

MODERN FAMILY

1 VOCABULARY & SPEAKING family

a Talk to a partner. What's the difference between...?

- 1 a father and a parent
- 2 a mother and a stepmother
- 3 a brother and a brother-in-law
- 4 a stepsister and a half-sister
- 5 a grandfather and a great-grandfather
- 6 an adopted child and an only child
- 7 brothers and sisters and siblings
- 8 your immediate family and your extended family

The modern family

Family life is changing all over the world, and it's not just the structure of the family, but also its habits. The results of several recent American surveys showed some surprising statistics.

Family structure

69% of families have married parents.

23% are single-parent families.

Only of the single parents are men.



of families have **one** child, have **two**, and **38%** have three or more.

40% of families have stepchildren.

On average **women** get married at and **men** at .

Family habits

40% of families eat together fewer than three times a week, and never eat at the same time.

They go on vacation together as a family **seven** days a year.

An estimated % of people have brothers or sisters who they **never speak to** or contact.



60% of parents say chores, discipline, and family activities are shared equally in homes with two full-time working parents.

The average family has **arguments** each day, and the most common cause is children refusing to clean their messy bedrooms or complaining about food.



10

b Read *The modern family* and try to guess what the missing numbers are. Choose from the list.

4% 6 5% 10% 21% 27 29 41%

c 1.14 Listen and check. Are there any statistics in the article that you think would be very different in your country? Why?

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SPEAKING

- d Read the questions and think about your answers. Then ask and answer in pairs or small groups.

Do you have a big family? Who do you live with?

How often do you...?

- have a meal with your family
- go out for a meal or to the movies, etc., with a family member
- go on vacation with your family

Do you spend more of your free time with family or friends? Why?

Are there any members of your family who you have very little contact with? Why?

What do you and your family mainly argue about? Do you ever argue about cleaning or food?



Politely refusing to talk about something

Occasionally, you may be asked a question that you feel uncomfortable answering. Respond politely with *I'm sorry, I'd rather not talk about that.*

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2 GRAMMAR future forms

- a  1.15 Listen to three conversations between different family members. Match them to cartoons A–C. What are the people talking about?



- b Listen again and complete two sentences from each conversation.

- 1 a I'm not to college.
- b you a cup of coffee.
- 2 c I overnight there.
- d It cold tonight.
- 3 e You too fast.
- f I really careful.

- c With a partner, decide which sentence (a–f) is...

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ a plan or intention | ☐ an arrangement |
| ☐ a prediction | ☐ a promise |
| ☐ an offer | |

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3 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING

sentence stress

🔍 Sentence stress

In spoken English, we stress the “content” words – the words in a sentence that carry the information. We don’t stress the other words. Being aware of this will help you to speak with a natural rhythm and understand spoken English better.

- a 1.20 Read the sentence. Do you think the pink words are stressed or unstressed? Listen and check.

I'm going to look for a job.

- b**  **1.21** Listen to four more sentences. Write the stressed words in the pink boxes.

- e Ask and answer the questions with a partner. Try to get the correct rhythm.

Is anyone in your family...?

- getting married in the near future
- traveling abroad this month
- having a baby this year
- celebrating their birthday soon

Are you going to...?

- do something with a family member this week
- have a big family get-together soon
- go on vacation with your family this year
- visit a relative this weekend

Do you think...?

- more couples will have just one child in the future
- more young adults will live with their parents in the future
- anyone in your family will live to be 90 or older
- you'll move away from (or back to) the area where your family lives



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4 VOCABULARY adjectives of personality

- a Complete the opposite adjectives in sentences 1–5.

