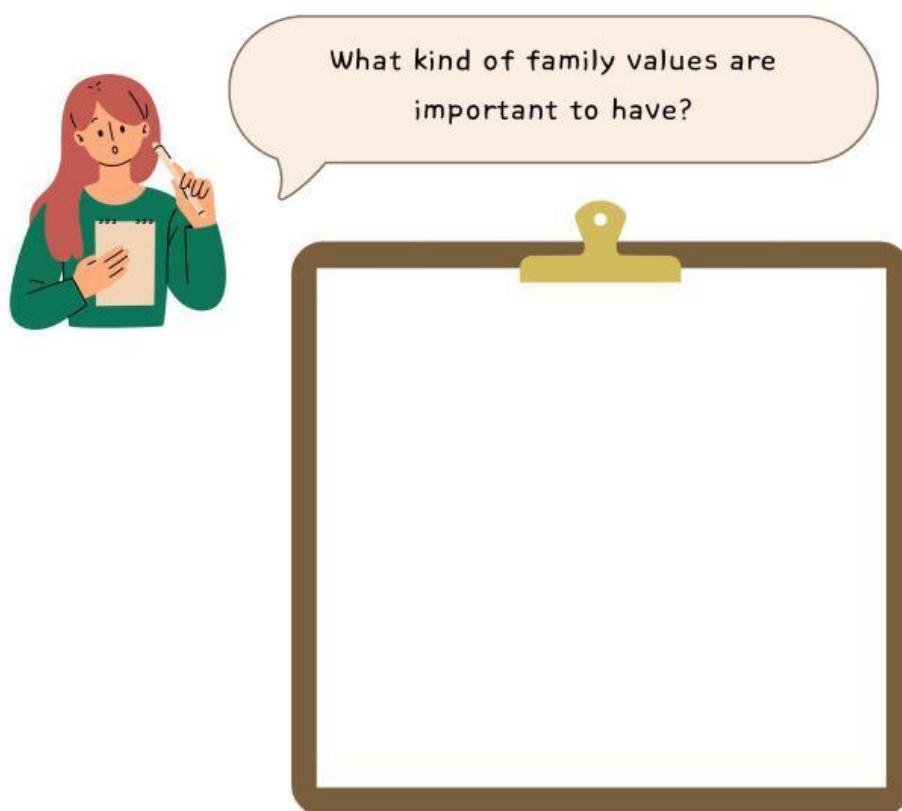




Discussion

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word family?
2. Do you think the meaning of "family" has changed over time?
3. Can people who aren't related by blood still be considered family?
4. What makes a family strong, in your opinion?

Quick Brainstorm



Read the following text.

What Makes a Family Strong?

Families come in many forms: nuclear, blended, single-parent, or childless, but emotional connection remains at the heart of each one. A recent survey explored what makes a family strong in today's world. Five individuals from different countries shared their experiences and views on family life.

Ava, from the Philippines, grew up in an extended family. Her grandparents, aunts, and cousins live nearby, and she says communication is the key. "In my family, we talk about everything: problems, plans, and feelings," she said. "It doesn't need a special occasion." Her family often talks while tending to their small garden. "Those moments are when we truly connect," she added.



Lucas, from Brazil, lives with his single mother after his parents' divorce. He believes support is essential. "It doesn't matter how many people are in your family," he said. "What matters is that you feel cared for." His mother's encouragement through financial struggles taught him that family means being present in difficult times.

Gemma, from the UK, comes from a blended family. When her parents remarried to a Japanese, she gained two step-siblings. "It was difficult at first," she admitted. "But we learned to respect each other's differences." Over time, shared activities such as family dinners and trips helped them grow close. "Now I feel lucky to belong to two families instead of one."

Zayd, from Morocco, studies engineering in Germany. For him, connection matters most. "Even though I live far from home, I still feel close to my family," he said. "We video call every weekend." He believes that technology helps keep families united, although nothing can replace being together in person.

Sienna, from Canada, grew up in foster care after being neglected by her biological parents. As an adult, she and her partner decided to stay a childless family by choice. "For me, family means love, not blood," she said. They spend quality time with close friends and volunteer at a youth center. "We try to give the care and stability I once missed."

Strong families are often defined not by their structure, but by shared values such as open communication, mutual support, mutual respect, strong connections, and quality time together. These values consistently appeared across different family types and cultures, suggesting that emotional bonds and mutual understanding play a key role in maintaining family strength.

Discussions

- Which person do you agree with most? Why?
- Which type of family from the text is most common in your country?
- What values make families strong in your culture?

Match the words with their meanings.

extended family		A	The act of ignoring / failing to care for someone properly.
to tend to		B	A family that includes relatives beyond parents and children.
nuclear family		C	Very important or necessary.
foster care		D	The basic family unit of parents and their children living together.
neglect		E	To give someone confidence, support, or hope.
emotional bond		F	To look after or care for.

diversity		G	Temporary care provided for children by people who are not their biological parents.
heritage		H	A deep feeling of connection between people.
mutual		I	The cultural background, traditions, and history passed down through generations.
encourage		J	Shared equally by two or more people; felt or done by each toward the other.
essential		K	The presence of many different types of people or things within a group.

Fill the gaps with the correct words/phrases from the previous exercise.

1. Growing up in a _____, Eliya often spent weekends visiting her cousins and grandparents who lived in the same village.
2. After their parents passed away, the twins were placed in _____ until a permanent home was found.
3. In many cultures, showing respect to elders is considered _____ to maintaining harmony at home.
4. Carlos and his father share a strong _____ through their love of playing guitar together.
5. The organization aims to _____ young people to stay in school and follow their goals.
6. Mei and her classmate Hana have a _____ understanding of each other's struggles because they both study abroad.
7. When parents work long hours and forget to spend time with their children, it can sometimes feel like _____.
8. During the summer, my grandfather loves _____ his small vegetable garden behind the house.

9. Kenya is known for its cultural _____, with many ethnic groups and languages living side by side.
10. Amir and his sister come from a typical _____, with two parents and two children living under one roof.

Writing Task: "What Makes a Family Strong?"

Write a short article (120–150 words) about **what makes a family strong in your culture**. Mention one or two important family values, and explain them with examples or experiences.

Try to include at least five words or phrases from this list:

communication – connection – support – mutual – emotional bond – diversity – neglect – extended family – essential – encourage – respect – heritage

Before you start...

Think about your own culture or community:

- What makes families stay strong?
- What do families usually do together?
- Which values are important (e.g., respect, communication, support, quality time)?
- Are families large, small, traditional, or modern?

Follow the structure:

1. Paragraph 1 – Introduction
2. Paragraph 2 – Main ideas and examples
3. Paragraph 3 – Conclusion

What Makes Family Strong?