

REAL EASY ENGLISH

Talking about family



Podcast



Easy

Words

LIVEWORKSHEETS

VOCABULARY 1

Neil

Welcome to Real easy English from BBC Learning English.

Beth

In this programme, we have real conversations in easy English to help you practise listening and learn new words and phrases. I'm Beth.

Neil

And I'm Neil. In each episode, we talk in English about a different topic that you need for everyday speaking. If you want to read along, you can visit our website: bbclearningenglish.com.

Hello, Beth.

Beth

Hi, Neil. How are you?

Neil

I'm very well, thank you. What are we talking about today?

Beth

Well, today's episode is all about family. We'll be talking about who is in our families and **comparing** them.

Neil

OK, great. So, what do we mean when we say **comparing** our families, Beth?

Beth

Well, when we **compare** two things, we look at them and see if they are the same or different and we can **compare** things in different ways, but we often do it with adjectives.

Neil

OK, let's start the conversation.

Beth

So, Neil, how big is your family?

Neil

It's probably average, really. I have one sister, but she has three kids and I have two kids. So, when we get together with my parents, there... there are a few of us. It's not... It's not tiny. It's not huge.

Beth

OK, yeah. I think my family is definitely **smaller** than yours because I don't have any brothers or sisters. I am an only child. So, when I get together with my family it's very small because I also only have one cousin and she's an only child as well. So my family's tiny!

Neil

OK. And what is your family like? It's small, but what's it like?

Beth

It is small, but we're very close. So, we see each other quite often. We are a bit silly. We like to go out and have food and play games and we can be quite loud, even though there aren't many of us.

Neil

OK, it sounds like you **get on well with** your family. Is that right?

Beth

Yeah, definitely. I love spending time with my cousin and she has two children.

What about you? Do you **get on well with** your sister?

Neil

Yes, I **get on well with** my sister. We don't see each other very often because we don't live in the same place. But when we see each other, we have a nice time. We catch up and chat.

So, Beth, we have used the expression **get on well with** someone. What does that mean?

Beth

Well, that means that you have a good relationship with them. So, if you get on well with your sister, it means when you're together you're happy, you're not fighting. It's easy to have good conversation. You don't really have any arguments. Maybe when you were a child, you didn't **get on well with** your sister. I don't know.

Neil

Yes, I think now that we're grown-ups it's easier to **get on well with** your siblings. When... When... When I was a kid, maybe I was a bit mean to her.

Beth

Oh dear!

So, Neil, your sister has three children.

Neil

Yeah.

Beth

What are the ages of them?

Neil

Well, for a start, they're all boys!

Beth

OK. Oh, my gosh. That sounds very difficult!

Neil

And the **oldest** one is 17 and he has just done his driving test. It's difficult to believe because, he's the **oldest**, he's always been the **oldest**, but now he's almost an adult.

Beth

And is he the **oldest** including your children?

Neil

Yeah.

Beth

So out of all the kids he's the **oldest**?

Neil

He is, yeah.

Beth

So, in my family, my cousin has two children and they are five and two.

Neil

Ah! Little ones.

Beth

Yeah. They are the **youngest** in the family. But I was the youngest in my family until they came along and I am 32! So, I was used to being the **youngest**, but I'm not the **youngest** anymore, now we've got little ones.

Neil

Oh well! Are you sad?

Beth

No, I'm OK.

Neil

OK, let's quickly recap the vocabulary we learned in this conversation.

Beth

We learnt **compare** which means to look at two things to see if they are the same or different.

Neil

Bigger and **smaller**, which are ways to compare the size of something.

Beth

Youngest and **oldest** which are ways to talk about the age of someone or something.

Neil

And we looked at **get on well with** someone, which means to have a good relationship with them.

Beth

Thanks for listening to Real Easy English. Visit our website for more activities and courses to help you with your English: bbclearningenglish.com.

Neil

Next time, we'll talk about food and some of our favourite meals to eat.

Beth

Mmm, delicious! See you then, Neil!

Neil

Goodbye!

 **LIVEWORKSHEETS**

Match the family words

Write the correct letter. The meaning list is shuffled to make it harder.

Words

1. family
2. parents
3. cousin
4. sibling
5. only child
6. compare
7. average
8. bigger
9. smaller
10. oldest
11. youngest
12. close
13. get together
14. get on well with
15. relationship

Meanings

- A. to have a good relationship
- B. people in the same home group
- C. the person with the least age
- D. normal in size; not big or small
- E. the child of your aunt or uncle
- F. more large in size
- G. your mother and father
- H. loving and friendly with each other
- I. to look at two things and see differences
- J. less large in size
- K. a child with no brothers or sisters
- L. how people feel and act together
- M. your brother or sister
- N. to meet in one place
- O. the person with the most age



Tip: scan for the easiest meanings first.

