

# 4 Family structures

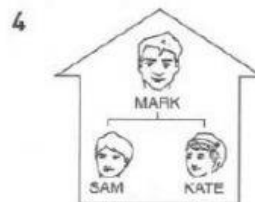
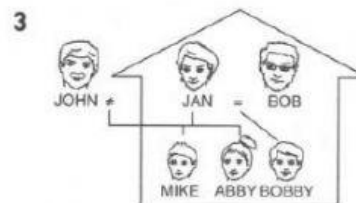
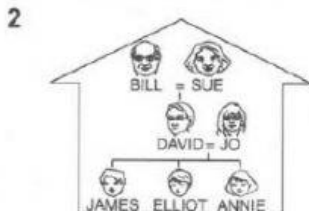
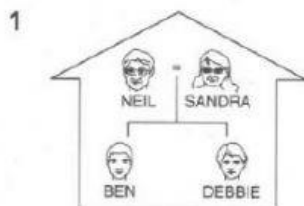
**Aims:** Signposting and structuring | Using dependent prepositions  
 Answering short questions | Completing sentences/summaries  
 Selecting from a list

## Part 1: Vocabulary



1 Match the words a-d with the family trees 1-4 below.

- a an extended family \_\_\_\_
- b a step-family \_\_\_\_
- c a nuclear family \_\_\_\_
- d a one-parent family \_\_\_\_



## 2 Read 1–8 and complete the words.

1 a member of your family	r__at__ (n)
2 to legally become husband and wife in a special ceremony	m__y (v)
3 a father or mother	p__nt (n)
4 money or property which you receive from someone who has died	in__an__ (n)
5 all the people in a family or group who live together in a house	h__h__d (n)
6 when two people are this, they have agreed to marry each other	e__a__ed (adj)
7 take someone else's child into your own family and make him/her legally your son or daughter	a__pt (v)
8 the child of your uncle or aunt	c__s__ (n)

## 3 Match the verbs 1–10 with the prepositions a–j that usually follow them.

1 participate _____	a with (person) about (thing)
2 struggle _____	b with
3 disapprove _____	c from
4 concentrate _____	d of
5 succeed _____	e in
6 care (look after) _____	f at
7 refer _____	g to
8 suffer _____	h on
9 agree _____	i in
10 aim _____	j for

**Exam tip:** In the IELTS Listening exam, your answers will need to be grammatically correct. It is important to read the questions carefully and decide what kind of word is missing. For example, some words must be followed by specific prepositions, and knowing which these are will help you write a grammatically correct answer. When you learn new verbs, make sure you know if they have a dependent preposition. A good dictionary will usually tell you this.

## 4 Complete the sentences 1–8 with verbs and prepositions from Exercise 3. You may need to change the verb form.

- Family members don't always \_\_\_\_\_ each other. In fact, they often argue!
- Marion \_\_\_\_\_ her elderly mother, who is very frail.
- Some people \_\_\_\_\_ unmarried couples living together; they think it's wrong.
- The government plans are \_\_\_\_\_ helping poor families.
- Young mothers often \_\_\_\_\_ looking after their newborn babies; the first couple of months can be very difficult.
- Children should \_\_\_\_\_ many physical activities when they are young to keep them fit and healthy and help them socialise.
- Parents can \_\_\_\_\_ many government websites for information about family support.
- Today, some mothers are the main earners in families while the father stays at home and \_\_\_\_\_ raising the children as his main responsibility.

- 5 Here are two people talking about their families. Guess the missing words 1–9. They are all from Exercises 1–4.



Jenny

My family isn't very big. There's just my son and me. I'm a single (1) \_\_\_\_\_. For the last ten years I've been (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on looking after my son James, who is now fourteen. But now I've met someone special and we've just got (3) \_\_\_\_\_. My fiancé has four kids of his own and we're going to get married in July. James is really excited about it; he's looking forward to having brothers and sisters in his new (4) \_\_\_\_\_ family!



Sheila

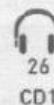
We live as one big (5) \_\_\_\_\_ family. There are seven of us in our (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Besides my husband and me and our children, there's my aunt and two of my (7) \_\_\_\_\_. I stay at home and (8) care \_\_\_\_\_ my mother because she's quite old and can't look after herself. Obviously, we (9) \_\_\_\_\_ from a lack of space in the house, but we all get on well.



Now listen and check your answers.



## Part 3: Exam practice

SECTION 4  
QUESTIONS 1–4

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- 1 Recent changes in society are eroding the traditional \_\_\_\_\_ structure.
- 2 Slightly fewer than 50% of American children under 13 live in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Statistics show that cohabiting couples are more liable \_\_\_\_\_ than married couples.
- 4 DINKS focus on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than having children.

## QUESTIONS 5–8

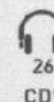


Answer the questions below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- 5 How many children in the UK now live in single parent families? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 According to some sociologists, who are responsible for the rise in single parenting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What have the largest group of lone parents never done? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Where are single parent families more likely to live? \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONS 9–10



Choose **TWO** letters, A–E.

Which two points does the lecturer give as disadvantages for living alone?

- A People living alone will need help from the community.
- B It is more likely to foster a fragmented population.
- C It creates an accommodation shortage.
- D It is more expensive for an individual to live alone.
- E People may have children too late.

9 \_\_\_\_\_

10 \_\_\_\_\_