

Read these short texts. Then for each question, choose the correct answer



FAMILIES

A Claire

I've got two older brothers. My mum and dad are a lot of fun. They like all kinds of exciting sports, even snowboarding! Most weekends we visit my grandparents. I love spending time with them. When I was small, my granny had her own cooking show on TV! She was quite well-known back then. I like my family a lot. We're all pretty close.

B Brendan

I've got a younger brother and three older sisters. My oldest sister, Orla, got married in Ireland last year. It was fantastic and now Orla's having a baby in the autumn! I can't wait to be an uncle. Our grandparents live in Switzerland, which is lucky for us because we all enjoy skiing. My dad likes to cook for everyone. He's actually very good.

C Angela

I've just got one younger sister and we live with our dad in Canada. We've already lived in a few different countries because of Dad's job; he designs big bridges. In a few months, we're going to live in Ireland. I'm not happy about that because I like living here. I go skiing with my friends every weekend and I'll miss doing that. My grandmother says I'll meet new friends and do other things!

	Claire	Brendan	Angela
1 Who has the biggest family?	A	B	C
2 Whose father is an engineer?	A	B	C
3 Who is the youngest in their family?	A	B	C
4 Whose grandmother was famous?	A	B	C
5 Whose family likes to ski?	A	B	C
6 Whose family is moving to Ireland?	A	B	C
7 Who will have a new family member soon?	A	B	C

READING 1 It's 5:54—time for dinner!

Before you read

Work with a partner. Read this definition. How is your family not typical?

Most families like ..., but my family ...

A typical family ..., but my family ...

typical /ˈtɪpɪk(ə)l/
adjective

like most things of the same type

Saturday was a typical winter day—cold and snowy.

THINK ABOUT

appearances interests
hobbies personalities

Global reading

1 Skim the text *It's 5:54—time for dinner!* Check (✓) the best subtitle.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ British eating habits | ☐ The typical British family |
| ☐ U.K. vs. U.S. families | ☐ Typical meals |

SCANNING

When you scan a text, you look for specific information. As in skimming (Unit 1), you do not read every word. When scanning, you move your eyes quickly over the text to find only the information you need.

2 Underline the key words in each sentence. Then scan the text and answer the questions.

- 1 How many children are in a typical British family? _____
- 2 What percentage of daughters live at home? _____
- 3 What do British families eat on Fridays? _____

Close reading

Read *It's 5:54—time for dinner!* Check (✓) what is typical for British families.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ live in an apartment | ☐ go to a restaurant two times a month |
| ☐ have a pet | ☐ shop for groceries on Friday |
| ☐ wake up at 5:15 | ☐ wash 4.5 loads of laundry a week |
| ☐ watch TV after dinner | ☐ feel they are happy |



IT'S 5:54—TIME FOR DINNER!

According to a recent study, a typical family in the U.K. is a father, mother, and two children. They live in a house, not an apartment. Both parents work outside the home. They carry just £10.50* in cash. They spend about £76 on groceries each week, and they own a pet. Almost 63% of sons and 55% of daughters aged 20–24 still live at home with their parents.

The typical British family wakes up at 6:57. They eat breakfast together only two times a week. The parents drive to work. They each have a car. They get home from work at 5:15 and have dinner at 5:54. Because of their busy lives, they eat dinner together at home only three times a week. They go out to eat two times a month. On Mondays, they typically eat spaghetti bolognese. On Fridays, they bring home fish and chips from a local chip shop. After dinner, they watch TV for a total of nine hours each week. They go to bed at 10:39.

The family exercises 2.5 times a week, and does housework for 4.5 hours. The mother does most of the housework. They wash 5.3 loads of laundry a week.

About 70% of British families feel they are normal.

*GBP£1 = US\$1.5



But, is the typical British family happy? In short, yes. Just over 80% say they are "happy" or "very happy." However, they typically argue two times a week!