
FAMILY MATTERS

Vocabulary

family – a group consisting of parents and children living together in a household *OR* all the descendants of a common ancestor

nuclear family – a couple and their children, regarded as a basic social unit

extended family – a family which extends beyond the nuclear family and includes grandparents and other relatives

relative – a person connected by blood or marriage

parent – a father or mother

father – a male parent

mother – a female parent

stepfather – a man who is married to one's mother after the divorce of one's parents or the death of one's father

stepmother – a woman who is married to one's father after the divorce of one's parents or the death of one's mother

grandfather – the father of one's father or mother

grandmother – the mother of one's father or mother

siblings – a brother or sister

brother – a man or boy in relation to other sons and daughters of his parents

sister – a woman or girl in relation to other daughters and sons of her parents

twins – one of two children born at the same birth

triplets – one of three children born at the same birth

uncle – the brother of one's father or mother or the husband of one's aunt.

aunt – the sister of one's father or mother or the wife of one's uncle

cousin – a child of one's uncle or aunt

nephew – a son of one's brother or sister

niece – a daughter of one's brother or sister

in-laws – relatives by marriage

father-in-law – the father of one's husband or wife

mother-in-law – the mother of one's husband or wife

son-in-law – the husband of one's daughter

daughter-in-law – the wife of one's son

crush – a brief but intense infatuation for someone

couple – two people who are married, engaged, or otherwise closely associated romantically

boyfriend – a regular male companion with whom a person has a romantic relationship

girlfriend – a regular female companion with whom a person has a romantic relationship

fiancé – a man who is engaged to be married

fiancée – a woman who is engaged to be married

marriage – the formal union of two people, typically recognized by law, by which they become spouses

spouse – a husband or wife, considered in relation to their partner

partner – one of two people who are married or who live together and have a romantic relationship

relief – a feeling of reassurance and relaxation following release from anxiety or distress

last-minute – occurring at the latest possible time before an event

casually – in a relaxed and informal way

unbearable – not able to be tolerated

biased – unfairly prejudiced for or against someone or something

confrontational – tending to deal with situations in an aggressive way

Verbs

to send something – to arrange for the delivery of something

to make up (with someone) – to forgive someone and be friendly with them again after an argument or disagreement

to celebrate something – to publicly acknowledge a significant or happy day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity.

to hang out (with someone) – to spend a lot of time in a place or with someone

to show someone around – to go with someone to all parts, or the main parts, of a place that they have not visited before

to mention something – to refer to something briefly and without going into detail

to survive – continue to live or exist, especially in spite of danger or hardship

to appreciate something – to be grateful for something

to intrude into something – to disturb something or have an unpleasant effect on it

to confront someone – to deal with something very difficult or unpleasant in a determined way

Phrases

to be up to something – to be doing something

to be pissed off (informal) – to be annoyed

to do something on purpose – to do something with determination

in the background – the part of a picture, scene, or design that forms a setting for the main figures or objects, or appears furthest from the viewer (the opposite of in the foreground)

to be fond of something/someone – to be extremely interested in something

to look like someone – to be similar in appearance to someone

family gathering – an occasion when many members of an extended family meet together

to end up doing something – to do something even when you initially did not intend to

on my part – done or experienced by someone

Do you mind sharing? – a phrase used to ask someone whether they feel comfortable talking about something with you

to get on well – to have a good relationship with someone

to hold someone back from doing something – to keep someone from doing something

to be jealous of someone – feeling or showing envy of someone or their achievements and advantages

It's a blessing and a curse. – something that may seem initially beneficial but also brings unforeseen negative consequences

to drive someone nuts (informal) – to drive someone crazy

to lose one's sanity – not to have a healthy state of mind any longer

at the weekend (BrE)/**on the weekend** (AmE) – something that happened or will happen between Friday evening and Sunday evening

to go out with someone – to leave a room or building, especially to do something for entertainment *OR* to have a romantic relationship with someone

along the lines of – roughly similar

to take someone out – to go with someone to a place like a cinema, restaurant, etc. and usually pay for them

Grammar Corner

When we are describing a picture or a photo, we use the Present Continuous tense.

