I. Read the text and do the following task.

Types of Families

A family is a group of people that have a common ancestor. They usually live together in the same house. Although it is a fact that not all families are the same, they can be categorized into different types.

A nuclear family consists of parents and their children living together. In many countries in Europe and North American this is the most common form of family. There are three types of nuclear families. In the first type the father works and the mother cares for the children. In the second type, the mother works and the father stays at home with the children. In the third type of family, both parents work. This last type of family is the most common in the USA and Canada.

In an extended family, different family members such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins live together. In many areas of the world, such as Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Southern Europe, this type of family is common.

Recently in some countries, couples are choosing to have only one child. These types of families are called single child families. Some people believe that children raised in these kinds of families are spoilt, selfish and lonely. But research doesn't support this.

Some families have no children at all. The couples that make up these families sometimes make the choice not to have children because they want to have more free time. Some couples choose not to have children for financial reasons.

Families with only one parent are called single parent families. There are several causes of these types of families. The first reason is divorce. Another reason is that the one of the parent dies, leaving the surviving parent widowed. Additionally, some parents never get married in the first place.

When the husband or wife in a marriage brings children with them from a past marriage, this is called a blended or reconstituted family. This type of family has become more common due to the increase in divorces. For some children this kind of family can be good because there are two parents, instead of just one. But there can also be some difficulties as the two new families try to become one.

As the basis of all societies, families of all types are very important. This is true now and will be true in the future as well.

Match each description of a family on the left with a type of family on the right.

1. Two years ago Darrel and Tanya got married. Before they got married Darrel had three sons and Tanya had a daughter. Now they all live together.	Childless Family
2. Hiroshi's wife died several years ago of cancer. He now raises his two sons Tomo and Taiki by himself.	Blended Family
3. Jose and Maria live with their 3 children. They also live with their parents, an uncle and an aunt.	Single Child Family
4. Husband and wife Dalee and Meegung have been married for two years. They are both very successful business people and don't have any children.	Nuclear Family
5. Harry and his wife Jane have been married for six years. They have one daughter named Melissa.	Extended Family
6. Jack and Betty, who have been married for over 15 years, have two children named Daniel and Chirstine.	Single Parent Family

LIVEWORKSHEETS

IV. Read and fill in the blanks.

recognize	*dangers*	*generation*	*acting*	*understand*
individuals	*according*	*along*	*control*	*teens*

(1. _____) to the results of a survey in USA WEEKEND Magazine, there isn't really a generation gap. The magazine's "Teens & Parents" survey shows that today's generation of young people generally get (2. _____) well with their parents and appreciate the way they're being raised. Most feel that their parents (3. _____) them, and they believe their parents consider family as the No. 1 priority in their lives. Although more than a third of (4. _____) have something in their rooms they would like to keep secret from their parents, it is usually nothing more harmful than a diary or a CD.

Such results may seem surprising in the context of the violent events that people hear about in the media. Maybe because of the things they hear, parents worry that their own kids might get out of (5. _____) once they reach the teenage years. However, the facts in the survey should make us feel better. The survey shows us that today's teens are loving and sensible. They are certainly happier than the angry people in the teenage stereotypes we all know about. True, some teenagers are very angry, and we need to (6. _____) their needs, but the great majority of teens are not like that at all.

In contrast to some stereotypes, most teens believe they must be understanding about differences among (7. _____). Many of them volunteer for community service with disadvantaged people. When they talk about themselves, their friends and their families, they sound positive and proud. Generally, these are very nice kids.

Is this spirit of harmony a change from the past? Only a generation ago, parent child relations were described as the "(8. _____) gap". Yet even then, things were not so bad. Most kids in the 1960s and 1970s shared their parents' basic values.

Perhaps, however, it is true that American families are growing closer at the beginning of this new millennium. Perhaps there is less to fight about, and the (9. _____) of drug abuse and other unacceptable behavior are now well known. Perhaps, compared to the impersonal world outside the home, a young person's family is like a friendly shelter, not a prison. And perhaps parents are (10. _____) more like parents than they did 20 or 30 years ago.

LIVEWORKSHEETS