

Adjectives Referring to Family Relations

Match the adjectives from the box to their definitions.

ancestral	avuncular	conjugal	cousinly
filial	fraternal	grandparental	marital
maternal	nepotic / nepotistic	parental	paternal
sibling	sororal	spousal	

Relating to a mother or motherhood. _____

Relating to a father or fatherhood. _____

Relating to the relationship of a child to their parents. _____

Relating to brothers, or brotherly. _____

Relating to sisters, or sisterly. _____

Relating to an uncle; often used more broadly to mean kind and protective like an uncle.

Relating to a nephew or (more commonly) favoritism toward relatives, especially by giving them jobs. _____

Relating to parents or parental authority. _____

Relating to marriage or the relationship between spouses. _____

Relating to the married relationship, especially the physical or legal aspects of marriage.

Relating to a spouse (husband or wife). _____

Relating to brothers and sisters. _____

Relating to cousins, or friendly like cousins. _____

Relating to a grandparent. _____

Relating to ancestors or family heritage. _____

Complete each sentence with one of the adjectives above.

Children need both guidance and affection from their _____ figures.

He spent every summer with his _____ relatives in Italy.

His _____ duties included telling bedtime stories.

His teacher had an _____ approach, guiding the students patiently.

She inherited her _____ grandmother's necklace.

She offered _____ advice when her younger sister needed guidance.

She received health insurance through her _____ benefits.

The couple enjoyed their _____ rights after the wedding.

The mayor was accused of _____ practices after hiring his cousin.

The son showed _____ respect by caring for his elderly parents.

The two teammates had a _____ bond.

Their _____ rivalry continued well into adulthood.

They greeted each other with _____ warmth.

They returned to their _____ home in the countryside.

They went to counseling to work on their _____ issues.

Specialized / Technical Family-Relation Adjectives (Anthropology, Law, Kinship Studies)

Complete the sample sentences following the definitions using one of the adjectives from the box.

affinal	agnatic	bilateral	cognatic
collateral	consanguineous	lineal	matrilineal
patrilineal	uxorial		

Definition: Relating to a wife.

Sentence: Her _____ duties included managing the household.

Definition: Relating to descent or inheritance through the male line.

Sentence: The throne passed according to _____ succession.

Definition: Relating to descent or inheritance traced through both the male and female lines.

Sentence: Modern legal systems often recognize _____ inheritance rights.

Definition: Relating to people who are blood relatives (descended from the same ancestor).

Sentence: The law forbids marriage between close _____ relatives.

Definition: Relating to kinship by marriage (in-laws).

Sentence: His _____ relatives welcomed him warmly at family gatherings.

Definition: Relating to direct descent (parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren).

Sentence: Only _____ descendants were eligible to inherit the estate.

Definition: Relating to relatives who are not in the direct line of descent (siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles).

Sentence: She left her fortune to her _____ heirs.

Definition: Descent or inheritance traced through the father's line.

Sentence: In a(n) _____ system, property is passed from father to son.

Definition: Descent or inheritance traced through the mother's line.

Sentence: Some Indigenous groups follow a(n) _____ system.

Definition: Recognizing both sides of the family equally for descent and inheritance.

Sentence: Western societies usually follow _____ kinship.