UNIT 1: It's personal! page 5 – 7

Read the descriptions of different families and label them with the words in red.

adoptive family blended family extended family single-parent family traditional family

1 _____
I live in Bristol with my mum, dad and brother, Tim. My parents met at university and got married when they finished their studies. I was born a year later and my brother was born when I was three years old.

2 _____
Mum and I have just got home from holiday in Spain. Mum works hard so that we can go away once a year. It may sound strange, but I have a lot of fun with my mum. There's just the two of us at home, so it's a good thing we get along!

3 _____
My dad remarried a few years ago and when he did, Josh and I got a stepmother and a stepsister! At first, it was strange living with them in the same house, but we soon got used to it. It's pretty cool, actually.

4 _____
Every summer, the whole family gets together for a party at my grandparents' house. All three generations are there – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and everyone. We have a fantastic time. For me, it's the best day of the year!

5 _____
My mum and dad aren't my biological parents. They couldn't have children of their own, so they adopted me and my sister! They love us very much and always do their best to make us happy.

3. Read the article about helping out at home and **decide on the best title** for the article.
   a. Top tips for a clean home.
   b. When a household falls apart.
   c. How to treat teenagers.

Dirty dishes in the sink, dusty furniture, grubby carpets, filthy floors, unmade beds, overflowing rubbish bins and smelly laundry in the basket.
Could you live in such a mess?

In the past, women stayed at home and did all of the household chores while men went out to work. The father or sons rarely helped, but sometimes the daughters did. However, those days are long gone. 1 ☐ But despite this change, many teenagers believe that their parents, and more particularly their mothers, are the only ones who should pick up, tidy, wash, clean and clear. Are you one of those teens? Or do you help out?



It's a sad fact that just when children are mature enough to really help in the house they become too involved with their schoolwork, part-time jobs and other activities to be of much help. They always seem too busy to lend a hand around the house. Even so, teenagers should be careful not to make extra work for others. 2 ☐ The truth is that no one is too busy to do these simple chores, and anyone claiming otherwise is probably just being lazy. So what happens when parents become sick and tired of their children's excuses?

Jessica Stilwell faced this very problem. Her three daughters didn't lift a finger at home. So she went on strike. It all began on a typically busy Saturday, when Jessica was rushing around all over the town, taking her daughters to and from sports, shopping for the family and running errands. That evening, when she put her feet up for the first time all day, she looked around at the mess in her home and realised, with a shock, that she hadn't made any of it. Stilwell went on strike there and then, and stayed on strike for six days. 3 ☐ Incredibly, they didn't even notice what was happening until day three of the strike. By

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then, dishes had piled up in the sink, dirty plates were still on the dining table and smelly socks were on the bedroom floors. **4** ☐ It wasn't until day five that the girls started to clean up the house, blaming one another for the mess. During the clean-up, Stilwell sat on the sofa drinking coffee that her daughters had made for her.

Stilwell says it was shocking to see how much of what she did for her children were things that they were perfectly capable of doing on their own. She hadn't asked them to help because she didn't want to argue with them, or because it was faster and simpler to do it herself. **5** ☐

What's the situation in your home? Do you do your fair share or do you expect others to clean up after you? If your mum or dad went on strike, who would break first, them or you?

4 **Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

A What this means is that they should keep their rooms tidy, leave bathrooms clean, pick up after themselves and wash their dishes once in a while.

B Another option was to ask her girls to sign contracts, which clearly outlined which chores each one was to do regularly.

C Her daughters complained about the 'disgusting' house, but it apparently hadn't offended them enough to clean it.

D Nowadays, women have jobs and successful careers, leaving them little time to deal with the large number of tasks that a household requires.

E Interestingly, these are the main reasons parents give for not pressing their children to help at home.

F She didn't actually tell her children; she just stopped doing the chores.

5 **Complete the sentences with the correct form of these expressions.**

be sick and tired | do your fair share | lend a hand | not lift a finger | put your feet up | run errands

1 Jenny shares a flat with two other university students and they all _____ to keep the place clean and tidy; no one does more or less than anyone else.

2 Jim's not at home right now; he's _____ for his dad, but he'll be back later.

3 I **am** _____ of asking you to clean your room, so there's no pocket money for you this week!

4 You look exhausted, Terry! Why don't you _____ and I'll bring you a nice cup of tea?

5 I've got a lot to do today and it would be a big help if you could _____.

6 While I cooked a three-course dinner, my husband watched TV and _____!

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