

Lessons 11-12 Working families

Reading

What do you think Farah's parents do?

Read and find out.



Hi. I'm Farah. I live in a villa with my parents, three brothers and two sisters and our three housemaids. I'm 15 and I am the eldest of the children.

Both my parents work. My mother works in a hospital. She started working at a local hospital last month. It's her first job. She has quite a long day and she has to work shifts. Sometimes her shifts start before I get up and finish after I get home from school. Although my grandmother didn't go out to work, my grandparents encouraged my mother to train for a job she loves and where she helps other people.

My father also works long hours. He works in sales and is the manager of an import and export company. His job involves buying products from different countries and selling them to others. The market for his products is international. One disadvantage is that he has very long days and we don't see him as often as we'd like to. On the other hand, he has opportunities to travel all over the world for his work. So, even though he can be away from home for two or three weeks at a time, he gets to see some amazing places and always has great stories to tell!

Clearly there are times when it can be difficult for our family, especially when Mum and Dad are working long hours. But the advantage of having housemaids is that my mum isn't expected to do the housework too. When my mother gets home from work, she prepares the evening meal and the housemaids take care of my younger siblings! So overall, everything works well.

Family life is changing quite quickly here. However, in my opinion, it's good for both men and women to be able to choose what they want to do. I'm definitely going to choose what I want to do when I leave school, but at the moment, I'm not sure what to do!

Read the text again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Farah's mother works in a hospital.
- 2 Farah's grandparents wanted her mother to work.
- 3 Shift work means Farah's mother works the same hours every day.
- 4 Farah's father is an international businessman.
- 5 The housemaids cook the evening meal.
- 6 Farah thinks family life will stay the same as it has always been.

