Extreme Family Ties

1) Read the article and tick A, B, or C.

Family can be an important part of a person's life, and for some nationalities being close to your family is more important than it is to others. For example, families in Southern Europe are generally quite close, although in the past they spent even more time together. This is also true of families in the Middle East. But it is the Bedouin people who have the closest ties of all.

Traditional Bedouin families live in large tents about half the size of a basketball court. The tents are divided into two sections: the first is for receiving guests in true Bedouin style - they have the reputation of being the world's most generous hosts. Visitors are always served a big meal as soon as they arrive. The second part of the tent is the family's shared kitchen, living room, dining room, and bedroom. They don't have tables and chairs, as the whole family sits on the floor to eat. And instead of beds, everybody sleeps on mattresses, which are piled into a corner of the room during the day.

Several generations usually share the tent. The head of the family is the mother, and she is the one who gives the orders. Her husband and her children live with her, even when the children are married and have their own children. The sons and sons-in-law look after the animals, while the daughters and daughters-in-law clean the tent, cook the meals, and look after the younger grandchildren. The older ones are left to run around outside. There may often be as many as 30 people under the same roof.

The few young people who have left the family to live in the city visit their mothers nearly every day. It can be quite a surprise to see a shiny new Mercedes pull up outside one of the tents and watch a smart young man get out to greet his relatives.

Bedouin people do not like to be separated from their families and there is a very good reason why. If they are poor, sick, old, or unemployed, it is the family that supports them. Elderly people are never left alone, and problems are always shared. Children who work in the city are often responsible for their families financially. In this way, Bedouin families aren't just close; they are a lifeline.

1 Family is not very important for families in Southern Europa and the Middle East

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

2 Bedouin families are well known for hosting big parties inside their tents.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

3 Each member of the family has their own space inside the tent.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

4 The mattresses piled into a corner of the room are used as sofas during the day.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

5 Besouin women are considered bossy because they are in charge of the family and the house.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

6 More and more Bedouin families are separated every year.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

2) Read the article again. Choose the correct answers according to the information given.

1 In the past, most families in Southern Europe and the Middle East were...

a smaller. b closer. c richer.

2 There isn't much... in a Bedouin tent.

a furniture b light c space

3 Bedouin... spend most of the day inside.

a men b women c children

4 Young Bedouins who live in the city...

a hardly ever go home. b don't earn much money.

c don't lose touch with their families.

5 Members of a Bedouin family help each other to...

a survive. b get a job. c choose clothes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3) Complete the sentences with a family word.

1 Your mother and father are your _____.

2 Your grandfather's father is your _____.

3 A child who has no brothers or sisters is an _____.

4 Your brother's daughter is your _____.

5 Your father's sister is your _____.

6 Your partner, your children, your parents, and your brothers and sisters are your _____.

7 Your father's new wife is your _____.

4) Choose the correct form.

1 My brother hates his job. He *'s going to look for / shall look for* a new one.

2 My mother *doesn't usually cook / isn't cooking* at the weekend.

3 We *have / 're having* lunch with my parents every Saturday at 12 o'clock.

4 *Will / Shall* we invite your siblings to the anniversary party?

5 *Do you prefer / Are you preferring* Saturday or Sunday for the family gathering?

5) Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 I _____ (meet) Mum outside the café at 9.00.

2 Dad's in the garden. He _____ (cut) the grass.

3 A: Are you ready to order?

B: Yes, I _____ (have) the steak.

4 My boyfriend's on a diet so he _____ on fried food (cut down).

5 I'm going to the shops. I _____ long (not/be)

6 We always _____ (get) together on Sundays.

6) Choose the correct personality adjective.

1 When I want something, my parents always give it to me.

a spoilt b selfish c sensible

2 I don't like my boyfriend talking to other women.

a independent b stubborn c jealous

3 I'm always there when my friends need my help.

a ambitious b reliable c kind

4 That's what I think and I'm not going to change my mind.

a tidy b organized c stubborn

5 I'm going to stay in bed all day long.

a mature b lazy c kind

Your Own Family Ties

Write about living with your family (140-180 words).

- Introduce and describe the people you live with.
- Describe your relationship.
- Describe your family routines and shared spaces.

LIVEWORKSHEETS