11 Families

A A family history



Marilyn Monroe, also known by the **nicknames** MM or The Blonde Bombshell, was an **only child** from a **single-parent family**. She had an unhappy **childhood** and spent much of it with **foster parents**. One couple wanted to **adopt** her, but it wasn't possible, and at the age of 16, she **got married**. In fact, in her short life (she died at 36), she had a **complicated** love life: she married three times, and **got divorced** three times. **According to** Hollywood **sources**, she also had many **romantic** relationships with people such as Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra.

GLOSSARY

nickname	an informal name, not your real name, which may be connected with your personality or appearance	**married**	having a husband or wife: ***get married (to sb)*** SYN **marry (sb)** *v*
only child	a child with no brothers or sisters	**complicated**	difficult to understand because it has a lot of different parts
single parent	a mother or father who looks after her/his children alone: ***a single-parent family***	**divorced**	no longer married: ***get divorced*** SYN **divorce** *v*, ALSO *n*
childhood	the time when you are a child	**according to sb/sth**	as sb or sth says (NOT ~~according to me~~)
foster parent	sb who takes care of another person's child in their home for a period of time	**source**	sb or sth that provides information, often for a piece of work or the news
adopt a child	take sb's child into your family and legally make them your child	**romantic**	about love; full of feelings of love

1 Cover the text above. True or False? Write *T* or *F*. If the sentences are false, correct them.

▶ Marilyn Monroe's nickname was MM. T

1 Her other nickname was The Blonde Baby. .....

2 She was an only child. .....

3 She grew up with her parents. .....

4 She was adopted. .....

5 She had a happy childhood. .....

6 She got divorced twice. .....

7 People say she had a romantic relationship with Frank Sinatra. .....

8 She died at 36. .....

2 Match the words from the boxes.

foster ✓	a child	get	single	get	according	only
divorced	parent	to somebody	adopt	child	parents ✓	married

▶ foster parents ....

....

3 Complete the text.

My mother is a ▶ single parent. She had me a year after she got married, but got **(1)** ..... two years later, and didn't have any more children, so, I am an **(2)** ..... child. But, I had a happy **(3)** ..... and **(4)** ..... to my aunt, who lived with us some of the time, I never talked about my father. My aunt had a very different childhood. She was **(5)** ..... by my grandparents when she was five. Her name is Gloria, but everyone knows her by her **(6)** ....., which is Gigi. She was married to a man called Enzo, but she wasn't happy with him, and she got **(7)** ..... after about five years. I was told by one **(8)** ..... (I won't say who that is) that Gigi had a number of **(9)** ..... relationships with several pop stars when she was a young woman. I don't know if these stories are true, but her love life was very **(10)** .....

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Coincidences

I'm a **twin** (with an **identical** twin sister). My twin sister is married, and last year she **gave birth to** identical twin boys. Is that just a **coincidence**?

My sister's husband, my **brother-in-law**, has two **siblings** (who are sisters). Their husbands are from London, but **previous generations** of their families **originally** came from the same city in Poland. Another coincidence?

I also have a younger brother. His girlfriend **is related to** a family who lived in the same house as my parents, ten years before they did. Is this just another coincidence?

GLOSSARY

twin	one of two people who have the same mother and were born at the same time
identical	exactly the same
coincidence	when two things happen in the same way or at the same time, both of them surprising
brother-in-law	**1** the husband of your sister **2** the brother of your husband or wife ALSO **sister/mother/daughter-in-law,** etc.
sibling *formal*	a brother or sister
previous	coming or happening before or earlier
generation	all the people in a family born at about the same time
originally	in the beginning, before other things happened
be related (to sb)	be in the same family as sb **relative/ relation** *n*

SPOTLIGHT *birth*

When a woman **gives birth**, she has a baby, and the day that baby **is born** is their **date of birth**, e.g. 07/05/1998. Every year, on the day of their birth, people celebrate their **birthday**.

4 ***Yes* or *No*?**

▶ Is your mother-in-law your mother? No

1 Is your son your sibling? .....

2 Are your cousins your relatives? .....

3 Is your daughter-in-law your son's wife? .....

4 Is it a coincidence when one thing happens after another thing? .....

5 Are you and your father from the same generation? .....

6 Is your date of birth the day you were born? .....

7 Do identical twins look exactly the same? .....

8 Can a father give birth to a baby? .....

5 **Complete the sentences.**

▶ I have two sisters who are identical twins .

1 Three ..... of my family have lived in the same house: my grandparents, my parents, and now my brother and his wife.

2 Some of my ..... live abroad: my father's parents are in Naples, and two of my cousins live in Paris.

3 What's your ..... of birth?

4 My ..... -in- ..... is always giving me advice. My wife finds him a bit annoying.

5 My sister gave ..... yesterday to a baby boy, weighing just over three kilos.

6 Both of my parents had the same family name before they got married. That's an incredible ....., isn't it?

6 **Complete the words in these questions.**

ABOUT YOU

▶ Have you got a brother- or sister -in-law ?

1 Have you got any s.....?

2 Do different g..... of your family live in the same home? If so, who?

3 Are you r..... to any people who live in a different country? If so, who?

4 Where did your family come from o.....? Do you know?

5 Where do/did the p..... generations of your family live?

6 Do you know any tw.....? Are they i.....?

7 ABOUT YOU **Write your own answers to Exercise 6, or ask another student.**

▶ Have you got a brother- or sister-in-law?
Yes, I've got a sister-in-law called Caitlin. My brother married her two years ago.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS