that they've visited us twice and met my parents.

E They're a little reserved too, unfortunately.

F Sampling cakes, buying the perfect wedding dress, endlessly scouting venues and buying flowers are all things we were not looking forward to.

G They're worried about how unreliable and immature the two of them can be.

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A seat at the table

Sophie confesses how her wedding planning is not going so smoothly after all.

Everyone knows how stressful and expensive planning a wedding can be. 1 F So straight after we got engaged, we immediately agreed that we'd do our best to avoid all of these ridiculous expenses and to keep things as stress-free as possible. We thought we'd done a good job of it as well. My mum, Ruby, has agreed to make the cake, the reception is in my parents' garden, the dress was €200 online and my fiancé, Bryan, is allergic to flowers.

We're getting married in a registry office. Then, after the reception with our families, we're going out with our friends in the evening. It couldn't be easier, right? The one thing we can't possibly put off any longer, however, is choosing how to seat people for dinner at the reception. We've been working on it for weeks, but we still can't figure it out. 2

We're really keen to mix the relatives because they've never met, seeing as his all live in Australia. My mum and my step-dad, Jack, are extremely polite and considerate but they're also very quiet, especially with people they don't know, so they're a bit anxious about meeting Bryan's parents, Lawrence and Tanya. 3 So you can see why I'm worried the four of them will end up feeling quite awkward. Still, we really want them to get to know each other, and what better opportunity than the wedding reception?

You'd think that adding Bryan's brother, Fred, to the mix would help, what with how friendly and extroverted he is. However, wherever I seat Fred I also have to seat his best friend Steve. They have known each other for so long that they're simply inseparable. The problem with that is that Bryan's parents feel a little uneasy about them attending together. 4 So we're keeping our fingers crossed that they're on their best behaviour!

The two people who absolutely must sit next to each other are Laura, my cousin, and her mum, Rebecca. Laura's been studying in the USA and Rebecca hasn't seen her in ten months, so she's been calling me every week for three months to check that they can be next to each other. 5

Finally, there are people I just don't know what to do with. First of all, there's Mark, my dad, who's obviously very keen to attend. 6 Then there's Rob, Bryan's other brother who I really have no opinion about, although I know he and Steve don't really get along, and Nelly, my sister, who I'm really not concerned about. She's got such a bubbly personality she'll make fantastic conversation wherever we put her.

To sum up, this is definitely harder than it looks!

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