Fill in the story

Use each word one time. The word bank is not in story order.

Word bank relationship • compare • bigger • youngest • only child • get together • smaller • oldest

My name is Dara. I am an (1) _____, so my family is (2) _____ than my cousin's family. My cousin has three brothers, so their family is (3) _____. When we (4) _____ on Sunday, we eat lunch and play games. We sometimes (5) _____ our school stories. My cousin Vanna is the (6) _____ child, and baby Lina is the (7) _____. Even when there are many people, we still have a good (8) _____.

Answer target: all 8 words once



Comparatives and superlatives

One grammar point only: compare two things, or show one person in a group.

Rule

Use comparatives to compare two people or things.

Pattern: subject + be + comparative + than

Examples: bigger, smaller, older, younger

Use superlatives to show one person in a group.

Pattern: the + superlative

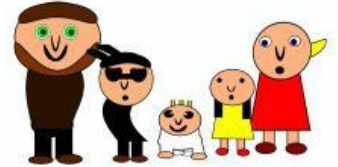
Examples: oldest, youngest

Examples

- My family is smaller than Neil's family.

- My brother is older than me.

- My cousin is the youngest child in the family.



Choose the correct word

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the brackets.

Questions 1–5

1. My grandfather is the _____ person in my family.
(older / oldest)
2. My cousin is _____ than me. (younger / youngest)
3. Lina is the _____ child in her family. (youngest / younger)
4. My aunt's family is _____ than ours. (big / bigger)
5. My family is _____ than my uncle's family. (small / smaller)

Questions 6–10

6. My sister is the _____ daughter in the family.
(oldest / older)
7. Our living room is _____ than yours.
(bigger / biggest)
8. My baby brother is the _____ in our family.
(youngest / younger)
9. My family is _____ than my best friend's family.
(smaller / smallest)
10. My brother is _____ than I am. (young / younger)



Circle the best answer

The option order is shuffled to reduce easy guessing.

Questions 1–5

1. Beth says her family is ____ than Neil's.
a) small b) smaller c) smallest
2. Neil's nephew is the ____ of all the children.
a) older b) old c) oldest
3. My cousin is ____ than me.
a) younger b) young c) youngest
4. We use ____ after a comparative adjective.
a) with b) the c) than
5. We use ____ before a superlative adjective.
a) the b) with c) than

Questions 6–10

6. My aunt has four children, so her family is ____.
a) big b) bigger c) biggest than
7. Mina is the ____ in her family.
a) younger b) young c) youngest
8. I ____ my sister very well.
a) get on well with b) compare than c) only child
9. My family is small, but we are very ____.
a) bigger b) close c) older
10. Which sentence is correct?
a) My brother older the me.
b) My brother is oldest than me.
c) My brother is older than me.



Ask and answer with a partner

Prompts are shuffled. Start with any question and keep the conversation going.

Speaking prompts

1. Who is the oldest person in your family?
2. Is your family bigger or smaller than your best friend's family?
3. How many people are in your family?
4. Who do you get on well with in your family?
5. What do you do when your family gets together?
6. Do you have any brothers or sisters?
7. Is your family big, small, or average?
8. Who is the youngest person in your family?
9. Are you close to your cousins?
10. What is one special thing about your family?

Support language

There are ... people in my family.
My family is bigger / smaller than ...
I get on well with ...
The oldest / youngest person is ...



Write about your family

Use the prompt, meet the requirements, and leave enough time to reread your work.

Prompt

Introduce your family. Say who is in your family. Compare your family with another family you know. Say who you get on well with and why.

Requirements

- Write 8–10 sentences.
- Use 5 vocabulary words.
- Use 2 comparatives and 2 superlatives.
- Use “get on well with” one time.

Writing starter

There are ... people in my family.
My family is ... than ...
The oldest person is ...
I get on well with ...



Finish the lesson at home

Homework reinforces today's vocabulary and grammar only.

Homework

- Interview one family member or friend.
- Ask 4 questions about their family.
- Write 5 sentences comparing their family with your family.
- Use bigger / smaller, older / younger, oldest / youngest.

Reflection

- ☐ I can name family members.
- ☐ I can use bigger / smaller.
- ☐ I can use oldest / youngest.
- ☐ I can talk about who I get on well with.



New word I remember: _____ One goal for next lesson:

Reflection and homework

Keep homework tightly connected to the lesson target.

Assign

- Interview one family member or friend.
- Write 5 comparison sentences.
- Review the target words and say them aloud.

Check for

- clear use of family words
- correct use of than
- correct use of the with superlatives
- no new grammar added

Teaching wrap-up

This lesson flow stays coherent from vocabulary to grammar, speaking, writing, and homework. Because the practice answers were shuffled, students need to rely more on meaning and grammar—not guessing.