Opposites attract



- 1 She's extroverted, but he's sh[].
- 2 She's generous, but he's c[][][][].
- 3 She's hardworking, but he's l[][][][].
- 4 She's talkative, but he's q[][][][][].
- 5 She's funny, but he's se[][][][][].

b p.153 Vocabulary Bank Personality

- a Complete the sentences with adjectives from the list.

affectionate /ə'fekʃənət/ ambitious /æm'bɪʃəs/
 anxious /æŋkʃəs/ bossy /'bɒsi/ charming /tʃɑːmɪŋ/
 competitive /kəm'petətɪv/ honest /'ɒnəst/
 imaginative /ɪ'mædʒənətɪv/ independent /ɪndɪ'pendənt/
 insecure /ɪnsɪ'kyʊr/ mature /mə'tʃʊr/ moody /'muːdi/
 patient /'peɪʃnt/ rebellious /rɪ'bɛljəs/ reliable /rɪ'laɪəbl/
 self-confident /self 'kɒnfədənt/ selfish /'selfɪʃ/
 sensible /'sensəbl/ sensitive /'sensətɪv/
 sociable /'səʊfəbl/ spoiled /spɔɪld/ stubborn /'stʌbɔːn/

False friends: sensible, sensitive, and sympathetic

Some words in English are very similar to words in other languages, but have different meanings. Be careful with these three adjectives, which may be false friends in your language.

sensible = practical (**NOT** easily-upset)

sensitive = easily hurt (**NOT** practical)

sympathetic = kind to somebody who is hurt or sad (**NOT** nice, friendly)

- 1 **Selfish** people think about themselves and not about other people.
- 2 **Spoiled** children are rude and behave badly because they are given everything they want.
- 3 **Mature** people behave like adults.
- 4 **Honest** people always tell the truth and never steal or cheat.
- 5 **Charming** people have an attractive personality and people like them.
- 6 **Sensible** people have common sense and are practical.
- 7 **Sociable** people are friendly and enjoy being with other people. **SYN** outgoing
- 8 **Anxious** people are often worried or stressed.
- 9 **Imaginative** people have a good imagination.
- 10 **Independent** people like doing things on their own, without help.
- 11 **Bossy** people like telling other people what to do.
- 12 **Insecure** people are not confident about themselves.
- 13 **Sensitive** people can be easily hurt or offended.
- 14 **Stubborn** people never change their opinion or attitude about something.
- 15 **Patient** people can wait for a long time or accept difficulties without getting angry.
- 16 **Ambitious** people want to be successful in life.
- 17 **Reliable** people are ones who you can trust or depend on. **SYN** responsible
- 18 **Self-confident** people are sure of themselves and their abilities.
- 19 **Rebellious** people don't like obeying rules.
- 20 **Moody** people have moods that change quickly and often.
- 21 **Competitive** people always want to win.
- 22 **Affectionate** people show that they love or like other people very much.

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2 NEGATIVE PREFIXES

Negative prefixes

un-, *in-*, and *dis-* are common negative prefixes.
in- changes to *im-* (before *b*, *m*, and *p*), *ir-* (before *r*),
and *il-* (before *l*).

- a Which prefix do you use with these adjectives?
Put them in the correct column.

ambitious clean friendly honest imaginative kind
mature organized patient reliable responsible
selfish sensitive sociable

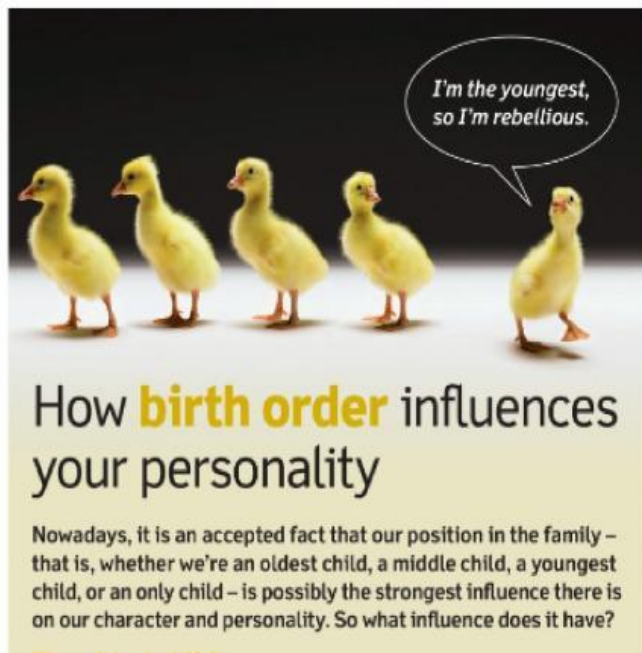
<i>un-</i> / <i>dis-</i>	<i>in-</i> / <i>im-</i> / <i>ir-</i>
<i>unambitious</i>	
	

- b  1.23 Listen and check. Which adjective + prefix
has a positive meaning?