*e.g. Look at this photo! The kids are having a blast. **They're dancing, singing, running around.***

*My father **is standing** right there, and my mom **is hiding** in the trees. She is about to surprise him.*

We also use the Present Continuous tense to describe annoying habits and things that irritate us.

*e.g. Why are you always doing that? You know that I don't like it when **you're chewing** with your mouth open.*

*My friend **is always procrastinating** and ends up doing her homework at night.*

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2)

Talking about your Family (1)

P1: What are you up to?

P2: Just looking at my family pictures from the holidays.

P1: Wow, you have a lot of relatives!

P2: Haha yes, my extended family is quite big! It's always such a pain sending birthday and Christmas cards to everyone! Once I forgot to send a card to my aunt and uncle and... Oh boy, my aunt was not happy about that! She was pretty pissed off.

P1: Isn't it a bit too much? It's not like you did it on purpose after all.

P2: Yeah, she's just very emotional, I guess? But it's OK now, we made up.

P1: That's a relief! Who are these two cute girls in the background?

P2: Ah, these are my nieces, they are twins.

P1: Oh, they are really cute! How old are they?

P2: They're 6 years old. They've just started school.

P1: Are they trying to hug the dog?

P2: Yes, they're fond of Charlie! They never leave him alone.

P1: And is this your father?

P2: Yes. How did you know that?

P1: Mmm you have the same facial expression? I can't say for sure, there's just something between you two.

P2: Yeah, I've been told that I look like my father. Although our eye color is different.

P1: Do you often have these family gatherings?

P2: Yeah, we try to get together every other month. Most of us live in this state, so it's not that difficult. We always celebrate holidays together though.

P1: How can you fit so many people in one place?

P2: Haha that's a fair point! Well, when you have the extended family visiting you, someone ends up sleeping on the air mattress.

P1: That's totally understandable!

Talking about your Family (2)

P1: Jane, can I talk to you for a second?

P2: Yeah, sure! What's up?

P1: I was wondering if we could hang out some other time. I knew that we had plans to go to the cinema on Saturday, but there's been some change of plans on my part.

P2: Not a problem! Do you mind sharing why though?

P1: My sister and her husband are coming to town, and they wanted me to show them around.

P2: Oh, I see. Probably a last-minute decision?

P1: Yeah, exactly. I'm not that thrilled about that since I just learned about these plans of theirs yesterday. My mom just casually mentioned that on the phone while talking to me.

P2: Oh, that's not great. Are they going to stay at your place as well?

P1: Yeah. Thankfully, they're coming only for 2 days, so I shall survive!

P2: I mean, it's your sister, so it will be alright?

P1: Mmm we don't get on well, to be honest. We're two completely different people, so we end up fighting a lot over the smallest things.

P2: On the bright side, she'll be there with her husband, so that must hold you both back from fighting with each other?

P1: I really hope so. It's just this sibling thing, I guess.

P2: Actually, I'm actually jealous of people who have siblings. I'm the only child, and it was quite boring at times.

P1: It's a blessing and a curse. I mean... Yeah, she's my sister and all that, but she can be really unbearable. I'm probably just biased!

P2: Well, I hope that everything goes well.

P1: Me too. Thanks for understanding.

P2: No worries. We'll hang out some other time.

How Things Run at Home

P1: Hey, is everything alright? You look a bit weird.

P2: It's OK... I mean, it's nothing really.

P1: Are you sure? I'm there for you, you can tell me.

P2: Mmm it's just my parents.

P1: What about them?

P2: I can't wait to move out! They're driving me nuts!

P1: Did you have a fight with them?

P2: They fought. Again. This is the third time this month. I feel like I'm losing my sanity.

P1: What happened? Why are they fighting?

P2: Just the usual stuff – my dad is working all the time, he is coming home late, and my mom is feeling lonely. I mean, I completely get that, but can't they just make up? I don't like seeing them like that.

P1: Do they spend time together on the weekends at least?

P2: Rarely. My dad just ends up going out with his friends.

P1: Maybe you should talk to your dad about that? I think that your mom would appreciate him at least spending some quality time on the weekends.

P2: I don't feel like I should intrude into their marriage though?

P1: Yeah, but don't be confrontational. Just say something along the lines of taking out his wife. Stuff like that.

P2: Yeah, you're probably right. I'll talk to him. Thanks!

P1: No problem. I hope everything will be alright.