

## BLENDING FAMILIES.

Fill in the blanks with words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need.

achieved      argument      break      bullies      challenge  
common      couple      divorce      guilty  
nuclear      popular      previous      proud      reality  
challenges      relationship

A stepfamily, or blended family, is a \_\_\_\_\_ with at least one child from a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship who lives with them all the time or some of the time.

These families often have an image problem. In old fairy tales stepmothers are wicked and stepsisters are \_\_\_\_\_. When you see a stepfamily in one of your favourite TV soap operas they usually have \_\_\_\_\_ with other family members. That is why the phrase “blended family” is often used instead of stepfamily.

Family life has faced many \_\_\_\_\_ over the past half century. Traditional \_\_\_\_\_ families – mother, father and two children – are a lot less \_\_\_\_\_ today. About 40% of all marriages end in \_\_\_\_\_.

Today, over 2.5 million children in the UK live in stepfamilies. Most of them start when the birth parents \_\_\_\_\_ up and find new partners.

Being part of a stepfamily can really be a \_\_\_\_\_ for children. An important factor is the way the birth parents deal with the end of their \_\_\_\_\_. They need to be careful not to talk too much about their ex-partner or his/her faults. Children sometimes also feel \_\_\_\_\_ about liking their stepparent too much, because they may think that they are betraying their birth parent.

Although, while it may be hard at first, being in a stepfamily can provide all members with a new life and a feeling that they have \_\_\_\_\_ something worthwhile.