6 READING

- a What's your position in your family?
Are you the oldest child, a middle child,
the youngest child, or an only child?
- b Look at four groups of adjectives. Which
group do you think goes with each
position in the family (e.g., the oldest)?
- 1 outgoing, charming, and disorganized
 - 2 responsible, ambitious, and anxious
 - 3 self-confident, independent, and spoiled
 - 4 sociable, sensitive, and unambitious
- c Read the article and check your answers.

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The only child

Only children usually do very well at school because they have a lot of contact with adults. They get a lot of love and attention from their parents, so they're typically self-confident. They're also independent because they spend so much time by themselves. And because ⁶, they're often very organized. Only children can sometimes be spoiled because ⁷ by their parents. They can also be very selfish and get impatient, especially when things go wrong. This is because ⁸.

The oldest child

Firstborn children often have to look after their younger brothers and sisters, so they're usually sensible and responsible as adults. They also tend to be ambitious and they make good leaders. On the negative side, oldest children can be insecure and anxious. This is because ¹ H.

The middle child

Middle children are more relaxed than the oldest children, probably because ². They're usually very sociable – the kind of people who get along with everybody. They are also usually sensitive to what other people need because ³. For the same reason, they're often good at dealing with arguments, and they're always sympathetic to the ones on the losing side, or in general, to people who are having problems. On the other hand, middle children can sometimes be unambitious, and they can lack direction in life.

The youngest child

Youngest children are often very outgoing and charming. This is the way they try to get the attention of both their parents and their older brothers and sisters. They are often more rebellious, and this is probably because ⁴. They can also be immature and disorganized, and they often depend too much on other people, because ⁵.

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- d Read the article again and complete it with reasons A–H.

- A they grew up between older and younger brothers and sisters
- B it's easier for them to break the rules – by the time they were born, their parents were more relaxed about discipline
- C their parents were more relaxed themselves by the time the second child arrived
- D they are given everything they ask for
- E they have always been the baby of the family
- F they spend a lot of time with adults
- G they've never had to deal with problems with other brothers and sisters
- H when the second child was born, they lost some of their parents' attention, and maybe they felt rejected

- e Re-read the paragraph that applies to you. Do you think the description of personality is true for you? Are any of the other descriptions true for people you know, e.g., your brothers and sisters, or friends?

7 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a You're going to hear two people talking about a time when they or one of their siblings behaved badly. Look at some words from each story. With a partner, try to predict what happened.

Dan's story

brother teenagers fighting stabbed
finger pen accident
horrified blood mom angry hospital

Marilyn's story

sister parrot cage let out fly
bedroom looked everywhere cried window
hidden cupboard frightened horrible

- b  1.25 Listen to the stories. Were your predictions correct?

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- c Listen again and answer the questions for Dan and Marilyn. Who do you think behaved worse, Dan or Marilyn's sister? 📄

- 1 How old were they?
- 2 Where were they?
- 3 What bad thing did they or their sibling do?
- 4 What happened in the end?
- 5 How do Dan's brother and Marilyn show that they've never forgotten what happened?

- d Work in pairs. **A**, you are Dan's brother. **B**, you are Marilyn's sister. Retell the two stories from your point of view.

I have a twin brother named Dan, and we used to fight a lot when we were teenagers. One day,...



- e Can you remember a time when you were young and you behaved very badly toward a sibling or a friend, or they did to you? Tell the story, answering the questions in c.

- a Read Alice's "self-portrait" poem. Then write your own poem using the instructions below. 📄

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Alice

affectionate, honest, imaginative, moody

oldest daughter of Richard and Billie

likes music, chai lattes, and sunny days

afraid of elevators and other small spaces

would like to see elephants in the wild

Williams

Instructions

- line 1 – your first name
line 2 – four adjectives that describe you
line 3 – where you are in your family, and your parents' names
line 4 – three things you like
line 5 – something you are afraid of
line 6 – something you would like to do
line 7 – your last name

- b 📖 p.115 **Writing** A description of a person Write an email describing a friend.

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