

# The Biggest Circus Family IN THE WORLD

by Zach Malicek



1 My name's Zach, and I'm from a big family . I mean, it's a really big family. My last  
2 name is Malicek. Maybe you don't know us, but we're the biggest circus family in  
3 the world. We're "The Flying Maliceks"! We weren't always the biggest circus act,  
4 though. When my grandpa Viktor started as a trapeze performer in Slovakia, there  
5 was only one Flying Malicek: him! My grandpa moved to the United Kingdom when  
6 he was about 20 years old. He quickly found a circus job working in his new  
7 country. A few years later, Grandpa Viktor married my grandma Irina. Grandpa  
8 taught my grandma how to perform on the trapeze, and soon there were two  
9 Flying Maliceks. My grandma didn't perform all the time, though. She took time off  
10 to have a few babies. She had eight of them, actually! My father Daniel is the  
11 youngest child in the family. He has five brothers and two sisters – my uncles and  
12 aunts. All of them learned to perform on the trapeze when they were children. The  
13 people at the circus love watching the Flying Maliceks. And we all love watching  
14 their excited faces when we fly through the air. My grandpa and grandma are  
15 getting older now. They retired from performing about five years ago. But the  
16 Flying Maliceks aren't getting smaller – we're getting bigger! I have two older  
17 sisters, and we all perform in the act. My aunts and uncles all have children; and  
18 they perform, too. In total there are 37 of us! Can you believe it?

19 Last year, we were on TV. We had our own reality show called Circus Family.  
20 Some people from the TV show followed us around with cameras all the time. It  
21 was exciting, but sometimes I wanted them to go away! One special thing  
22 happened when we were on that show. My cousin Gillian met a cameraman, and  
23 six months ago they got married. Now he's learning the trapeze, too!

**Read and answer the questions:**

**1. Who was the first Flying Malicek? EVIDENCE:**

- A. He was Zach's brother.
- B. He was Zach's grandfather.
- C. He was Zach's father.

**2. What happened some years after Zach's grandfather moved to the United Kingdom? EVIDENCE:**

- A. He got married with Irina.
- B. Viktor was 20 years old.
- C. Viktor started as a trapeze performer.

**3. Why didn't his grandmother perform all the time? EVIDENCE:**

- A. Because she didn't know how to perform.
- B. Because she didn't work in a circus.
- C. Because she took time off to have babies.

**4. How many aunts and uncles does Zach have in total? EVIDENCE:**

- A. He has eight.
- B. He has five.
- C. He has seven.

**5. Does all Zach's family perform in the circus now?**

- A. True
- B. False

**6. Did Zach's cousin get married when participated in the TV show?**

- A. True
- B. False

**7. The first paragraph of the story is**

- A. The title
- B. Introduction
- C. body