13 Family and friends

A Relatives*

RELATIVES

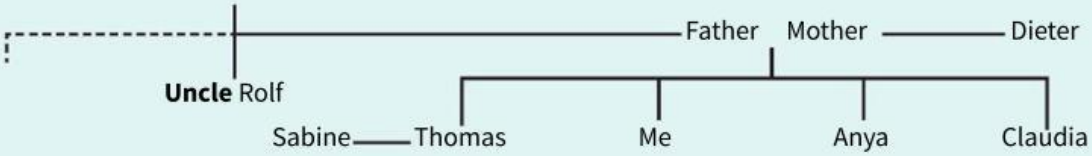


My father died when I was nine, and so my mother was a **widow**[1] with four young children. She **remarried** five years later, so now I have a **stepfather**. As he is not my real father, I call him by his first name, which is Dieter. I've got an **elder**[2] brother called Thomas and two younger sisters, Anya and Claudia, who are **twins**[3]. We're a **close family**[4].

My mother is an **only child**[5], but I've got two uncles on my father's side. One is married with two children, and the other is married with three children, so **altogether** I have five **cousins**. I **get on well with**[6] Uncle Rolf, and he always tells me I'm his favourite **nephew**. Of his **nieces**, I think he likes Anya best.

Recently my brother Thomas **got married**. His wife's name is Sabine, so I now have a **sister-in-law**[7] as well.

* members of your family; *syn* **relations**
[1] a woman whose husband has died
[2] older
[3] two children born to one mother at the same time
[4] a family who like each other and stay together a lot
[5] without brothers or sisters
[6] have a good relationship with
[7] (also **mother/brother/son-in-law,** etc.)



Common mistakes

It's more common and more natural to say '**Thomas's** wife' (NOT ~~the wife of Thomas~~) or **'Anna's** younger sister' (NOT the ~~younger sister of Anna~~).

B Friends

FRIENDS

My **best friend** is Florian, an **old** school **friend**[1]. We **got to know each other**[2] when we were in the same class at school. We've been **mates**[3] **ever since**[4], and our **friendship** is very important to both of us. He spends a lot of time with my family, and his **current**[5] girlfriend is actually one of Thomas's **ex**-girlfriends. But we all get on really well.



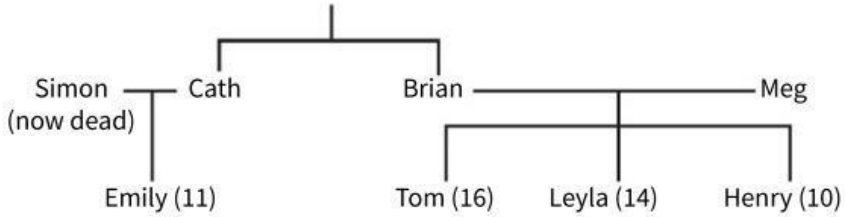
Language help

We use the prefix **ex-** for a relationship we had in the past but do not have now, e.g. *The children stay with my **ex-** husband at the weekend; I saw an **ex-** girlfriend of mine yesterday.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

13.1 **Look at the family tree, then complete the sentences below.**



1 Simon died two years ago, so Cath is a *widow*.
2 Leyla is Cath's ..... .
3 Tom is Cath's ..... .
4 Cath is Meg's ..... .
5 Simon was Brian's ..... .
6 Tom is Leyla's ..... brother.
7 Emily is Leyla's ..... .
8 Emily is an ..... child.

13.2 **Which words are being defined?**

1 Your *current* ..... boyfriend is the one that you have now.
2 ..... means get married again.
3 ..... are all the members of your family.
4 Your ..... friend is the one you like more than any other.
5 An ..... friend is someone you have known for a long time.
6 ..... are two children born to one mother at the same time.
7 ..... is an informal word for a friend.
8 ..... is the noun when two people are friends.
9 Your ..... is the man who is married to your mother but is not your father.

13.3 **Complete the text.**

"I was still going out with James when I met my husband, Ben. We [1] *got to know* ..... each other because we went to the same gym twice a week. We went out with each other for about 18 months, and we got [2] ..... three years ago, so [3] ..... we've been a couple for almost five years. We've continued to go to the gym ever [4] ..... we got married, and I still quite often see James when we're there. It's nice if you can still [5] ..... with an [6] .....-boyfriend or -girlfriend."

13.4 **Over to you**

Answer the questions for you, then, if possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

1 Are you an only child? If not, do you have elder brothers or sisters? .....
2 Do you get on well with other members of your family? .....
3 Are you a close family? .....
4 Who was the last person in your family to get married? When? .....
5 Who's your best friend? .....
6 How long have you known him/her? .....
7 How did you get to know each other? .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS