

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ АВТОНОМНОЕ  
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ  
«САМАРСКИЙ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМЕНИ АКАДЕМИКА С.П. КОРОЛЕВА»  
(САМАРСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ)

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ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ КУРС.  
«FAMILY CIRCLE»

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Учебное пособие состоит из трех разделов, целью которых является развитие и пополнение активного словарного запаса студентов по темам Family и Relationships; освоение особенностей функционирования лексических единиц по теме; анализ лексических и фразеологических единиц; развитие языковых и речевых умений и навыков как устной, так и письменной речи на основе тематически подобранных текстов и диалогов, которые расширяют возможность работы над темой; а также совершенствование навыков перевода.

Пособие состоит из разделов, включающих: тематические тексты и диалоги с упражнениями, которые способствуют глубокому и правильному пониманию текста и лексики, подлежащий активному усвоению; задания на освоение фразеологизмов, идиоматических выражений и фразовых глаголов, способствующие развитию навыков монологической и диалогической речи. Может быть использовано как в аудитории для выполнения заданий под руководством преподавателя, так и для самостоятельной работы студентов.

Предназначено для студентов I курса, обучающихся по направлениям подготовки 45.03.01 Филология, 45.03.02 Лингвистика, 41.03.05 Международные отношения.

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**Look at Your Loved Ones** (By Kelly Roper)

When family are gathered around  
There's so much love in the air.  
If you ever wonder who has your back,  
Just look at your loved ones there.

**PART I**

**FAMILY IDIOMS**

**I. LITERAL MEANINGS**

Fill in the following words in the definitions below:

*pod   spitting   flesh   knot   chalk   blood*

1. Your heart pumps your \_\_\_\_\_ through your body.
2. Peas grow in a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Some teachers still use \_\_\_\_\_ to write on blackboards.
4. There's now a taboo about \_\_\_\_\_ in public, though it was very common a hundred years ago.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of an animal is the part we usually eat as meat.
6. When you tie two pieces of string together, you make a \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON**

Use the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below:

- a. baby of the family*
- b. blood is thicker than water*
- c. fight like cat and dog*
- d. two peas in a pod*
- e. the black sheep of the family*
- f. own flesh and blood*
- g. like father, like son*
- h. tie the knot*

1. Jamie's only five but he's mad about football, just like his dad. You know what they say - \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I've got two sisters who are older than me and then my younger brother Mark who's twenty-two. He's the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. They`ve got two daughters and they look just the same. They are like \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Sam isn`t the best person for the job but his father made him head of Marketing in the family business. As you know, \_\_\_\_\_.
5. My brother and his girlfriend have finally decided to \_\_\_\_\_. They are getting married in spring.
6. I get on very well with my brother now but we used to \_\_\_\_\_ when we were younger.
7. Everyone expected Susan to go to university like the rest of us, but she got a job in a casino on a ship. She`s \_\_\_\_\_.
8. My son`s in trouble with the police. I normally have no sympathy with people who break the law but it`s different when it`s your own \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. THE SPITTING IMAGE

**Put the following words in the sentences below:**

*cheese    relative    footsteps    family    homes    side    tree    image*

1. Look at Marie. She`s the spitting \_\_\_\_\_ of her mother, isn`t she?
2. Pippa`s going to medical school. She`s following in her father`s \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A recent survey shows that two out of three convicted criminals come from broken \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I`ve got Scottish blood. My grandparents on my mother`s \_\_\_\_\_ originally came from Glasgow.
5. George is very interested in his family`s history. He can trace his family \_\_\_\_\_ back to 1550.
6. Everyone in my family plays a musical instrument. Music runs in the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I got a letter today from a long-post \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia. I didn`t even know he existed. He`s coming to visit in the summer.
8. My sister and I look alike but when it comes to personality, we`re like chalk and \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. DEFINITIONS. Look back at the idioms used in this section and find the ones which match the definitions below.

1. The member of the family who seems to get into trouble or has made bad choices.
2. Brothers or sisters who look just like each other.
3. A situation when the parents are divorced or separated.
3. When a child looks just like one of the parents.
4. A situation when loyalty to family is more important than anything else.

### V. REVISION. Look back at the idioms in this unit and add the final words:

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. the black sheep of the _____ | 6. fight like cat and _____ |
| 2. the baby of the _____        | 7. like peas in a _____     |

3. it runs in the \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. like father, like \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. your own flesh and \_\_\_\_\_

8. blood is thicker than \_\_\_\_\_  
 9. like chalk and \_\_\_\_\_  
 10. follow in his father`s \_\_\_\_\_

## IDIOMS RELATIONSHIPS

### Literal Meanings:

1. A spot is usually a mark on your skin, but if you have a soft spot for someone, you like them. You usually use it for someone who tends to be unpopular with other people.
2. When some animals attack another animal, they often attack the soft area around their throat. In the same way, if two people are arguing you can say that they are at each other`s throats.
3. If you get on with someone like a house on fire, it means you get on very well.
4. if you don`t see eye to eye it means that you don`t agree on something.
5. If there`s no love lost between two people it is a way of saying they really don`t get on at all. They may not even be on speaking terms.

### I. Put the following expressions in the dialogues below.

- a. at each other`s throats*
- b. a shoulder to cry on*
- c. there`s no love lost*
- d. through thick and thin*
- e. ups and downs*
- f. don`t see eye to eye*
- g. fight like cat and dog*
- h. clear the air*

1. - Thanks for listening, Rachel. I feel better after talking to you.  
 - That`s OK. You can always come to me if you need \_\_\_\_\_.
2. - You have had the same flat mates for years, haven`t you? You must get on very well.  
 - Well, we`ve had our \_\_\_\_\_ over the years but on the whole it`s worked very well.
3. - Do you get on well with your brothers and sisters?  
 - Yes, I do, but my brother and older sister \_\_\_\_\_.
4. - Is it true that Jack and Laura are having problems?  
 - I think so. They seem to be \_\_\_\_\_ most of the time these days.
5. - How are you getting on with your new business partner?  
 - Well, we \_\_\_\_\_ on everything, but that`s a good thing. It`s when we agree on something too quickly that mistakes are made.
6. - My parents have been married for 50 years.  
 - In those days people stayed together \_\_\_\_\_.

7. - Why was there such a bad atmosphere in that meeting?  
 - You're new here. Didn't you notice that \_\_\_\_\_ between George and Andrew?
8. - There's a bad atmosphere in our office. Some people aren't talking to each other.  
 - Well, it's time you had a meeting to \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Complete the following statements about good relationships.**

*house need books turn hit spot pick foot wavelength close*

1. I think my teacher has a soft \_\_\_\_\_ for me.
2. Even if you get married, don't neglect your \_\_\_\_\_ friends.
3. It's always fun to meet someone you \_\_\_\_\_ it off with.
4. I must say I get on like a \_\_\_\_\_ on fire with my mother-in-law.
5. I get on best with people who're on the same \_\_\_\_\_ as myself.
6. My children all try to stay in my good \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Do someone a good \_\_\_\_\_, and you've made a friend.
8. Do your best not to get off the wrong \_\_\_\_\_.
9. A friend in \_\_\_\_\_ is a friend indeed!
10. You can \_\_\_\_\_ your friends, but you can't pick your relations!

**III. Look back at exercises I and II to find idioms with these meanings:**

1. in bad times and good times
2. don't agree
3. fight a lot
4. started with a misunderstanding
5. help a friend when they have a problem
6. do someone a favour

**IV. Complete these sentences with the correct preposition:**

1. Do you need a shoulder to cry \_\_\_? 2. We're not \_\_\_ the same wavelength. 3. They stayed together \_\_\_ thick and thin. 4. We got \_\_\_ like a house \_\_\_ fire. 4. We got off \_\_\_ the wrong foot. 6. They're \_\_\_ each other's throats. 7. There's no love lost \_\_\_ them. 8. I'm not \_\_\_ his good books. 9. They don't see eye \_\_\_ eye. 10. I've got a soft spot \_\_\_ her.

**V. Fill in the following words in the sentences below:**

*crush rocks knot plunge stand guts*

1. When boats sail too close to the land, \_\_\_\_\_ can be a real danger.
2. If you can't \_\_\_\_\_ hot water, it means you cannot tolerate it.
3. Everything inside you – your stomach, kidneys, liver etc., are you \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If you accidentally sit down on a packet of biscuits, you will \_\_\_\_\_ them.
5. When you tie two pieces of string together, you make a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The meanings of dive and \_\_\_\_\_ are very similar. You can \_\_\_\_\_ or dive into the sea. You can \_\_\_\_\_ something into water, but you cannot dive something in.

**VI. Put the following nouns into these expressions:**

*crush heels rocks plunge knot love*

- a. tie the \_\_\_\_\_    b. have a \_\_\_\_\_ on someone    c. take the \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. fall in \_\_\_\_\_    e. on the \_\_\_\_\_    f. head over \_\_\_\_\_ in love

**Now use the correct form of idiomatic expressions in these situations:**

1. - I've never seen Camilla so relaxed and happy. What's happened to her?  
 - Didn't you know? She's met Mr. Right! She's \_\_\_\_\_ with this French chef who works in a restaurant in the town centre.
2. - Kate, do you remember our art teacher at school? He was nice, wasn't he?  
 - Oh yes, Mr. Eastwood. I'll never forget him! I \_\_\_\_\_ on him until the day I saw him with his six children and dreadful wife!
3. - Tim, you and Sharon have been together now for ten years. Isn't it about time you tied \_\_\_\_\_?  
 - Well, funny you should mention it. Last night we decided to take \_\_\_\_\_ so I hope you're free on June 12th I'm looking for a best man!
4. - I hear you've got Tom and Barbara's children staying with you at the moment.  
 - Yes. I'm afraid Tom and Barbara's marriage is \_\_\_\_\_. They're having a little time and space to talk on their own.
5. If you can \_\_\_\_\_, can you fall out of love?

**VII. All the idiomatic expressions in this exercise deal with relationships going wrong. Match the two parts of each conversation.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Are Luke and Louise still together?                  | a. Well, as far as I can gather, <b>there's no love lost between them.</b> They <b>fell out over</b> something last year and haven't spoken since. |
| 2. Has Brian asked you to stay behind late again, Tony? | b. No, I'm afraid not. They've gone their separate ways.   |



3. David's told me that he won't come skiing with us if Frank's going to be there. Do you have any idea why?      c. Yes, it's always me, isn't it? I think he's got it in for me.
4. What's your honest opinion of our new Head of Marketing?      d. I can't stand her. I can't be more honest than that!
5. Why won't the three political parties involved get together and cooperate?      e. It's quite simple. They hate each other's guts! They wouldn't even share a taxi!

### **NOTE!!!**

- If you have a disagreement with someone, fall out, then make up, you ***patch up your differences*** or, if it was very serious, you ***bury the hatchet***.
- Milk ***turns sour*** if it is not kept in the fridge. It can ***go off***. In the same way ***relationships can turn sour*** if two people ***go off each other***.
- If you ***have it in for*** someone, it means that you have some kind of grudge against them. You are annoyed with them for a specific reason.

### **VIII. Complete the following with one word:**

1. We've decided to go our separate \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I think I've fallen in \_\_\_\_\_!
3. Have you \_\_\_\_\_ it in for me or do you just not like me?
4. We're \_\_\_\_\_ the plunge in October.
5. I can't bear to be in the same room as John. I just \_\_\_\_\_ stand him.
6. Our 14-year-old daughter has a \_\_\_\_\_ on her 23-year-old biology teacher!
7. There's no love \_\_\_\_\_ between my brother and his in-laws. He calls them outlaws!
8. I wish people wouldn't fall \_\_\_\_\_ so easily over silly little things.
9. So, you're \_\_\_\_\_ the knot this Saturday. I hope the weather's nice for you.
10. The trouble with falling head \_\_\_\_\_ heels in love with someone is that it's usually totally the wrong person.
11. I wouldn't say I hated Nigel's \_\_\_\_\_, but he's not my favourite person at the moment.
12. Lots of marriages which are on the \_\_\_\_\_ could have been saved if the couples had seen a counselor early on when they were first having trouble.

## LET'S CHANT

**Stop fighting like cat and dog.**

*But we are like chalk and cheese.*

Stop fighting like cat and dog.

And stop arguing too please.

Why are you always at each other's throats?

*We don't see eye to eye!*

Why can't you just clear the air?

*We simply cannot!*

Why?

*We're not on the same wavelength.*

*We are like chalk and cheese.*

*We don't see eye to eye.*

I've had enough. Please.

You need to stay together through thick and thin.

*But we can't stand each other.*

Stop saying things like this!

You are his elder brother!

Over what have you fallen out with each other this time?

*We have it in for each other.*

I wish you would clear the air.

Because you see... as a mother...

I DO love you both...

And here's what I propose...

Why don't you patch up your differences?

And bury the hatchet for good.

Be kind to each other

Instead of being rude.

*But we are like chalk and cheese!*

And that's perfectly alright.

You can be different and still love each other.

You don't always have to fight.

### **We don't see eye to eye.**

*Frankly, neither do we.*

I don't know what to do.

He has it in for me.

We used to be on the same wavelength.

*We did too.*

How can I bury the hatchet?

*I wish I knew.*

We used to get on like a house on fire.

*Things change.*

But he hasn't been himself.

He's been acting so strange.

Why does he hate my guts?

Why does he have it in for me?

*Just leave him in peace.*

*Let him be.*

We've had our share of ups and downs.

But we've been (together) through thick and thin.

I don't want to fight like cat and dog.

I think the world of him!

But it seems he hates my guts now.

He can't stand me, you see.

How can I bury the hatchet?

*Just let him be!*

**Family Means Different Things** (by Kelly Roper)

Family means different things to different people.

To some, family means mom, dad and the kids.

To others, family means single parents doing the job of two to make a home.

To some, family means living with grandparents too.

To others, family is the aunt or uncle who has stepped up to fill in for parents.

To some, family means two moms or two dads growing a family together.

To others, family means two people multiplying their love through adoption.

To some, family is limited to blood relations.

To others, family includes friends who are there through thick and thin.

To some, family is all about the people in their lives.

To others, pets are considered family members too.

Yes, family means different things to different people,  
But every family has one thing in common, and that's love.

**FAMILY COLLOCATIONS**

**I. Which are the most natural-sounding answers?**

1. Jenny comes from a *large / big* family but I'm a *single / only* child.
2. There's no one in my *near / immediate* family with curly hair.
3. He's a talented musician – he *takes / gets* it from his mother.
4. Jody is a *spoilt / ruined* child with over-protective parents.
5. I've got a distant *relative / far* relation who works in the film industry.
6. They've all got red hair. It *goes / runs* in the family.
7. I'm afraid Mr Harris is critically ill. We need to notify his next of *kin / closest* relation.
8. It's natural for a *waiting / an expectant* mother to worry about her unborn child.

**II. Which of these two versions sound more natural?**

1. a. I told all my relations and friends.  
b. I told all my friends and relations.
2. a. He is my own flesh and blood, after all.  
b. He is my own blood and flesh, after all.
3. a. They are brother and sister.  
b. They are sister and brother.

4. a. I went to see my dad and mum.  
b. I went to see my mum and dad.
5. a. I now pronounce you wife and man.  
b. I now pronounce you man and wife.

**II. Choose the most suitable verb. Change the form of the verb where necessary.**

*start bring have raise give*

1. Claire`s going to \_\_\_\_\_ a baby in early March.
2. I`m used to being around animals – I was \_\_\_\_\_ up on a farm.
3. It`s very hard to \_\_\_\_\_ a family on a single income.
4. They decided not to \_\_\_\_\_ a family until they had enough money to buy a house.
5. Linda decided she wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ birth at home, instead of at hospital.

*Poem Corner*

**Family** (by Alison Jean Thomas)

Those who know you deep inside,  
Who can see beyond bravado and pride,  
Who'll pick you up each time you fall,  
With love made from memories of when you were small,  
The people who know your worst and your best  
They're the loved ones with whom you're blessed.

**LOVE AND MARRIAGE COLLOCATIONS**

**I. Choose the correct words to complete the email.**

Hi Emma!

Thanks for your email. It`s a shame you couldn`t make it to Steve and Jane`s wedding on Saturday. They had a lovely day for it. They *had / did* the wedding in a nice little church in a village near Jane`s parents` house. It looked very pretty in all *marriage / wedding* photographs. The groom looked a bit nervous, but they are both obviously *crazily / madly* in love! The wedding *reception / party* was *held / made* in a big hotel down the road and we all *toasted / drank* the newly-weds and the bride`s father *made / did* a speech. The food was nice and everything went off really well. They`ve gone off on their *wedding trip / honeymoon* to the West Indies for a couple of weeks, now – lucky things!

Anyway, here`s a few photos I took of the *happy / merry* couple.

All the best, Pat.

## II. Which is the most natural-sounding answer?

1. A: Are they a *couple* / *pair*? - B: No, I think they`re *only* / *just* good friends.
2. They met at a friend`s house and it was love at *the first sight* / *first sight*.
3. He`s never shown much interest in the *other* / *opposite* sex.
4. It`s a summer *romance* / *love* story, but I know it won`t last. It`s just one of those things.
5. They`ve been *going out* / *girlfriend and boyfriend* together for six months now.
6. Even though they`re *strongly* / *highly* attracted to each other, it`s always been a platonic *relationship* / *friendship*.
7. He accused her of *making* / *having* an affair, but as far as I know she always been faithful *to* / *with* him.
8. I just don`t want to *get involved* / *go* with anyone at the moment. It`s too soon since I *broke up with* / *split from* my long-term boyfriend.

## III. Which of these expressions is NOT a natural collocation?

1. wedding cake / anniversary / bride *day*
2. puppy / marriage / cupboard / unrequited *love*
3. *love* life / affair / tale / story
4. a double / blind / love / first *date*

## Poem Corner

### THE STICK-TOGETHER FAMILIES (BY EDGAR GUEST)

The stick-together families are happier by far  
Than the brothers and the sisters who take separate highways are.  
The gladdest people living are the wholesome folks who make  
A circle at the fireside that no power but death can break.  
And the finest of conventions ever held beneath the sun  
Are the little family gatherings when the busy day is done.

There are rich folk, there are poor folk, who imagine they are wise,  
And they're very quick to shatter all the little family ties.  
Each goes searching after pleasure in his own selected way,  
Each with strangers likes to wander, and with strangers likes to play.  
But it's bitterness they harvest, and it's empty joy they find,  
For the children that are wisest are the stick-together kind.

There are some who seem to fancy that for gladness they must roam,  
That for smiles that are the brightest they must wander far from home.

That the strange friend is the true friend, and they travel far astray  
they waste their lives in striving for a joy that's far away,  
But the gladdest sort of people, when the busy day is done,  
Are the brothers and the sisters who together share their fun.

It's the stick-together family that wins the joys of earth,  
That hears the sweetest music and that finds the finest mirth;  
It's the old home roof that shelters all the charm that life can give;  
There you find the gladdest play-ground, there the happiest spot to live.  
And, O weary, wandering brother, if contentment you would win,  
Come you back unto the fireside and be comrade with your kin.

## **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND LOVE**

### **Phrasal verbs in Use**

**Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.**

- In what ways are you similar to or different from other people in your family?
- Do you think parents should be strict or easy-going?

**Read the following three interviews and answer the questions.**

1. What kind of relationship do the children have with their parents?
2. Are the parents strict?
3. According to the mother, what is it like being a parent and what is a good parent?

#### **I. Interview with a 16-year-old daughter Helen**

*Interviewer:* How do you get on with your parents?

*Helen:* I think I get on with them very well, really. We don't always see eye to eye on some things, like boyfriends - they don't always approve of them - but on the whole they're very understanding. If I had a personal problem, I think I could confide in them, and if I was ever in trouble, I know I could rely on them to help me.

*Interviewer:* How strict are your parents?

*Helen:* Well, my Dad's quite strict about staying out late at night, but I can usually get round him. If I'm nice to him, he lets me come home a bit later. My Mum's always telling me to tidy up my bedroom and put things away after I use them, and I have to do some of the housework. But if compare them with other parents I know, they aren't very strict.

*Interviewer:* And who are you most like in your family?

*Helen:* Oh, I think I take after my mother. Everybody says we're both very independent and strong-willed. I like to have my own way a lot of the time, but I'm not spoilt. I don't always get my own way. And my parents always tell me off if I do anything wrong.

## II. Interview with a 17-year-old son David

*Interviewer:* How do you get on with your parents?

*David:* I look up to them because I know they've worked hard to bring us up properly.

*Interviewer:* How strict are your parents?

*David:* They can be very strict at times. I told my Dad I wanted a motorbike, but he said it was out of the question - it was too dangerous. My mother is strict about keeping things tidy. I can't get out of doing the washing up and things like that, unless I'm very busy.

*Interviewer:* How do you get on with your sister?

*David:* I never agree with what she says, so we are always arguing. We've never been very close, but I get on all right with her. I think I'm much closer to my mother.

## III. Interview with their mother

*Interviewer:* What's it like being a parent?

*Mother:* Bringing up children is very difficult. You always worry about them. You have to be very patient and put up with a lot - like noise and even criticism. And you can't always get through to them sometimes they just won't listen. But the advantages of being a parent outweigh the disadvantages. The main thing is to enjoy your children while they are young because they grow up so quickly nowadays.

*Interviewer:* How strict are you with your children?

*Mother:* I suppose I'm reasonably strict. They can't do what they like and get away with it, and I tell them off when they do something wrong.

*Interviewer:* And what is the secret of being a good parent?

*Mother:* I think you have to give them confidence and let them know you love them. And you have to set a good example through your own behaviour, otherwise they won't look up to you.

*Interviewer:* And what do you want for your children in the future?

*Mother:* I want them to be happy, and I want them to look back on their childhood as a very happy time in their lives.

### 1. Match the verbs in A with the definitions in B.

A	B
1) to get round someone	a) to respect and admire someone, to have a very good opinion of someone
2) to take after someone	b) to escape being punished for something



3) to tell someone off (for doing something)	c) to think about something that happened in the past
4) to look up to someone	d) to reprimand, to speak severely to someone because they have done something wrong.
5) to bring someone up	e) to persuade someone to let you do or have something, usually by flattering them
6) to get out of doing something	f) to raise a child, to look after a child until it is adult and try to give it particular beliefs and attitudes
7) to get through to someone	g) to resemble a member of your family in appearance or character
8) to grow up	h) to avoid having to do something
9) to get away with something	i) to succeed in making someone understand the meaning of what one is saying
10) to look back (on something)	j) to become more adult and mature

**2. Fill in the gaps below with prepositions.**

- a. to dis/approve \_\_\_\_ someone/something
- b. to confide \_\_\_\_\_ someone
- c. to rely \_\_\_\_ someone
- d. to compare someone/something \_\_\_\_\_ someone/something
- e. to listen \_\_\_\_\_ someone/something
- f. to argue \_\_\_\_ \_ someone \_\_\_\_ something

**3. Idiomatic expressions. What do you think the following expressions mean?**

1. to see eye to eye (with someone) (on something)
2. to have / get one's own way
3. to be close to someone
4. to be the black sheep of the family
5. to take someone's side

**Now decide which expressions you could use in the sentences below.**

- a. The problem is that her parents never stop her doing anything that she wants to do. She's become a very spoilt child as a result.
- b. My family is very ashamed of my brother and never talk about him. He was expelled from school and has been in prison twice.

- c. Whenever I had an argument with my mother or father, I could always rely on my grandparents to support me.
- d. My father and I usually agree about most things, but when it comes to politics we have completely different views.
- e. I can talk to my sister about my problems because I know she will understand me and share my feelings.

**4. Work with your partner. Take turns asking and answering the following questions. Try to use the multi-word verbs and expressions given below, idioms and collocations you've already learnt in your answers, as well as the verbs above.**

Example

- A. How do you get on with the other people in your family?
- B. I don't get on with my sisters very well, but I'm very close to my mother. I feel I can confide in her.

<i>bring up</i>	<i>look back on</i>	<i>tell off</i>
<i>get on with</i>	<i>look up to</i>	<i>take after</i>
<i>get away with</i>	<i>grow up</i>	<i>get round</i>
<i>have one's own way</i>	<i>see eye to eye</i>	<i>be close to</i>

- a. What kind of relationship do you have with the people in your family?
- b. Are you similar to anyone in your family?
- c. Do you have the same opinions as other members of your family?
- d. Where did you spend your childhood?
- e. Who took care of you when you were very young?
- f. Did you have a strict upbringing?
- g. When were you reprimanded as a child/teenager?
- h. Were you able to do what you wanted all the time?
- i. Who did you admire and respect when you were a child/teenager?
- j. When you think about the past, what do you remember?

**5. Work with another partner. Use the multi-word verbs and all the idiomatic expressions you have learnt so far to describe your relationship with one of the following people.**

grandparent	teacher	uncle/aunt	parent
brother/sister	neighbour	boss	cousin

**6. Match a sentence in A with one in B. Then practise saying the questions and answers. The first one has been done for you.**

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Do you respect your parents?       | a. No, he got away with it.        |
| 2 Do you like David?                 | b. No, I can't get through to him. |
| 3 Did he do the washing up?          | c. No, he puts up with it,         |
| 4 Does he listen to you?             | d. No, he got out of it.           |
| 5 Was he punished for the crime?     | e. No, I must get down to it.      |
| 6 Have you done the homework?        | f. No, I don't get on with him.    |
| 7 Has he complained about the noise? | g. Yes, I look up to them.         |

**7. Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.**

- Do you believe in love at first sight?
- What vocabulary do you know for describing different stages of a relationship (at the beginning you get to know someone, etc.)?

**Now read the story "ACROSS A CROWDED ROOM" and underline relevant multi-word (phrasal) verbs and expressions.**

It was love at first sight. I saw her standing on the other side of a crowded room sipping a glass of wine. Our eyes met. I walked over to her and said, "You seem to be on your own. Can I join you?"

She smiled and said yes. At first, she came across as rather shy, but as I got to know her better, I found out she was an open and confident person who was easy to get on with. At the end of the party I said I would like to see her again and asked her out for a meal the following week.

I took her to a small Italian restaurant in Soho. After talking for a while, we found out that we had a lot in common – in fact, we seemed to have the same interests and tastes in everything. She smiled at me when I spoke to her, and when our eyes met this time, I knew that I was head over heels in love with her. I thought that she was falling in love with me, too. We started going out with each other, and after some time we got engaged and decided to live together. We were both very happy and made plans to settle down and get married the following year.

However, it wasn't long before things started to go wrong. She seemed less affectionate and loving as weeks passed, and I started to feel she was going off me. She criticized me all the time. "Why are you always going on at me?" I asked.

In the end I wondered if we were suited to one another. I was keen on hard rock and she was fond of classical music. I was interested in sport and she was interested in politics. We finally fell out over a TV programme. We had a terrible row, broke off our engagement, and called off the wedding. A week later she moved out. I was heartbroken and it took me a long time to get over it.

A few months later I heard she was engaged to a man who worked in local government. They got married, but after two years their marriage broke up and they got divorced.

I tell you this because last night I went to a party and I was drowning my sorrows when I saw her standing on the other side of the room sipping a glass of wine. I saw a man walk over to her and I heard him say, "You seem to be on your own. Can I join you?"

## 8. Match the verbs with the definitions.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. to come across as something             | 1. to stop liking someone (informal)   |
| b. to ask someone out somewhere            | 2. to start to live a stable, regular life in one place (perhaps after buying a house and getting married) |
| c. to go out with someone                  | 3. to give the impression of having a particular characteristic  |
| d. to settle down                          | 4. to cancel something (an arrangement or event)   |
| e. to go off someone                       | 5. to discontinue something, to bring something to an abrupt end   |
| f. to go on at someone                     | 6. to spend time with someone socially, often to have a romantic relationship                              |
| g. to fall out with someone over something | 7. to come to an end   |
| h. to break something off                  | 8. to have an argument with someone and stop being friendly with them                                      |
| i. to call something off                   | 9. to keep complaining about something to someone (informal)   |
| j. to break up                             | 10. to invite someone to go out somewhere (to a restaurant or theatre)                                     |

## 9. Jane is very upset. Her friend, Mary, has come to visit her. Look at their conversation below. Replace the words in italics with multi-word verbs.

Mary: What's the matter, Jane? Have you had an argument with Paul again?

Jane: Yes, you could say that...

M: Well, it takes two to have an argument. What was it about this time?

J: He said I was always *complaining and criticizing* him.

M: Is it true?

J: Well, in a way, yes. But I was feeling insecure because I thought he was *starting to dislike* me.

M: How long have you been *seeing* one another?

J: Nearly a year now. But yesterday I *discovered* he's been *having a relationship* with someone else.

M: Oh, so what did you do?

J: I told him, and he said he wanted to *end* our relationship.

M: But I thought you were planning to get married in June?

J: We've *cancelled* it.

M: Well, I'm sorry to hear the two of you have *ended your relationship*.

J: I think it'll take me a long time *to recover* from this.

M: Well, perhaps it's for the best. You were never really happy with him.

And after all, there are plenty more fish in the sea!

**What does the last sentence of the dialogue mean? Why does Mary say it? How would you express the same idea in your own language?**

**10. There are six mistakes in the text below. Find them and correct them.**

I used to be very keen at football, but I lost interest in it when I met my best friend's sister. At first, I was only fond on her, but later on I fell in love to her. We had a lot on common and thought about getting married. I was engaged with her for six months, but in the end, she got married to someone else.

**11. Work with your partner. Take turns asking one another the questions below.**

**Try to use multi-word verbs in your questions and answers.**

- a. What impression do you think you give of yourself when you first meet people?
- b. Imagine someone is always criticizing you. What would you do or say?
- c. Would you have a relationship with someone your parents didn't approve of?
- d. If you have a relationship with someone, how important is it that you both have a lot in common?
- e. What kind of things make you stop liking someone?
- f. What would make you end a relationship with someone?
- g. When do you think is the right time to live a more quiet, stable life and get married?
- h. Do you agree with the saying "It's love which makes the world go round"? Why/ why not?
- i. Some people say "True love never dies". Do you agree? Why/ why not?

**12. Find the expressions in the text that mean the following:**

1. *to fall in love with someone the first time you see them*
2. *to be completely or deeply in love*

**13. What do you think the following expressions mean?**

*the eternal triangle / an old flame / a one-sided relationship / there's no love lost between them / a love-hate relationship*

**14. Complete the following sentences with multi-word verbs that use the particle off.**

- a. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ all the lights when you go to bed, please?
- b. Hello, operator. I was talking to someone and we were \_\_\_\_\_. Can you try to reconnect us, please?
- c. There isn't time to have the meeting today, so we will have to \_\_\_\_\_ till next week.
- d. It's been lovely talking to you on the phone but I must \_\_\_\_\_ because there is someone at the front door. I'll call you again later. Bye.
- e. I wish they would make up their minds one way or the other. Yesterday they said the wedding was on but now they've had another argument and say the wedding \_\_\_\_\_.

**15. What is the difference between the following:**

- to break something off and to break up?*  
*to put something off and to call something off?*  
*to call something off and to break something off?*

16. Look at how the expressions below are used to sequence the events in the story “Across a crowded room”.

*at first    after a while    after some time    the following year    however*  
*it wasn't long before    as the weeks passed    in the end*

Using these time expressions, as well as the multi-word verbs, idiomatic expressions and prepositions write a description of either

- a romantic play, book or film that you know or
- the development of a romantic relationship.

## ADVANCING YOUR PHRASAL VERBS THROUGH THICK AND THIN

### Part 1 – Definitions

<i>walk out on</i>	<i>stand by</i>	<i>fall out</i>	<i>cheat on</i>	<i>call for</i>
<i>stick up for</i>	<i>fuss over</i>	<i>grow apart</i>	<i>count on</i>	<i>put on</i>

1. Underline the phrasal verbs in sentences 1-10, then match them to the definitions below.

1. They're the best of friends and always stick up for each other if there's trouble.
2. I met Jo again after many years but we didn't have much to say to each other. It was clear we had grown apart.
3. Why have you and Mark fallen out? You used to be best friends.
4. Sue discovered her husband was cheating on her when she saw him with another woman.
5. She got cold feet two weeks before the wedding and called it off.
6. He walked out on his wife after 30 years of marriage and started living with another woman.
7. They fuss over their children all the time. They're such spoilt kids.
8. She takes everything from you and gives you nothing in return. Can't you see she's just putting on you?
9. You're a saint. I'll never forget the way you stood by me when I lost my job.
10. He's the most reliable person I know. You can always count on him to help you.

### Definitions

- a. to rely on someone
- b. to cancel an engagement or a wedding
- c. to unreasonably demand too much from someone
- d. to become less close to someone as you get older
- e. to argue and lose a friendship with someone

- f. to pay too much attention to someone
- g. to be unfaithful to your husband or wife by having an affair
- h. to stay with someone and support them during a difficult time
- i. to defend someone who is being criticized or bullied
- j. to leave your husband or wife

## **Part 2 – Practice**

### **1. Complete the gaps in the sentences.**

- a. You can always \_\_\_\_\_ Tom to back you up in times of trouble.
- b. Everyone knew he was \_\_\_\_\_ his wife but no-one wanted to break the bad news.
- c. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ that boy. He is old enough to look after himself.
- d. Those two are as thick as thieves, always \_\_\_\_\_ each other.
- e. She is so selfish and demanding. She \_\_\_\_\_ you constantly and you say nothing.
- f. He knew he didn't want to marry Jo so he \_\_\_\_\_ the wedding.
- g. We married too young and as the years went by \_\_\_\_\_ until we eventually split up.
- h. She \_\_\_\_\_ her husband when she heard he had cheated on her.
- i. Can't you make friends? It's so sad to \_\_\_\_\_ over such a silly misunderstanding.
- j. I'll always be grateful to you for \_\_\_\_\_ during my divorce. It was a hard time.

### **2. There is a problem with the phrasal verbs in the following sentences. Correct the mistakes.**

- a. You'll never come between George and his wife. He'll always stand her by no matter what happens.
- b. She really couldn't face the idea of marrying a man she didn't love but didn't have the courage to call off it.
- c. He's a wicked man. He walked on out his wife and three children and left them with nothing.
- d. You're such a wimp. Why don't you stick yourself up for?
- e. You know you can count me on if you have any problems. I'm just a phone call away.
- f. He just didn't believe his wife would cheat him on and dismissed the rumours as hurtful lies.
- g. She puts me on all the time. I find it so hard to say no to her demands.
- h. As time went by they grew apart each other and found they had nothing in common.
- i. The crash was scary but I'm fine. So please stop fussing me over all the time.
- j. Why have you fallen out Jo? You haven't been fighting over Tom again, have you?

### **3. Rewrite each of the following sentences using one of the phrasal verbs from part 1.**

- a. Our relationship's so strong now because we stuck by each other through all the hard times.
- b. They stopped being friends because of a silly little argument to do with some boy in their class.
- c. She pampers that dog more than she looks after her own children.
- d. He said he didn't love me and he never had and then he broke off the engagement.

- e. Thanks for supporting me in the meeting, I really appreciate it. I've never seen the boss so angry.
- f. I'm sorry to have to leave you with the children. I do hope you don't think I'm burdening you.
- g. She ran out on her husband and left him to look after their three children alone.
- h. Our friendship isn't what it used to be. We've drifted apart as we've got older and now rarely even talk.
- i. You can bank on everyone's support. We're behind you 100% on this.
- j. He'd been unfaithful to his wife for years but she still stayed with him.

### **Part 3 – Speaking**

**Discuss your answers to the following questions with your partner.**

1. Who is your best friend? How long have you known them? Why do you get on so well?
2. Have you ever fallen out with your best friend? What about? How did you patch it up?
3. Are you still in touch with your friends from school? Have you grown apart from any of them?
4. Who used to stick up for you the most when you were young? Who sticks up for you now?
5. Who do you get on with best in your family? How about university?
6. Do you know anyone who called off their wedding at the last moment?
7. Who do you talk to when you have a problem and you need some help and advice?
8. Who do you talk to when you want to have a really good laugh?
9. Are you on good speaking terms with your neighbours?
10. Who is your oldest friend? Do you enjoy meeting people and making new friends?
11. Who fussed over you most when you were a child? Does anyone fuss over you now?
12. Which of your friends or family puts on you the most? What do you do about this?
13. How has the role of marriage changed in your society over the last 100 years?
14. What do you think of co-habitation before marriage?
15. What happens in a traditional wedding ceremony in your country?

### **MORE IDIOMS**

#### **I can talk about my family**

##### **A. Father and son**

I **take after** my father. We're both tall – that **runs in the family** – and we both have a passion for the outdoor life. I **was brought up** on a farm and always **looked up to** my father, so it was no surprise when I **followed in** his **footsteps** and joined him on the family farm. Basically, farming is **in my blood**, and it's been **our way of life** for five generations. Working with Dad is great. He knows the business **inside out**, and enjoys **showing me the ropes**. And from his **point of view**, he likes to have someone younger with new ideas – even if they aren't that good!



## Glossary

**take after smb** – look or behave like an older member of your family

**run in the family** – be found very often in a family

**bring smb up** – care for and teach a child until they are an adult (also bring smb up to do smth)

**look up to smb** – respect and admire smb

**follow in smb's footsteps** – do the same job or activity as smb else who did it before you

**in your blood** – If smth is in your blood, it is a strong part of your character

**a way of life/ smb's way of life** – the behaviour and customs that are typical of a person or a group

**know smth inside out** – have a lot of knowledge of smth (also know what you are talking about)

**show smb the ropes** – (informal) show smb carefully what to do and how to do it

**point of view** – a way of looking at a situation; an opinion

### 1. Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

1. He hopes to follow \_\_\_\_\_ my footsteps.
2. She has a different point \_\_\_\_\_ view.
3. My sister takes \_\_\_\_\_ my mum.
4. Politics is \_\_\_\_\_ my blood.
5. Baldness seems to run \_\_\_\_\_ my family.
6. It's a different way \_\_\_\_\_ life.

### 2. Complete the text. Use the expressions from the Glossary above.

My father was a classical pianist. He knew the works of Mozart inside (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and performed them all over the world. He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ me up to love music as well; it seems to be something that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in our family. However, I eventually (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in my mother's footsteps and became a doctor, and, by coincidence, it was my uncle who showed me the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ when I got my first job in a hospital in London.

### 3. Complete the questions and write your answers in your notebook.

1. Where were you \_\_\_\_\_ up as a child?
2. Who do most \_\_\_\_\_ after in your family?
3. Would you like to follow in anyone's \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Is there anyone you particularly \_\_\_\_\_ up to in your family?
5. Is there a physical characteristic that \_\_\_\_\_ in your family?

## B. Sisters

When my mother **gave birth to** twins, I don't suppose she knew what she was **letting herself in for**. Although I'm **nothing like** Elle, we were equally horrible. If she pulled my hair, I **got my own back** by hiding her favourite doll; she always **burst into tears** when I did that. And then we **grew into** even more difficult teenagers. We **stayed out** late, and were always **getting into trouble** at school **for** smoking, wearing make-up, or just being lazy. Our poor mother tried to **turn a blind eye to** some of our behaviour, but it wasn't easy. Then, by some miracle, we **grew up**. We're both quite nice now!

## Glossary

**gave birth (to smb)** – produce a baby

**let yourself in for smth** – (informal) involve yourself in smth that will probably be unpleasant or difficult

**nothing like smb/smth** – completely different from smb/smth (also not anything like smb/smth)

**get your own back (on smb)** – (informal) do smth unpleasant to smb in return for smth unpleasant they did to you

**burst into tears** – suddenly start crying

**grow into smth** – gradually develop into a particular kind of person

**get into trouble (for smth)** – get into a situation in which you may be punished

**turn a blind eye (to smth)** – pretend not to see or notice smth, usually smth bad (in this case, so that she didn't have to do anything about it)

**grow up** – develop into an adult

### spotlight - stay out/in, stay up

*If you **stay out**, you continue to be away from your home, especially late at night. If you **stay in**, you stay at home and don't go out. And if you **stay up**, you go to bed later than usual.*

## **1. Put the words in the correct order and add one missing word.**

*Example: turned/it/she/eye/to/a – She turned a blind eye to it.*

1. she/why/tears/into/did/? – \_\_\_\_\_
2. my/I'll/back/ get/ her/own – \_\_\_\_\_
3. birth/she/twins/to/has – \_\_\_\_\_
4. school/trouble/at/I/got/often – \_\_\_\_\_
5. watch/he/to/up/a/late/film – \_\_\_\_\_
6. handsome/he's/man/a/grown/young – \_\_\_\_\_
7. she/brothers/is/nothing/her – \_\_\_\_\_
8. yourself/what/in/you/let/have/? – \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. Complete the questions and write your answers in your notebook.**

1. Where did you grow \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Did your parents let you stay \_\_\_\_\_ late to watch TV when you were young?
3. As a teenager, could you stay \_\_\_\_\_ late when you were with friends?
4. Do/Did your parents ever turn a \_\_\_\_\_ eye to things you do/did?
5. Do/Did you ever \_\_\_\_\_ into trouble at school? If so, what for?
6. Do you remember getting your own \_\_\_\_\_ on someone for something horrible they did to you?

## I can talk about different generations

### A. The young about the old

The older generation are always **going on about** young people. They seem to think we're **to blame for** everything that goes wrong in the world. Why can't they **leave us alone**?

It's true older people **are** a bit **out of touch when it comes to** things like technology, but **on the whole** I think they're probably more open-minded than they used to be.

Many older people **are set in their ways**, and that can make them a bit narrow-minded.

I sometimes **feel** more **at ease with** older people because they're not trying to impress you, I think maybe it's easier to **be yourself** as you get older.

### Glossary

**go on (about smth/smb)** – talk about smth/smb for a long time, especially in a boring or complaining way

**be to blame (for smth)** – be responsible for smth bad. Syn: **be at fault**

**leave smb alone** – stop annoying smb

**be out of touch (with smth)** – not know or understand what is happening in a particular subject or area

**when it comes to smth/doing smth** – when you are talking about smth/doing smth

**be set in your ways** – have attitudes and habits for a long time that you don't want to change

**feel/be at ease (with smb)** – feel comfortable and relaxed (with smb)

**be yourself** – act naturally

### spotlight on the whole

**There are** various idioms we can use to introduce a generalization:

*On the whole*  
*In general*  
*By and large*

} *people became more conservative as they get older.*

### **1. Correct the mistake in each sentence. Write the correct idiom at the end.**

- 1 By the whole I enjoyed it. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Just leave me lone and go away. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 She's largely with fault. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 In generally I don't eat breakfast. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 He's very settled in his ways. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I feel in ease with them. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 I'm out from touch with computers. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Who is for blame? \_\_\_\_\_

### **2. Rewrite the sentences starting with the words given. Make sure the meaning doesn't change.**

1. I feel relaxed with Liz and Clive.      I feel at \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Just act naturally.      Just be \_\_\_\_\_.

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 3. She's to blame.                       | She's at _____.             |
| 4. He has very fixed attitudes.          | He's very set _____.        |
| 5. Stop annoying me.                     | Leave _____.                |
| 6. I'm not good with numbers.            | I'm not good when it _____. |
| 7. I don't know much about politics now. | I'm out of _____.           |
| 8. Don't keep talking about it.          | Don't go _____.             |

### **B. The old about the young**

'Young people **get up to** all sorts of things nowadays. Parents probably **give in to** them too much, and let them **get away with** things. But in general, they're all right'.

'**More and more** young people still **live off** their parents in their late 20s and early 30s. They should be **standing on their own two feet** at that age'.

'I sometimes find it difficult to **get through to** young people. We seem to **be worlds apart**. Maybe I'm just **behind the times**.'

'I never **take offence** when young people say old people are boring. I felt exactly the same when I was young'.

### **Glossary**

**get up to (smth)** – (informal) do smth, especially smth you shouldn't do

**give in (to smb)** – stop fighting or arguing with smb and accept you can't win

**get away with smth** – not be punished for smth you have done wrong

**more and more** – in increasing numbers or at an increasing rate

**live off smb** – rely on smb else to provide you with food, money, etc.

**stand on your own two feet** – not need the help of other people; live or act independently

**get through to smb** – make smb understand what you are trying to say

**be worlds apart** – be completely different in attitudes, opinions, etc.

**behind the times** – old-fashioned in your ideas, methods, etc.

**take offence (at smth)** – feel upset or hurt (by smth)

### **1. One word is missing. What is it, and where does it go?**

*Example: The kids always ask for sweets, and in the end I usually √ in. give*

1. He doesn't understand what I say; I just can't through to him. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She made a mistake but he was lucky; she got with it. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The area is becoming more and dangerous. \_\_\_\_\_
4. What have the children been getting to? \_\_\_\_\_
5. They're worlds – they have absolutely nothing in common. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Complete the dialogues. You may need more than one word.

1. I've learnt to be independent. – That's right, you can now stand on your \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Does Joe still \_\_\_\_\_ off his parents? – Yes, they pay for everything. And he's 40!
3. He's a bit old-fashioned. – I agree: he's a bit behind \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The brothers are completely different. – Yes, it's strange: they're worlds \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Was she upset at what you said? – No, I don't think she took \_\_\_\_\_.
6. There's no point in arguing with him. – Yes, it's easier just to \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3. Write your answers in your notebook, or talk to other students.

1. Did your parents give in to you very much when you were younger?
2. Did you get away with things at school when you were younger?
3. Do you ever find it difficult to get through to your parents/children?
4. Do you still live off your parents?
5. Do you think you and your parents are/were worlds apart?

## I can describe romantic relationships

### A. Young Love

#### *Ask Claire's advice*

SUE: I was very flattered when Chris started **chatting me up** at a party because I didn't think I'd **be his type**. But we really **hit it off**, and then started seeing a lot of each other. The thing is, though, his mother **thinks the world of him** and has done everything she can to **come between us** and try to **split us up**. I'd be upset if we **broke up** because of her – I'm just **crazy about** him.

CLAIRE REPLIES: Start by **putting yourself in** his mother's **shoes**. She can see you've both **fallen in love** and she probably thinks she's losing her son **for good**. Be patient, and try to make friends with her – it's the only solution.

#### Glossary

**chat smb up** – (informal) talk to smb in a friendly way because you are attracted to them

**be your type** – (informal) be someone with the qualities that you find attractive

**hit it off** – (informal) form a good relationship on the first meeting (also hit it off with smb)

**think the world of smb** – (informal) feel great love or affection for smb

**come between people** – cause an argument or difficulty between people

**split people up** – cause two people to stop having a relationship

**break up** – stop having a relationship (also break up with smb). Syn: split up (with smb)

**crazy about smb** – (informal) very much in love with smb. Syn: mad about smb (informal)

**put yourself in smb's shoes** – imagine you are in the same situation as smb. Syn: put yourself in smb's place

**fall in love** – start to love each other (also fall in love with smb, Syn: fall for smb (informal))  
**for good** – for ever

**1. Replace the underlined words with a phrasal verb or an idiom.**

1. He's a terrible liar; I hope she leaves him and never comes back.
2. He really loves his little niece.
3. She's not the kind of person I find attractive.
4. We met at a conference and we really got on very well.
5. I wish you would imagine you were in my situation.
6. He seemed attracted to me and talked to me in the bar.
7. It's sad, but they've decided to separate.
8. They're very much in love with each other.

**B. Enduring love**

BETTY: Alf **took his time** to **ask me out**, but it was **love at first sight** for me, and I **couldn't wait** to get married. It's not all been easy though. You have to **put up with** each other's bad habits; and Alf has a few. But we've **stuck together**, and we're very happy.

ALF: It took me a while to **pluck up the courage to** ask Betty out, but we had lots in common and we **built on** that. Plus, we worked hard at our relationship. With some young couples nowadays it seems that if anything **goes wrong**, one of them **walks out**. And lots of couples just seem to **drift apart**.

**Glossary**

**take your time** – do smth without hurrying

**ask smb out** – invite smb to go somewhere because you want to start a romantic relationship with them

**love at first sight** – love or attraction that you feel for smb when you see them for the first time

**can't wait/can hardly wait** – If smb can't or can hardly wait for smth, they are very excited about it.

**put up with smth/smb** – accept smth/smb that is unpleasant, without complaining

**stick together** – (informal) stay together and support each other

**pluck up (the) courage (to do smth)** – make yourself do smth even though you are afraid to do it

**build on smth** – use smth as the basis on which to develop and make progress

**go wrong** – develop badly and cause problems

**walk out (on smb)** – (informative) leave smb you are having a relationship with

**drift apart** – (of two or more people) slowly become less close or friendly

**1. Write the last word in each sentence.**

1. It was great at first, then things started to go \_\_\_\_\_.
2. There's no hurry; take your \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The important thing in our relationship is that we've stuck \_\_\_\_\_.

4. I'm going to ask her out if I can pluck up the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I saw her at a concert and it was love at first \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We enjoyed the same things, and that gave us something to build \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I'm meeting Gordon after work this evening. I can hardly \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Everyone thought they were in love, then one day, he just walked \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Complete the questions and write your answers in your notebook.**

1. Do you believe in \_\_\_\_\_ at first sight? Why/why not?
2. Have you ever found it difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ up the courage to ask someone \_\_\_\_\_? When, who with, and why?
3. What are the main reasons why relationships \_\_\_\_\_ wrong?
4. Do you know many couples who have \_\_\_\_\_ together for a long time?
5. Which bad habits do you find difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ up with?

## VOCABULARY PRACTICE

### RELATIONSHIPS

**Task 1. A LOVE STORY: part 1**

Complete the first part of the story below using the following words and expressions.

<i>tie the knot</i>	<i>split up</i>	<i>attracted to</i>	<i>go out</i>
<i>drift apart</i>	<i>chattered her up</i>	<i>got engaged</i>	<i>asked her out</i>
<i>courting</i>	<i>engagement</i>	<i>got on</i>	<i>wined and dined</i>
<i>living in sin</i>	<i>cohabiting</i>	<i>fallen in love</i>	<i>proposed</i>

Laurence first met Carol at a party and was immediately 1. \_\_\_\_\_ her. He 2. \_\_\_\_\_ and at the end of the evening 3. \_\_\_\_\_ to dinner at a nearby restaurant. She accepted his offer and the next evening he 4. \_\_\_\_\_ her in style, with champagne and delicious, exotic foods. They 5. \_\_\_\_\_ well with each other, decided to meet again and then started to 6. \_\_\_\_\_ on a regular basis. Laurence's granny was delighted that he was 7. \_\_\_\_\_ at last. It wasn't long before they realized that they had 8. \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.

A few months later, they bought a flat and moved in together. Laurence's granny disapproved of them 9. \_\_\_\_\_, but Laurence explained that 10. \_\_\_\_\_ was quite normal these days.

One day, Laurence decided to ask Carol to marry him, so after a romantic meal, he got down on one knee and 11. \_\_\_\_\_ to her. They 12. \_\_\_\_\_ and the next day announced their 13. \_\_\_\_\_ to their friends and family. Their parents were delighted that they had decided to 14. \_\_\_\_\_. Laurence's friends weren't so sure, however, and all agreed that they would 15. \_\_\_\_\_ and 16. \_\_\_\_\_ long before the wedding.

## Task 2. A LOVE STORY: part 2

Read the second part of the story and choose the correct word for each number.

A week or so before the wedding, Laurence went out on a **1. stag night / bull night / lion night** with his male friends, while Carol enjoyed her **2. chicken party / duck party / hen party** with her female friends. At last, the big day arrived. Laurence and Carol had wanted to get married in a **3. registered office / registry office / regimental office**, but their parents insisted on a traditional church wedding. The church was packed, friends and family of the **4. bride / bright / blight** on the left, friends and family of the **5. gloom / groom / doom** on the right. Laurence sat nervously at the front with his **6. beast man / bent man / best man**, who was carrying the **7. wedding rings / wedding rinks / wedding rims** in his pocket. The organist started playing the **8. Wedding March / Wedding Crawl / Wedding Stagger** and Carol walked up the **9. aisle / I'll / ail**, accompanied by her father and followed by the **10. brightmaids / bridesmaids / bride's mates**. The priest conducted the ceremony and, after Laurence and Carol had exchanged **11. cows / vows / vowels**, pronounced them husband and wife.

## Task 3. THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE

Match the following words with definitions 1 – 10.

*best friend • acquaintance • fiancé / fiancée • housemate • workmate  
ex-girlfriend / boyfriend • ex-husband / wife • roommate • classmate  
colleague • relative / relation • (steady) girlfriend / boyfriend • flatmate*

1. Somebody you are going out with.
2. Somebody you used to go out with.
3. Somebody you used to be married to.
4. Somebody you are going to marry.
5. Somebody you work with (two possible answers)
6. Somebody you share accommodation with (three possible answers)
7. Somebody you know well and get on very well with.
8. Somebody you share lessons at school with.
9. Somebody you know, but not very well.
10. A member of your family.

## Task 4. IDIOMS, COLLOQUIALISMS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS

Match the sentences on the left with a suitable response on the right. Use your dictionary to look up the meanings of the words and expressions in bold.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. They were going to get married, but at the last moment Allison <b>broke it off</b> . | A. Me too. We have similar feelings and get on really well.                           |
| 2. I've got lots of friends, but only one real <b>soul mate</b> .                       | B. She certainly is. She likes attracting the attention of all the men in the office. |
| 3. How do you get on with your <b>in-laws</b> ?   | C. Not yet, but we are separated.   |
|   | D. Yes. My friends arranged it for me.  |



4. Didn't you meet your future wife on a **blind date**?
  5. I'm sorry you and Melanie have split up, but don't worry; there are **plenty more fish in the sea**.
  6. Don't go out with him; he's a real **lady-killer**!
  7. Sally came to the party with her latest **toy boy**.
  8. Your new secretary is a bit of a **flirt**, isn't she?
  9. Is Meg still **on the shelf**?
  10. Chris and Jo's marriage is **on the rocks**.
  11. How do you get on with your **ex-boyfriend**?
  12. Are you **divorced**?
- E. That's true; I should get out a bit and meet more people.
  - F. Although we don't go out together any more, we're still good friends.
  - G. Poor Ian! He must have been really upset.
  - H. Really? I thought they were getting on so well together.
  - I. I know. He seems to spend all his time chatting up women.
  - J. Not well, I'm afraid. They've never forgiven me for my son.
  - K. No. Haven't you heard? She met the man of her dreams a few weeks ago.
  - L. I'm not surprised. She's always preferred younger men.

**Task 5. LOVE. Put each of the following words in the correct place below.**

<i>partners</i>	<i>platonic</i>	<i>flirtation</i>	<i>infatuation</i>
<i>mature</i>	<i>compatible</i>	<i>one-sided</i>	<i>hero-worship</i>
<i>mutual</i>	<i>idolize</i>	<i>complement</i>	<i>stable</i>

Youngsters in their teens or even earlier sometimes (a) \_\_\_\_\_ film stars or other celebrities with a kind of blind, devoted (b) \_\_\_\_\_. The objects of such adoration are regarded as gods by their smitten worshippers. How sad that such devotion is almost always unrequited (though pop-stars have been known to marry their fans). Young people also sometimes develop an irrational obsession for another, often older, person which is not an adult, (c) \_\_\_\_\_ feeling but simple a youthful (d) \_\_\_\_\_. At parties a boy may playfully try to attract a girl, or vice versa, without intending any serious, lasting relationship. This is just a (e) \_\_\_\_\_. A relationship which gives deep and lasting happiness to both (f) \_\_\_\_\_ must not be (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (felt more strongly by one of the pair than by the other). It should be based on a (h) \_\_\_\_\_ love and respect, felt equally by each of the two. Of course, it can take many forms. It might be very deep but entail no physical desire, in which case it is described as (i) \_\_\_\_\_. Certainly, for any relationship to be (j) \_\_\_\_\_, the two people involved must be (k) \_\_\_\_\_ (they must get on well together). This does not necessarily mean that they must have attitudes and interests in common, for partnerships of opposites can work very well. The different characters of the two people somehow (l) \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

### CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY

**Task 6. HOW MUCH FREEDOM SHOULD CHILDREN HAVE?**

**Put each of the following words or phrases in the correct place below.**

<i>possessive</i>	<i>upbringing</i>	<i>permissive</i>	<i>rebelliousness</i>
<i>suppress</i>	<i>formative</i>	<i>adolescence</i>	<i>run wild</i>
<i>inhibited</i>	<i>authoritarian</i>	<i>juvenile delinquency</i>	

It is often said that we live in a **(a)** \_\_\_\_\_ age, one in which people are allowed to do almost anything they like. Is this good for children? They are going through their **(b)** \_\_\_\_\_, which is a very **(c)** \_\_\_\_\_ stage of their development since their final adult characters are beginning to take shape. Some parents think it is good for children to be allowed to **(d)** \_\_\_\_\_, without control or supervision. They say that this enables children's personalities to develop naturally and that they will learn to be responsible by the mistakes they make. However, this might lead to **(e)** \_\_\_\_\_, with the children ending up in the courts, or it might simply make children self-centered, without any consideration for others. Other parents believe in being strict, but taken to extremes this can produce a too **(f)** \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere in the home, with the children being dominated and ruled by their parents. Parents can also be very **(g)** \_\_\_\_\_ and try to keep their children dependent on them. These last two attitudes can encourage **(h)** \_\_\_\_\_ (against parents, school, authority) in a child, or, conversely, **(i)** \_\_\_\_\_ a child's natural sense of adventure and curiosity. A strict **(j)** \_\_\_\_\_ by over-caring parents can make a child so timid and **(k)** \_\_\_\_\_ that he or she is unable to express freely his or her emotions and form mature relationships. To bring up children to be normal, well-adjusted human beings requires great wisdom, and perhaps a bit of luck.

**Task 7. Complete these sentences with an appropriate word or phrase. Choose from A, B or C.**

1. Mr. and Mrs. Smith live at home with their two children. They are a typical example of a modern \_\_\_\_\_ family.  
**A. extended**                      **B. nuclear**                      **C. compact**
  
2. Mr. and Mrs. Palatal live at home with their aged parents, children and grandchildren. They are a typical example of a traditional \_\_\_\_\_ family.  
**A. nuclear**                      **B. enlarged**                      **C. extended**
  
3. Mrs. Jones lives on her own and has to look after her two children. There are a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ families like hers.  
**A. single-parent**                      **B. mother-only**                      **C. mono-parent**
  
4. Some parents need to \_\_\_\_\_ their children more strictly.  
**A. bring down**                      **B. bring about**                      **C. bring up**
  
5. When I was a child, I had a very turbulent \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A. upbringing**                      **B. upraising**                      **C. uplifting**
  
6. Mrs. Kelly is \_\_\_\_\_ and finds it difficult to look after her children on her own.  
**A. divorced**                      **B. divided**                      **C. diverged**
  
7. Many men believe that \_\_\_\_\_ is the responsibility of a woman.  
**A. child help**                      **B. childcare**                      **C. child aid**

8. \_\_\_\_\_ is a particularly difficult time of life for a child.  
*A. Convalescence*      *B. Adolescence*      *C. Convergence*
9. A person's behaviour can sometimes be traced back to his/her \_\_\_\_\_.  
*A. creative years*      *B. formulating years*      *C. formative years*
10. The country has seen a sharp drop in the \_\_\_\_\_ in the last few years.  
*A. birth rate*      *B. baby rate*      *C. born rate*
11. She has five \_\_\_\_\_ who rely on her to look after them.  
*A. dependants*      *B. dependers*      *C. dependents*
12. \_\_\_\_\_ crime is on the rise, with over 30 per cent of thefts being committed by young people under the age of eighteen.  
*A. Junior*      *B. Juvenile*      *C. Children*

**Task 8. Match sentences 1 - 12 with sentences A - L. Use the key words and phrases in bold to help you.**

1. Mr. and Mrs. White are very **authoritarian** parents.
2. Mr. Bowles is considered to be too **lenient**.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Harris lead **separate lives**.
4. Billy is a **well-adjusted** kid.
5. The Mannings are not very **responsible** parents.
6. My parents are **separated**.
7. Parents must look after their children, but they shouldn't be **over-protective**.
8. Professor Maynard has made a study of the **cognitive processes** of young children.
9. I'm afraid my youngest child is **running wild**.
10. She looks quite different from all her **siblings**.
11. There are several **different and distinct stages of development** in a child's life.
12. Tony was raised by a **foster family** when his own parents died.

- A. They don't look after their children very well.
- B. He is fascinated by the way they learn new things.
- C. He very rarely punishes his children.
- D. I live with my mother and visit my father at weekends.
- E. He never listens to a word I say, and is always playing truant from school.
- F. Brothers and sisters usually bear some resemblance to one another.
- G. Although they are married and live together, they rarely speak to each other.
- H. They are very strict with their children.
- I. Of all of these, the teenage years are the most difficult.
- J. Children need the freedom to get out and experience the world around them.
- K. He's happy at home and is doing well at school.
- L. Many families take in children who are not their own.

**Task 9. Complete this case study with one of the words or phrases from TASKS 7 and 8. You will need to change one of the word forms.**

Bob's problems began during his **1**..... years. His parents got **2**..... when he was young, and neither of them wanted to raise him or his brother and sister, so he was **3**..... by a **4**.....chosen by his parents' social worker. Unfortunately, his foster father was a strict **5**..... and often beat him. Bob rebelled against this strict **6**..... and by the time he was eight, he was already **7**..... stealing from shops and playing truant. By the time he reached **8**..... sometime around his 13th birthday, he had already appeared in court several times, charged with **9**..... crime. The judge blamed his foster parents, explaining that children needed **10**.....parents and guardians who would look after them properly. The foster father objected to this, pointing out that Bob's **11**..... – his two brothers and sister – were **12**..... children who behaved at home and worked well at school.

This has raised some interesting questions about the modern family system. While it is true that parents should not be too **13**..... with children by letting them do what they want when they want, or be too **14**..... by sheltering them from the realities of life, it is also true that they should not be too strict. It has also highlighted the disadvantages of the modern **15**..... family where the child has only its mother and father to rely on (or the **16**..... family, in which the mother or father has to struggle particularly hard to support their **17**.....). In fact, many believe that we should return to traditional family values and the **18**..... family: extensive research has shown that children from these families are generally better behaved and have a better chance of success in later life.

## PART II

### DIALOGUE 1. TYING THE KNOT

*Mike:* Hmm. . . What's this card? "Join us! Matt and Allison are tying the knot! Take the plunge with them Saturday, June 22nd, at their Engagement/ Beach Party. There'll be no chance to get cold feet at this sizzling hot summer party! Takes place at Turtle Beach. This party is no stuffy ceremony, so join in if you want to see the couple let their hair down one last time before they walk down the aisle! RSVP by Friday, June 15th. It'll be a blast!" Wow. Matt and Allison are getting married! Didn't see that coming.

*Allison:* Mike! You're here! So glad you could make it!

*Mike:* Wouldn't miss it for the world!

*Matt:* Hey, buddy! How are ya?

*Mike:* Great! Congratulations, you two!

*Matt and Allison:* Thanks!

*Mike:* Looks like a good turnout!

*Matt:* Yeah, we're happy so many people could come.

*Mike:* So, you two are finally gonna get hitched. Who popped the question? Was it you, Matt, or did you propose to him, Allison?

*Matt:* I decided to be the romantic one. I took Allison to the park where we had our five-year anniversary picnic, and asked her there . . . She was in a bad mood that day . . . I almost lost my nerve—I thought she was gonna turn me down!

*Allison:* He's right . . . I almost left him in the park. I had a terrible migraine. Stress at work. And he'd been acting so strange, I guess getting ready for the big question.

*Mike:* Have you guys settled on a date yet?

*Allison:* We're close . . . Sometime next July. You'll be around, won't you?

*Mike:* You can count on it.

*Allison:* Oh, I just saw my aunt arrive. Sorry to bail on you, Mike, right when you get here!

*Mike:* No, no problem; we'll catch up later on.

*Allison:* Great. See you both in a bit.

*Mike:* Okay, can I ask you something direct?

*Matt:* Ha! It's not like you've ever been one to beat around the bush.

*Mike:* Fair enough. Give it to me straight. Did she bully you into this?

*Matt:* No, seriously . . . I really want this.

*Mike:* I tell ya, when I got the invite, it really threw me for a loop. You've done a complete 180. Just a couple months ago, you were telling me how you kind of missed playing the field.

*Matt:* I know. But things have changed. I guess I've settled down.

*Mike:* I guess so! What happened?

*Matt:* Well, remember that car accident Allison had? When I found out, it was a real wake-up call. I remember thinking I didn't know how I would live without this woman. It hit me — she was the one for me. I decided I should either marry her or stop seeing her.

*Mike:* Wow.

*Matt*: Really, and since I've proposed, everything has been perfect. I feel like a million bucks. It was the right decision.

*Mike*: I have to hand it to you. It seems like you're really getting your life on track. You're a lucky man. She's a great person. You deserve a great woman.

*Matt*: Thanks, I appreciate that. But come on, this is supposed to be fun. Let's grab a beer and join the party.

*Mike*: Great idea.

**Exercise 1. Read the definitions of these idioms and give the Russian equivalents.**

1. To tie the knot. To get married.
2. To take the plunge. To follow through on a big or life-changing decision. On the invitation, it has a double meaning. It refers both to a "plunge" into water at the beach party and to the fact that Matt and Allison will be getting married.
3. To get cold feet. To be or become afraid to do something. To have second thoughts. Notice that you can also say "have cold feet."
4. Stuffy. Formal. Overly conservative in ceremony and style.
5. To let your hair down. To celebrate in a free and uninhibited way.
6. To walk down the aisle. To get married.
7. To not see something coming. To not expect something. To be surprised by something.
8. A turnout. The number of people at an event. Notice that there's also the verb "to turn out."
9. To get hitched. To get married. These days, this expression is an informal, humorous, and exaggerated way to say "to get married."
10. To pop the question. To propose marriage to someone.
11. To lose your nerve. To lose courage.
12. To turn someone or something down. To say "no" to someone or something.
13. To settle on something. To decide something after discussion, consideration, or negotiation.
14. To count on something. To depend on something happening. To be sure something will happen.
15. To bail. To leave a person or quit a project earlier than expected. You can also say "to bail out on someone or something."
16. To beat around the bush. To be indirect in approach in order to avoid confrontation.
17. To give it to someone straight. To be direct and honest with someone.
18. To bully someone into something. To force someone to do something.
19. To throw someone for a loop. To surprise someone. To confuse someone with something unexpected.
20. To do a complete 180. To change in a drastic way. To turn completely around.
21. To play the field. To date many different people.
22. To settle down. To grow comfortable and content in a routine or situation, especially in a relationship with another person. Often, this implies growing older and more responsible, or less fun-loving and free, depending on how you look at it!
23. To be a wake-up call. To be something that changes your view of what is important or possible.
24. To be seeing someone. To date someone informally.
25. To hand it to someone. To acknowledge someone's achievement.

26. To get something on track. To make decisions and take actions about something that will lead to a favorable outcome.

**Exercise 2.** Look up these idioms in an English-English dictionary and find examples of your own.

**Exercise 3.** Correct the mistakes in these idioms:

1. to play the meadow
2. to get cool feet
3. to tie the bow
4. to make a full 180
5. to get something on trail
6. to throw someone for a spiral
7. to hit about the tree

**Exercise 4.** Complete each of these idioms:

1. The end of that trick always throws the audience \_\_\_\_\_. I love watching their faces as they desperately try to figure it out.
2. ...the world-famous Oktoberfest, a time when everyone in Munich really \_\_\_\_\_ their down.
3. Do you still want to do this parachute jump or are you \_\_\_\_\_ feet?
4. After working for twenty years he decided to take \_\_\_\_\_ and go back to college.
5. It may take some time to get the economy \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Quit \_\_\_\_\_ about and tell me what you really want.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The origin of the phrase "to beat about the bush" lies in medieval hunting. During bird hunts, some participants would rouse the birds by beating the bushes so that the others could hunt them. The UK version of the phrase is "beat about the bush", while the American version is "beat around the bush" and is newer and more popular today.

### **LET'S CHANT**

**It was a wake-up call.** (*to be something that changes your view of what is important or possible / звоночек, отрезвляющий души*)

He did a complete 180. (*to change in a drastic way / полностью, кардинально измениться*)

It was a wake-up call.

He packed and left for Haiti.

I did not see that coming. (*to not expect smth, to be surprised by smth / это было как снег на голову, полнейшая неожиданность*)

He did a complete 180.

I did not see that coming.

Imagine at the age of 80!

He is making up for the time lost. (*to catch up, to spend a lot of time doing smth because you didn't have an opportunity to do it before / наверстывать, компенсировать*)

It was a wake-up call.

He finally got off his high horse. (*to stop acting superior or self-righteous/ перестать выпендриваться, задаваться, кичиться*)

'Cause money just isn't all!

He was always second to none. (*better than everybody else / непревзойдённый, нет равных*)

Spending money like there's no tomorrow. (*to spend money recklessly as if it were worthless / бросать деньги на ветер, тратить не считая*)

But after the death of his wife,

He could not overcome his sorrow.

Without his wife by his side

He felt he was spinning his wheels. (*to spend time doing things that achieve nothing / тратить силы впустую, терять время, топтаться на месте*)

It got beyond a joke. (*to become extremely serious and worrying / зайти слишком далеко*)

He couldn't help dragging his heels. (*to do something slowly or delay doing something because you don't want to do it / мешкать, делать с неохотой*)

He tied up a few loose ends. (*to finish, to complete / уладить дела, подчищать хвосты*)

He was at fever pitch. (*a state of extreme excitement/ крайняя степень накала страстей*)

He gave all his money to charity.

He is free now, he isn't rich.

**Correct the mistakes in these idioms and use them in sentences of your own:**

1. Drag one's toes; 2. Go behind a joke; 3. Get off your tall horse; 4. Second to nothing; 5. Tie down free ends; 6. To be whirling one's wheels; 7. A get up call.

## **DIALOGUE 2. SHE'S GOT YOU WRAPPED AROUND HER FINGER**

Frank: Hey, Alan! Long time no see! How's it going?

Alan: Good. Just here getting the ol' ticker pumpin'. What about you?

Frank: Same old, same old.

Alan: Hey—I ran into your son Bobby the other day. Did he say Stacey's got one on the way?

Frank: Sure did. About four months along with their second. They had a little girl 'bout a year and a half ago. A piece of work, I tell ya. A chip off the old block.

Alan: Ya don't say. How d'ya mean?



*Frank:* Hardheaded, just like Bobby, and when she's up to somethin', she gets that same look in her eye Bobby used to get when he was a kid. It's really something else!

*Alan:* So, she takes after her father, huh? That'll give him a taste of his own medicine! All those years causing trouble in the neighborhood!

*Frank:* Yep — to pay the piper.

*Alan:* I remember when my kids were that age — you've really got to be on the ball. Can't turn your back for a minute before they're already up to something.

*Frank:* Yeah. Don't keep up with 'em like I used to. Two hours and I'm bushed. But I tell ya, I'm having a blast being a grandfather. Not like with your own kids at all.

*Alan:* For sure . . . You get to be a pushover without any of the guilt!

*Frank:* Yeah . . . Like the other morning, I was baby-sitting. Well, the girl got it in her head that she wanted ice cream at 9 a.m.! She was set on it! At first I thought . . . No! Bobby'd have a fit. But then, I thought, hey, it's not MY kid! So, I caved in and gave it to her! Ice-cream for breakfast! Can you believe it?

*Alan:* Yeah, it's easy to buckle when it's your grandkids and not your kids! Sounds like she's got you wrapped around her finger!

*Frank:* Yeah. I'm hooked when it comes to this grandfather business! Can't wait for the next one.

### **Exercise 1. Read the definitions of these idioms and give the Russian equivalents.**

1. To run into somebody. To meet somebody unexpectedly.
2. To have one on the way. To be pregnant. To be expecting a child.
3. A piece of work. A complicated, interesting, or amusing person. Often said ironically.
4. A chip off the old block. Said of children when they greatly resemble one of their parents in personality or behavior.
5. You don't say. An expression used to show mild surprise, like saying "really?" This can also be a sarcastic expression, to show that you don't find something as interesting as someone else does.
6. Hardheaded. Stubborn.
7. Up to something. Involved in some kind of mischief. Planning something.
8. Something else. An expression meaning "something noteworthy" or "something interesting or worth discussion."
9. To take after. To have the same traits or characteristics as another person.
10. To have a taste of one's own medicine. To be on the receiving end of behavior that one has subjected others to.
11. To pay the piper. To suffer the consequences of your actions, after a long time of not suffering any consequences.
12. On the ball. Ready, alert, highly prepared.
13. To turn your back on someone. Literally, to turn away from or look the other way. Note that this expression can also be used figuratively, meaning to abandon or stop caring about someone.
14. To keep up with something or someone. To go at the same speed or pace, to be aware of changes or current conditions.
15. To be bushed. To be very tired.
16. To have a blast. To have a lot of fun, to have a great time.
17. To be a pushover. To be easily convinced or persuaded.

18. Set on something. Fixated on something and determined to have it.
19. To have a fit. To have a temper tantrum. To lose control of your emotions. To display your anger.
20. To cave in. To give in. To allow yourself to be persuaded or tempted.
21. To buckle. To be persuaded, to change your mind.
22. To have someone wrapped around your finger. To cause someone to be obedient to you. To influence someone very greatly, to exert far too much influence on someone.
23. To be hooked. To enjoy something very much, to be convinced of something. In the context of drugs or alcohol, "hooked" can also mean "addicted."
24. When it comes to something. Regarding, with regard to, or concerning something.

**Exercise 2. Look up these idioms in an English-English dictionary and find examples of your own.**

**Exercise 3. Correct the mistakes in these idioms:**

1. to have one on the road
2. a chip off the new block
3. to have someone wrapped around your toe
4. a piece of job
5. to pay the price
6. to have an explosion

**Exercise 4. Complete each of these idioms:**

1. Take the kids to the water park - they'll have a \_\_\_\_, and so will you.
2. Like her mother, Karen has very little patience - a \_\_\_\_ off the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.
3. Don't be rude to others. You won't like it when you have a \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.
4. Eventually you'll have to \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. You can't get away with that forever.
5. The spoiled little brat has his parents completely \_\_\_\_ around \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.
6. I can't turn my \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ my own daughter, no matter what she's done.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The origin of the phrase *to have a taste of one's own medicine* can be found in one of Aesop's fables. It is about a swindler who sells fake medicine, claiming that it cures anything. When he himself falls ill, people give him his own medicine, which he knows will not cure him.

## **DIALOGUE 3. I HAVE A BONE TO PICK WITH YOU**

Andrew: Don't we get off here, at this exit?

Rob: Beats me... You said you had the directions covered.

Andrew: Yeah, but I'm also driving right now. Just look in the glove compartment. I think I put them in there.

Rob: They're not there.

Andrew: They should be... Let me see... Oh man, I took them out to double-check something and forgot to put them back in. It must have slipped my mind...

Rob: So, we're lost? That's great.

Andrew: It's no big deal. We can call or ask someone for directions.

Rob: This is typical. Why did you say you'd handle the directions if you weren't going to handle them?

Andrew: Look who's talking? The only reason I said I'd handle them is because I knew you couldn't be counted on.

Rob: Me? You've got to be kidding. You're the one who doesn't give a damn about anyone around you.

Andrew: All right, let's not fly off the handle here. We just need to get directions. There's no reason to make a mountain out of a molehill. What's the deal? (Silence.)

Andrew: C'mon. If you have a bone to pick with me, don't beat around the bush... Let's get it out in the open before we get to Aunt Helen's place.

Rob: All right, fine. I think you've become a bit of a slacker lately.

Andrew: You think I'm a slacker? That's a bit harsh. Why would you say something like that? What's eating you?

Rob: Well, for instance, last week you needed to borrow one of my shirts for work because you didn't bother to plan ahead and buy one yourself.

Andrew: It's just a shirt! Are you really that bent out of shape over my borrowing a shirt? You need to lighten up a bit, Rob.

Rob: It's not just the shirt, Andrew. It's that you lean on everyone else and expect them to pick up your slack. You don't take responsibility – you're always passing the buck.

Andrew: That's insane. I needed a shirt for a new job. If I were such a slacker, I wouldn't even have a job.

Rob: Okay, let's talk about the job, then.

Andrew: What about it?

Rob: Well, I got you that job. I hooked you up with a great job at a place where I've worked for three years.

Andrew: And I've thanked you for it like a thousand times.

Rob: Yeah, but what you do reflects on me. If you screw up it really gives me a bad name.

Andrew: How am I screwing up? I work my tail off there!

Rob: Sometimes, yeah, but you also sit around twiddling your thumbs a lot, too.

Andrew: Oh, that's bull.

Rob: No, it's true. And you also seem to find a lot of time to chat up the pretty girls who walk in instead of doing your job.

Andrew: I'm a salesman! I'm supposed to talk with the customers.

Rob: But it's the same thing at home. You're still living with Mom and Dad, and you hardly ever lift a finger around the house to help out. You're 22 years old and your room looks like a train wreck. You don't even pitch in with groceries...

Andrew: That's not true at all! And how would you know? You're not even there.

Rob: I have eyes, Andrew. I can see. You still act like a child sometimes.

Andrew: Oh, you need to get off your high horse, Rob. You're the one acting like a child. You're still trying to show everyone up, like little Mr. Perfect. You were a goody-goody as a kid, and you haven't changed since.

Rob: Hey, what do you know...?

Andrew: What?

Rob: While we were at each other's throats you somehow managed to get us to Aunt Helen's.

Andrew: Oh, yeah. That's her house there. Pretty good for such a slacker.

Rob: Just park the car and give it a rest for now.

Andrew: Gladly. Just don't criticize my parking job.

Rob: Ugh. The ride home is going to be long...

**Exercise 1. Read the definitions of these idioms and give the Russian equivalents.**

1. Beats me. I don't know. I have no idea.
2. To have something covered. To be responsible for something, to handle something.
3. To slip someone's mind. To be forgotten by someone.
4. Look who's talking! An expression of disbelief or irony meaning that someone is guilty of something he or she is blaming someone else for.
5. To not give a damn. To not care. Note that some people consider the word "damn" to be harsh and impolite, so an alternate expression is to not give a darn.
6. To fly off the handle. To become extremely agitated, excited, or angry. To react too strongly to a situation.
7. To make a mountain out of a molehill. To exaggerate a situation, to turn a relatively minor situation into something much bigger or more important than it should be.
8. To have a bone to pick with someone. To have a problem or complaint about someone.
9. To get something out in the open. To air a complaint or a grievance, to discuss something openly.
10. Slacker. A lazy or irresponsible person. This expression is related to the verb "to slack off."
11. To be eating someone. To bother, aggravate, or frustrate someone over a period time.
12. Bent out of shape. Annoyed or bothered by something. Upset. Note that this expression suggests that the reason behind the emotion is insignificant or not worth being upset about.
13. To lighten up. To take a more casual or relaxed attitude. To not be overly upset or angry about something.
14. To lean on. To rely on, count on, to be dependent on someone else instead of being self-sufficient.
15. To pick up someone's slack. To compensate for someone else's shortcomings.
16. To pass the buck. To put the blame or responsibility on someone else.
17. To hook someone up with something. To arrange for someone to have something. To help someone obtain something or to give someone something.
18. To screw up. To make mistakes, to perform poorly.
19. To give someone a bad name. To give someone a bad reputation.
20. To work your tail off. To work very hard. To put forth great effort.
21. To twiddle your thumbs. To do nothing. Literally, to have your hands clasped and to move your thumbs in circles around each other.
22. Bull. Nonsense. Something untrue or unbelievable. Note that this is shortened, more polite form of an expression containing a four-letter word. "Bull" on its own is not considered vulgar, though.
23. To chat someone up. To talk to someone, to show interest in someone by making conversation.

24. To lift a finger. To offer help. To put forth effort to do some sort of physical work.
25. To look like a train wreck. To be very messy or in terrible condition. To appear as if destroyed in some kind of accident.
26. To pitch in. to assist, to share in a responsibility, such as housework or bill paying.
27. To get off your high horse. To stop acting superior or self-righteous.
28. To show someone up. To try to appear better or more competent than other people.
29. Goody-goody. An unflattering name for someone who behaves very well, is very responsible, and never gets into any kind of trouble. An expression that suggests that someone is afraid to do anything wrong.
30. To be at someone's throat. To be fighting with someone. To be aggressively attacking someone.
31. To give something a rest. To stop doing something, to pause or take a break from some kind of activity.

**Exercise 2. Look up these idioms in an English-English dictionary and find examples of your own.**

**Exercise 3. Correct the mistakes in these idioms:**

1. to be on someone's neck
2. to fly from the handle
3. to look like a ship wreck
4. to twiddle your fingers
5. to slip someone's brain
6. to lift a toe
7. to get away from your high horse
8. to be bent out of body
9. to raise a finger
10. to be at each other's thoughts
11. to push the buck
12. to work one's head off
13. to take up smb's slack
14. let's get it out in the air
15. it bites me

**Exercise 4. Complete each of these idioms:**

1. If we all \_\_\_\_\_ in together, it shouldn't take too long.
2. He's always had his big brother to \_\_\_\_\_ on.
3. What's \_\_\_\_\_ Bobby? He hasn't said anything all night.
4. I've got a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ with you – you've been using my shampoo again.
5. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ what they think of me!
6. Oh, I'm so sorry, I've forgotten your book at home...It must have \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_.
7. You're making a \_\_\_\_\_ out \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_. You wrote one bad essay – it doesn't mean you're going to fail.
8. What \_\_\_\_\_ me is why she stays with him.

9. The management where I work thinks that taking time to eat lunch is only for \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ up! I was only joking!
11. He just watches TV and never \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ to help with the dishes.
12. It's time you got \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ and admitted you were wrong.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The phrase “bone to pick” dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and simply refers to a dog chewing endlessly on, and "picking clean" a large bone. A "bone to pick" is thus a subject or issue that is expected to require considerable discussion or argument.

“Passing the buck” originated from a ritual practiced during card games. Card players used to place a marker, called a "buck" in front of the person who was the dealer. That marker was passed to the next player along with the responsibility of dealing. Eventually "passing the buck" became synonymous with passing on responsibility.

“Fly off the handle” is an American phrase and it alludes to the uncontrolled way a loose axe-head flies off from its handle.

## LET'S CHANT

**I have a bone to pick with you.** *(to want to talk to someone about something annoying they have done / у меня к тебе претензии)*

This is not a laughing matter. *(it's a serious thing / это не повод для смеха)*

I have a bone to pick with you.

Why did you read that letter?

I have a bone to pick with you.

You weren't supposed to know.

I have a bone to pick with you.

I'm sorry. I'd rather go.

I am talking to you. You can't just leave.

It's not a laughing matter.

I'm sorry, my friend. I really am.

I shouldn't have read that letter.

The mere idea makes me wince. *(to shrink or start involuntary as in pain or distress / сама эта идея заставляет меня содрогнуться)*

It is beyond belief. *(I can't believe it)*

It's (there's) no use crying over spilt milk. (*do not be upset about making a mistake, since you cannot change that now / слезами горю не поможешь, после драки кулаками не машут, горевать о непоправимом*)  
I was just worried stiff. (*extremely worried / жутко переживал, очень беспокоился*)

You were worried stiff?  
Don't make me laugh.  
It's no laughing matter.  
The mere idea makes me wince.  
How could you have read my letter?

#### **DIALOGUE 4. FACE THE MUSIC**

Father: We need to talk.

Patrick: Can this wait? It's after two. I am tired.

Mother: You're hardly ever home, Patrick. We can't put this off any longer.

Patrick: Fine. What?

Father: We want to talk to you about your life.

Patrick: Here it comes...

Father: You need to be more responsible. You stay out too late. You are not taking your graduation seriously.

Patrick: Give me a break! I do have a job, you know.

Father: Actually, you've had three different jobs in the last six weeks. You seem to brush them off like they are games. And you aren't putting away any of your money. You burn through it and live paycheck-to-paycheck.

Patrick: Well, it's no skin of your nose. It's my money, right?

Mother: Yes, but you don't seem to be thinking at all about your future. We can't support you forever, you know. You've got to start to make your own way in the world soon.

Father: Patrick, you are smart. You have to get a real job. If you'd like, I can help you get the ball rolling. I'd like to get you a job working at my company. It will be a way to get your feet wet in business until you find something on your own.

Patrick: It's like talking to a wall with you two! How many times do I have to tell you? I don't want to work in business! I am going to be a writer.

Father: Patrick, that's an admirable goal, but you can't go about it with your head in the clouds. You need to start somewhere concrete, but even before that you need to earn a living somehow.

Patrick: I've told you a thousand times, I don't want to sell out and work for a corporation.

Mother: Who put this idea in your head, anyway? Was it Marcie?

Patrick: I knew it! That's what this is all about. Just because you don't get along with Marcie!

Father: Patrick, it's true that we don't see eye to eye with you on girlfriends. But this is not about Marcie. This is about you taking charge of your life.

Mother: Wake up and smell the coffee, Patrick... Marcie hasn't set very high goals for herself in life, and if you...

Father: Honey, we agreed we'd focus on the job situation first. Let's just...

*Patrick:* Oh, I can't believe this!

*Father:* Your mother just wants the best for you. But your relationship with Marcie is neither here nor there. The point is you are twenty-three and haven't had a decent job since you graduated.

*Patrick:* Must you constantly be on my case about this? Look, the way I see it, it's my life now, and I am the only one who should have to worry about it. You two have to cut the cord.

*Father:* Well, we are glad you think so son, because your mother and I have decided it's about time you moved out.

*Patrick:* What?!

*Father:* Time to face the music! It's sink or swim, Patrick. Welcome to the real world.

*Patrick:* You are just cutting me off?

*Mother:* Oh, of course not, son. Your father is just being dramatic. But it really is time for you to face the real world. We're doing this because we love you. We'll be there to help if you need it.

*Patrick:* Oh, Okay... So, does that mean I can drop my laundry off here for you, Mom?

### **Exercise 1. Read the definitions of these idioms and give the Russian equivalents.**

1. To give someone a break. To hold back criticism, judgment, or efforts against someone.
2. To brush something off. To fail to take something seriously. To treat something as unimportant or inconsequential.
3. To put something away. To save something, such as money.
4. To burn through something. To use something very fast. with little care for future supplies.
5. To live paycheck-to-paycheck. To earn only enough money to meet weekly or monthly bills, to not be able to save or spend on nonessentials.
6. No skin off someone's nose. To be of no concern or importance to someone. To fail to affect someone. To say "it's no skin off your nose" means that there's an inconvenience only for the speaker, but none for the listener.
7. To make your own way in the world. To support yourself, to be responsible for your own needs in life.
8. To get the ball rolling. To get started doing something.
9. To get your feet wet. To get experience, to try something out.
10. Like talking to a wall. Communicating with someone who doesn't understand or listen.
11. To go about something. To handle, to act, or to perform in a situation or with a certain goal.
12. To have your head in the clouds. To be a dreamer, to fail to be realistic or pay attention to realistic needs.
13. To sell out. To betray your principles for money.
14. To get along with. To behave in an agreeable way with someone.
15. To see eye to eye. To agree.
16. To take charge of something. To become responsible for something and make active decisions about it.
17. To wake up and smell the coffee. To acknowledge the reality of a situation.
18. Neither here nor there. To not be the point. To not matter or be Important in the current context.
19. To cut the cord. To detach yourself from someone of something that you used to have strong influence or control over. The image is of a baby being physically attached to his or her mother by the umbilical cord.



20. It's about time. To be the right time. This expression may also communicate the opinion that something should have been a long time ago.
21. To face the music. To confront or accept unpleasant realities or consequences of bad actions.
22. To sink or swim. To be in a situation where you must either perform your best or fail.
23. To cut someone off. To stop someone's supply of something, often money or support.

**Exercise 2. Look up these idioms in an English-English dictionary and find examples of your own.**

**Exercise 3. Correct the mistakes in these idioms:**

1. to make one's own road in the world
2. to have your head in the sky
3. to wake up and smell the cocoa
4. to cut the rope
5. to get feet warm

**Exercise 4. Complete each of these idioms:**

1. Give her a \_\_\_ - she's only a child and she didn't mean any harm.
2. He was hoping that this meeting would \_\_\_ the ball\_\_\_.
3. Last night I drove my Dad's car. In the morning I had to \_\_\_ the music from my Dad.
4. Talking to Eddie when he is watching TV is like \_\_\_ to a \_\_\_!
5. Hey, it's no \_\_\_ off my \_\_\_ if you want to get a tattoo. I'm just saying that it's something you may regret someday.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Wake up and smell the coffee is an injunction to face up to reality or face the facts, an Americanism first cited in the Chicago Daily Tribune 18 January 1943. It is not known who coined the expression but the Anne Landers advice column in the Chicago Sun-Times popularised it during the 1960s. It is a modern version of the older saying *stop and smell the roses* although the latter has a slightly different meaning, which is to appreciate the good things in life.

### **LET'S CHANT**

**It's about time you learnt to drive.** It's about time. You are 25.

It's about time she learnt to ski. It's about time. She is 26.

It's about time you learnt to cook. It's about time. Get a cookery-book.

It's about time we talked of this. It's about time. Let's talk now please.

It's about time he understood. It's not downtown. It's a quiet neighborhood.

It's about time he settled down. (= *settle into a stable way of life / остепениться*)

Had a quiet life. Stopped painting the town. (= *кутить / go out and celebrate, go on a drinking bout, get drunk*)

**Get it off your chest!** (*to unburden oneself; to confess something / облегчить душу*)

What's on your mind? (*what are you thinking about / что у тебя на уме*)

I can see you are upset.

I am not blind.

I don't want to bring this up. (*discuss / обсуждать, говорить о*)

Nor spring it up on you. (*to present or disclose smth to smb unexpectedly / обрушивать на к-л*)

Get it off your chest.

What's eating you?

I need to lighten up. (*успокоиться, не брать в голову, относиться легче*)

I need to lean on you. (*to rely or count on/ опереться в трудную минуту, зависеть от*)

For crying out loud! (*е-мое! idiom used for emphasis*)

What's eating you? (*что тебя гложет*)

Get it off your chest!

What's on your mind?

I can see you upset.

`Cause it stands out a mile. (*it's easy to see, obvious / это видно зав версту, очевидно*)

To cut a long story short, (*короче говоря*)

That's the story of my life. (*со мной так всегда, вечно/ всю жизнь у меня так*)

To put it in a nutshell, (*короче говоря*)

I've been dumped by my wife. (*my wife left me / меня бросила жена*)

I did not see that coming. (*it was rather unexpected; out of the blue / я этого не ждал, я и подумать не мог*)

Divorces are a fact of life. (*суровая правда жизни*)

Pull yourself together! (*возьми себя в руки*)

But I've been dumped by my wife!

It's not the end of the world. (*это не конец света*)

I'll never live it down! (*я не переживу*)

Well, of course you will.

Shall we go out of town?

I can take it or leave it. (*I don't care / мне все равно*)

Lighten up! It will help! (*веселей, выше нос, относись проще*)

I don't believe it. But what the heck? (*какого черта*)

Get a life! (*живи полной жизнью*)

Play the field. (*находиться в активном поиске второй половинки/ приударить за женщинами*)

You haven't lived (*ты и жизни то не знаешь толком*)

You can say that again. (*я полностью согласен / и не говори!*)

I can't conceive. (*у меня в голове не укладывается*)

She was getting on your nerves, (*анноу, irritate / действовать на нервы*)

Giving you a hard time. (*make someone's life miserable and difficult / портить к-л жизнь*)

She was second to none! (*the very best / самый лучший, непревзойденный*)

Don't feed me that line! (*ой, вот только не надо ля-ля*)

She always bullied you.

I have a lot to answer for! (*я за многое в ответе*)

It brings a lump to my throat. (*ой, у меня прям ком к горлу*)

Don't be such a bore! (*не будь занудой*)

The point is we're gonna party. (*суть в том, что...*)

Let our hair down (*оттянуться, расслабиться*)

'Cause your life has been so stuffy. (*'душиная' жизнь*)

Why don't you look around?

Your life lacks zip. (*не хватает драйва*)

You had a narrow escape. (*еле ноги унес*)

Now chance your arm. (*рискни*)

It won't be the same.

## VOCABULARY NOTES

- 1) **Get it off your chest** - to tell someone about something that has been worrying you or making you feel guilty for a long time: *I had spent two months worrying about it and I was glad to get it off my chest.*
- 2) **What's on your mind?** – occupying one's thoughts; currently being thought about; you are thinking or worrying about it. *You've been on my mind all day / Do you have something on your mind? You look serious / Something is worrying you, isn't it? What's on your mind?*
- 3) **To bring something up** – to mention. *Why did you have to bring this problem up? / Then they brought up the question of money.*
- 4) **To spring (up) on somebody** – to give unexpected news with no preparation or warning. *I hate to spring this on you at the last moment, but I will need the money to travel on. / Please don't spring any other demands on me.*
- 5) **To lighten up** – to take a more casual or relaxed attitude. To take matters less seriously. To not be overly upset or angry about something. To be less rough and demanding or rude with someone or something. *Please lighten up on her. You are being very cruel. / You are too harsh. Lighten up! / The jokes lightened up the tone of our meeting. / Everything will work out fine, so stop worrying and lighten up.*

- 6) **To lean on** – to rely or count on, to be dependent on someone else instead of being self-sufficient. *You lean on your parents too much. When I became sick, I leaned on my family for support.*
- 7) **For crying out loud** – an exclamation of anger or exasperation (боже мой, ну и ну, сколько можно!). *For crying out loud, can't you do anything right!?* = for Christ's sake! *No, I haven't bought her a present yet. Her birthday is a month away, for crying out loud!*
- 8) **To stick (stand) out a mile** – to be very obvious. (быть очевидным, само собой разумеющимся, бросаться в глаза). *She sticks (stands) out a mile with her red hair. / Of course, he is unhappy – it stands out a mile.*
- 9) **To cut a long story short = to put it in a nutshell** – to leave out parts of a story to make it shorter, to bring a story to an end. *And – to cut a long story short – I never got the money that I lent him. / The explanation is long but let me put it in a nutshell for you. / To put it in a nutshell – you are fired.*
- 10) **That's the story of my life** – said when something bad happens to you that has happened to you many times before. (said when one usually negative thing happens to you often). *Honestly, it's the story of my life - I meet a totally gorgeous bloke and he's leaving for Australia the next day!* (Вот так всегда! Вот такая фигня, наступать на одни и те же грабли).
- 11) **To be dumped by someone** – one partner ends the relationship when the other still wants to stay together. To stop being in a romantic relationship with someone.
- 12) **To (not) see something coming** – (not) to see that something is likely to happen, especially something bad. *I was surprised when they divorced – I didn't see that coming. / No one else had expected the factory to close, but we saw it coming.* ((не) предполагать).
- 13) **A fact of life** – an unpleasant situation which has to be accepted because it can't be changed. (суровая реальность жизни). *She grew up in Northern Ireland during the 1970s when violence had become a fact of life.*
- 14) **To pull oneself together** – to become calm and behave normally again after being angry or upset. (взять себя в руки). *Just pull yourself together. There is no point crying about it.*
- 15) **It's not the end of the world** – not the worst thing that could happen. *If I don't get the job, it won't be the end of the world.*
- 16) **To (not/ never) live it down** – to overcome the shame or embarrassment of something. To overcome or reduce some negative feeling about a negative event for which one is known. Used chiefly in the negative. (забыть, примириться, пережить, оставить в прошлом). *You will live it down some day. / He will never be able to live down what happened at the party last night. / You'll never live down the embarrassment of losing your bathing suit in the pool.*

- 17) I can take it or leave it** – something that you say which means that you don't hate something but you do not like it very much. (мне все равно, без разницы, на ваше усмотрение, как хотите, как угодно). *My sister is absolutely crazy about chocolate whereas I can take it or leave it.*
- 18) What the heck!** = it doesn't matter (often with the force of an exclamation). *Oh, what the heck! I'll have another beer!* (Ладно, чего уж там! Какого черта)
- 19) Get a life** – fine more interesting things to do, have fun, do something different. (перемени свой образ жизни, расширь круг интересов, займись делом). *Stop sitting around and complaining – get a life. / With the time you save you could learn Italian, paint your basement, even get a life.*
- 20) To play the field** – to date many different people rather than just one, avoid an exclusive commitment. (встречаться, искать вторую половинку, волочиться за женщинами). *He said he wanted to play the field while he was still young. All his friends are married now, but he continues to play the field.*
- 21) You can say that again** – I totally agree with what you said. (Я полностью согласен). *What a relief that Brian didn't get hurt. – You can say that again / That was an absolutely delicious lunch. – You can say that again.*
- 22) To get on smb's nerves** – to annoy someone especially by doing something again and again. (Действовать на нервы). *If we spend too much time together, we end up getting on each other's nerves.*
- 23) To give someone a hard time** – to treat someone severely, to cause difficulties for the, to criticize someone and make them feel guilty about something that they have done. (усложнять жизнь, не давать прохода). *I came home late one night last week and she's been giving me a hard time about it ever since.*
- 24) To be second to none** – better than everything else. (Непревзойденный, нет равных, неповторимый). *This is an excellent car – second to none.*
- 25) Don't feed me that line** – to tell something which is not completely true, often as an excuse. (выкручиваться, увиливать, рассказывать сказки). *She fed me a line about not having budgeted for pay increases this year.*
- 26) To bully** – to harass or threaten someone into doing something. (запугивать, грубо обращаться, гнуть свою линию, заставлять). *Don't try to bully me into your way of doing things.*
- 27) To have a lot to answer for** – to have much responsibility for a situation, to be the main cause of a problem or an unpleasant situation. (быть в ответе). *People who sell drugs to kids have a lot to answer for.*
- 28) To bring a lump to somebody's throat** – if something someone says or does brings a lump to your throat, it makes you feel such strong emotions that you want to cry. *I thought it was a very moving speech, it almost brought a lump to my throat.*

29) **The point is...** - суть в том, что...

30) **Let your hair down** – to allow yourself to behave much more freely than usual and enjoy yourself (оттянуться, расслабиться). *Oh, let your hair down for once!*

31) **Stuffy** = formal and boring (“душный”, скучный, банальный)

32) **To lack zip** – lack energy, vigor, vitality (не хватает драйва).

33) **(to have) a narrow escape** – a situation in which you were lucky because you just managed to avoid danger or trouble. (чудом избежать чего-либо). *He only just got out of the car before the whole thing blew up. It was a narrow escape.*

34) **To chance your arm** – take a risk to achieve what you want.

## **DIALOGUE 5. HONEY, THERE’S SOMETHING ON MY MIND**

Al: Hi, sweetie! How are you? Don’t you normally work on Fridays?

Beth: Yeah, but I had to talk to you. It couldn’t wait.

Al: Oh, sure . . . Um, what’s up?

Beth: Well, I need to get something off my chest.

Al: That’s good, because there’s been something on my mind, too.

Beth: Let me go first; this is important.

Al: Okay.

Beth: I’m sorry to spring this on you, but I think we should break up.

Al: Wow . . . That’s big news. Well, how . . . I mean . . . Well, why do you want to dump me?

Beth: I suppose it would be fair of me to give you a reason.

Al: Well, yeah! This comes out of nowhere. A reason would be nice.

Beth: I’m breaking up with you because you’ve become a real couch potato. All you do is watch TV. And the only thing you like to watch on TV is cartoons.

Al: But I thought you were crazy about cartoons! Remember that time we saw the movie “A Bug’s Life”? You were smiling during the whole thing . . . And you were in seventh heaven for the rest of the night. Didn’t you enjoy it?

Beth: I thought it was cute, but I then I moved on! You’re still obsessed with cartoons.

Al: Well, what else?

Beth: You’ve really let yourself go, too! We used to go biking and play tennis, and now you just sit around eating cereal, watching your cartoons!

Al: So, I don’t turn you on any more? Isn’t it a bit shallow to break up with someone just over looks?

Beth: But that’s not all. You never want to go out and do anything. We stay here all the time, and your apartment is a pigsty. You never do the dishes or the laundry. There are empty pizza boxes from two weeks ago on your kitchen table. It really drives me up the wall!

Al: Mmmm. . . But we’ve been going out for two years now, and I’ve never exactly been tidy . . . Why didn’t you bring this up sooner?

*Beth:* I thought it was cute at first . . . I thought I would get used to it. Later, I thought you would grow out of it. Anyway . . . that's not the point. I just don't want to see you anymore. (Silence)

*Beth:* So . . . you said you had something you wanted to tell me? I suppose how you hate that I try to control your life and change you . . .

*Al:* No—actually, I wanted to ask you if you knew where I left the remote control for the TV—I haven't been able to find it for weeks.

*Beth:* It figures.

**Exercise 1. Read the definitions of these idioms and give the Russian equivalents.**

1. To get something off your chest. To say something important that you've been thinking about a lot.
2. To be on your mind. To be something you think a lot about.
3. To spring something on someone. To give someone unexpected news without preparation or warning.
4. To break up with someone. To end a romantic relationship.
5. To dump someone. To stop being in a romantic relationship with someone.
6. To come out of nowhere. To seem to happen without any logical explanation or warning.
7. Couch potato. A person who sits around and does little physical activity, often just watching TV.
8. To be crazy about something. To like something a lot.
9. To be in seventh heaven. To feel wonderful, to be very happy.
10. To move on. To begin something else, to stop focusing on one person or thing and to start to think about someone or something else.
11. To let yourself go. To allow yourself to be in bad physical condition because of diet or lack of exercise.
12. To turn someone on. To be a turn-on. To cause an attraction, usually physical.
13. To drive someone up the wall. To annoy someone very much.
14. To bring something up. To start to talk about something, to introduce a topic in conversation.
15. To get used to something. To become accustomed to or familiar with something. Notice that this expression is similar to "to be used to something," meaning to be accustomed to or familiar with something.
16. To grow out of something. To become too old for something, to stop having an interest in something that used to be interesting.
17. To be the point. To be the most important fact or consideration about a topic.
18. It figures. This expression is used, often ironically, to mean that some outcome is logical, expected, or unavoidable.

**Exercise 2. Look up these idioms in an English-English dictionary and find examples of your own.**

**Exercise 3. Correct the mistakes in these idioms:**

1. to be in seventh sky
2. to be in your mind
3. sofa potato
4. to come out of somewhere

5. to ride someone up the wall
6. to let yourself run
7. to get something off your head

**Exercise 4. Complete each of these idioms:**

1. I'm afraid, their marriage is over – I've heard they \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why do you focus on your ex so much? It's time to \_\_\_\_\_!
3. She needed to \_\_\_\_\_ off her \_\_\_\_\_, so she told me everything.
4. It's better not to \_\_\_\_\_ his childhood \_\_\_\_\_. He doesn't like talking about it.
5. They just \_\_\_\_\_ the news \_\_\_\_\_ me at the office meeting.
6. He feels depressed because his girlfriend has just \_\_\_\_\_ him.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The idiomatic expression "couch potato" is supposed to be originated in 1970's in America by a comic artist who drew two idle, inactive and lazy characters he named them "Couch Potatoes". Since then this phrase became very popular to call names someone who spends lots of time watching television, puts on weight and looks more like a potato.

**!!! Now make your own dialogue or write a vocabulary story using idioms from all five dialogues above.**

**DIALOGUE 6. THE PERFECT COUPLE**

Many explanations have been put forth for the fact that one in three marriages in Canada ends in divorce. While some people argue that a change in traditional marriage roles is the cause of divorce, others point out that today women have the option of choosing divorce over an unhappy marriage. After all, society judges a marriage to be successful simply if it endures, but a society with a low divorce rate cannot necessarily say it has a high rate of good marriages.

Linda: Keith, you'll never believe what's happened!

Keith: What do you mean?

Linda: Monika and Gunnar are getting divorced.

Keith: You're kidding! When? What happened?

Linda: Well, I don't really know, but I heard through the grapevine that they've been quietly separated for two months already and are filing for divorce. Supposedly, they're still on speaking terms.

Keith: That's really surprising - I always thought that they were so suited to each other, such similar personalities... What about the kids? Who will get custody?

Linda: Joint custody, I hear. Apparently, it's all quite amicable - no squabbling over who'll get the house and stuff. An uncontested divorce with all the details worked out.



Keith: Boy, that's a change from all the back-stabbing you usually hear about... I just can't believe it - Monika and Gunnar! The perfect couple... It just shows you how little one knows about what goes on in people's lives, doesn't it?

**Vocabulary Notes:**

- through the grapevine – (idiomatic) through gossip, from other people
- separated – legally living apart
- on speaking terms – speaking to each other, not hostile
- suited to each other – to have similar interests, to be compatible
- custody – legal responsibility for the care of the children after a divorce
- joint custody – shared responsibility
- squabbling – (colloquial) arguing
- uncontested – not disputed
- back-stabbing – (colloquial) betrayal, attack

## **DIALOGUE 7. ADULT CHILDREN**

**Warm up:**

- 1) When should children leave their parents` house?
- 2) What`s good about living with your parents? What`s bad?
- 3) What`s good about living by yourself? What`s bad?

**Situation:**

*World Trend is an international talk show about world cultural trends. Today`s topic is children who live at home. What do you learn from the speakers about this topic?*

Moderator: Hello, everybody. Welcome to World Trend, your international talk show about young people`s trends from around the world. Today`s topic is living at home, young adults who live with their parents. Is this a global phenomenon? Let`s find out. In the studio, we`ve got Professor Yumi Hasegawa, from Japan, and Dr. William Caldwell, from the U.K. Professor Hasegawa, tell us about Japan.

Professor Hasegawa: Well, in Japan, it is a growing trend. We call an unmarried person who has a job but who still lives with their parents a parasite single.

M: “Parasite single”! Wow, that sounds kind of creepy! What about you, Dr. Caldwell, what... what about in the U.K.

Doctor Caldwell: Yes. Well, recently we`ve had an increase in the number of children who have left the nest and later return to live with their parents even though they have jobs and earn money. We call them “boomerang children”.

M: Boomerang children. Ah, yes. They leave, but then they always come back. So, Professor Hasegawa, it sounds like “parasite singles” are considered a negative thing in Japan. Is that right?

PH: Well, the word “parasite” isn`t very nice, is it? And yes, it is somewhat negative. Many people think that parasite singles are selfish.

M: Oh. Selfish? What do you mean? In what way?

*PH*: Well, the stereotype in Japan is that they just want to have fun, and always need their mommy washing their laundry. They don't want any responsibility.

*DC*: In most European countries and North America, I believe, the situation is similar. It used to be that young people wanted to leave home to be free. Now, because so many adult children return home, it's often the parents who want some freedom.

*M*: I bet they do. Interesting! Well, well... is there an upside to any of this?

*PH*: The upside? Well, personally, I think that staying at home longer gives children time to think about their future more carefully. Some parasite singles simply want to make careful choices: for example, they don't want to marry the wrong person or pursue the wrong career, which they might do if they had to leave home right after high school or college.

*DC*: And there is another positive aspect, too. Some parents actually enjoy having their children at home. It seems that parents and their adult children form a stronger relationship when they get older: they become more like friends, and come to understand each other more fully.

*M*: Hey – let's see what our listeners have to say about this. Are these people disgusting parasites? Or just careful? Does this happen in your country? Give us a call right now. The number is...

## PART III

### *Poem Corner*

#### **I Love You All, My Family** (by Shayla S. Randolph)

When monsters lurked beneath my bed  
And scary dreams ran through my head,  
When thunder growled those sounds I dread,  
There you were,  
My father.

When scuffed up knees made me cry,  
Soft hankies wiped my sad eyes dry,  
Coaxing me each time I tried.  
You were always there,  
My mother.

Who held my hand when I was scared?  
Ate candy that he should have shared?  
The things I did because you dared,  
My brother.

In times of trouble, times of need,  
I feel such strength surrounding me,  
Without whose love I can't succeed.  
I love you all, my family.

### **TEXT 1. VALUES AND BELIEFS**

In today's world people interact frequently with other people from many different cultures. Because of access to telephones, television and electronic mail it is relatively easy to be in touch with people from all parts of the world. Moreover, as international travel becomes more accessible to more people, the average person will have increasingly frequent contact with people from outside his or her own culture. As a result, larger numbers of people will become aware of differences in how people behave and in the values which they consider important for a high-quality life. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the concepts of behaviours and values as they influence society and the people who live within that society. When we talk about culture and the interaction among people from various cultures,

what do we mean by behaviour? What are values and beliefs? And what is the relationship between behaviours and values?

Behaviour, or how people act, is easily observable. Every culture has its own well-developed system of acceptable behaviours. For example, in Japan people greet each other with a bow. There are different kinds of bows, depending on whether a person is male or female, younger or older, of higher or lower status. We learn behaviours. Sometimes they are taught to us directly, as when our mothers say, “Don’t eat that way! That’s not polite!” We learn other behaviours by observing the world around us and copying actions which we perceive as acceptable – both to ourselves and society. Watch a young child sometime. You will probably notice that at about the age of four or five the child will begin to mimic the parents.

Values, on the other hand, are ideas or beliefs which society have about what is considered important to have a high-quality life. These “value systems” are the basis for the way people behave in a culture or society.

So, what is a “typical” British family? Have there been any changes in family life in recent years? And who are those Americans? How do they live? Do they all have cars? Are they like the people on the TV show “Santa Barbara”? Why don’t older people live with their children? Why do children move away from their families after high school? Why do they act the way they do?

## **TEXT 2. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT VIEWS ON FAMILY LIFE**

**Read the text. Translate it in writing.**

There are many different views on family life. Some people could not do without the support and love of their families. Others say it is the source of most of our problems and anxieties. Whatever the truth is, the family is definitely a powerful symbol. Turn on the television or open a magazine and you will see advertisements featuring happy, balanced families.

The family is the most basic and ancient of all institutions, and it remains the fundamental social unit in every society. Sociologists divide families into two general types: the nuclear family and the extended family, which may include three or more generations living together.

There are people who say that the family unit in Britain is in crisis and that the traditional family life is in the past. This is of great concern to those who think a healthy society is dependent upon a stable family life.

A “typical” British family used to consist of a mother, a father and two children, but in recent years there have been many changes in family life. Some of these have been caused by new laws and others are the result of changes in society. For example, since the law made it easier to get a divorce, the number of divorces has increased. In fact, one marriage in three now ends in divorce. This means that there are a lot of one-parent families.

Society is now more tolerant than it used to be of unmarried people, unmarried couples and single parents.

You might think that marriage and the family are not so popular as they once were. However, the majority of divorced people marry again, and they sometimes take responsibility for a second family.

Members of a family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins – keep in touch, but they see less of each other than they used to. This is because people often move away from their home town to work, and so their family becomes scattered.

In general, each generation is keen to become independent of parents in establishing its own family unit, and this fact can lead to social as well as geographical differences within the larger family group.

Relationships within the family are different now. Parents treat their children more as equals than they used to, and children have more freedom to make their own decisions. The father is more involved with bringing up children, often because the mother goes out to work. Increased leisure facilities and more money mean that there are greater opportunities outside the home. Although the family holiday is still an important part of family life (usually taken in August, and often abroad) many children have holidays away from their parents.

Who looks after the older generation? The government gives financial help in the form of a pension but in the future it will be more and more difficult for the nation economy to support the increasing number of elderly. At present time, more than half of all old people are looked after at home. Many others live in Old People's Homes, which may be private or state owned.

But still, the English are a nation of stay-at-homes. "There is no place like home", they say. And when the man is not working he is at home in the company of his wife and children and busies himself with the affairs of the home. "The Englishman's home is his castle", is a saying known all over the world. And it is true.

And what is the American family like? Most American families consist of a mother, a father and three or four children living at home. There may be relatives – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws in the same community, but American families usually maintain separate households. This familial structure is known as the "nuclear family". It is unusual for members of the family other than the husband, wife and children to live together. Occasionally an aging grandparent may live with the family, but this arrangement is usually not considered desirable. Although the nuclear family unit is economically independent of the rest of the family, members of the whole family maintain close kinship ties.

In the American family the husband and wife usually share important decision making. When the children are old enough, they participate as well. Foreign observers are frequently amazed by the permissiveness of American parents. The father seldom expects his children to obey him without question, and children are often allowed to do what they wish without strict parental control. Americans believe strongly that the individual person should have the freedom to decide the course of his or her life. Independence is highly valued in the United States. Children are expected to make choices – appropriate to their age and maturity level – in many areas of their lives. Parents encourage their children to make choices from an early age: how to decorate their bedroom, how to spend money which they have earned, or what camp they would like to attend. By the time children reach secondary schools, they are expected to be able to choose among a variety of courses and activities: American or world literature? Spanish or Japanese? College preparatory or vocational courses? Football or the school band? Of course, parents and school advisors help with these decisions, but great emphasis is put on individual choice. By adulthood, Americans want and expect to choose where they will live, where they will work, and with whom they will socialize and marry. Young people are expected to break from their families by the time they have reached their late teens or early twenties. Indeed, not to do so is often regarded as a failure, kind of weak dependence.

This pattern of independence often results in serious problems for the aging parents of a nuclear family. The job-retirement age is usually 65. The children have left home, married and set up their own households. Elderly couples feel useless and lonely with neither an occupation nor a close family group. Many communities and church groups sponsor social centres for “senior citizens”. At these centres older men and women can make friends and participate in a variety of planned activities.

So, what exactly is a family? Our ideas on the subject may tend to be ethnocentric, for they are often based on the middle-class “ideal” family, one that consists of a husband, a wife, and their dependent children. This particular family pattern, however, is far from typical. A more accurate conception of the family must take account of the many different family forms that have existed or still exist both in America and in other countries.

We may say, then, that the family is a relatively permanent group of people related by ancestry, marriage, or adoption, who live together, form an economic unit, and take care of the young.

### **1. Answer the questions on the text:**

- 1) Are there many different views on family life? What are they?
- 2) The family is definitely a powerful symbol, isn't it?
- 3) What types do sociologists divide families into?
- 4) What do you know about the traditional family life in Britain?
- 5) Describe a “typical” British family.
- 6) Have there been many changes in British family life in recent years? What are the causes?
- 7) Marriage and the family are not so popular now, are they?
- 8) Why do members of a family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins – see less of each other than they used to?
- 9) Is each generation keen to become independent of parents in establishing its own family unit? Where does it lead to?
- 10) Relationships within the family are different now, aren't they? Prove it.
- 11) Who looks after the older generation?
- 12) Are the English a nation of stay-at-homes?
- 13) And what is the American family like?
- 14) Do American families usually maintain separate households?
- 15) Is the nuclear family unit economically independent of the rest of the family?
- 16) Who usually shares important decision making in the American family?
- 17) Foreign observers are frequently amazed by the permissiveness of American parents, aren't they?
- 18) Is independence highly valued in the United States?
- 19) At what age are young people expected to break from their families?
- 20) When do American aging people retire?
- 21) Why do elderly couples feel useless and lonely?
- 22) Who sponsors social centres for “senior citizens”?
- 23) What is a family? Must we take account of the many different family forms that have existed or still exist both in America and in other countries?

## 2. Look up the words in a dictionary, transcribe and learn them:

anxiety, magazine, advertisement, feature, basic, ancient, society, sociologist, nuclear, extended, crisis, cause, divorce, marriage, couple, majority, responsibility, aunt, uncle, cousin, equal, decision, leisure, financial, economy, private, castle, separate, desirable, participate, permissiveness, parental, independence, appropriate, encourage, adulthood, socialize, failure, occupation, senior, ethnocentric, exist, relatively, ancestry, adoption.

## 3. Give the English equivalents to the following using the words and word-combinations from Text I:

- существует много точек зрения на ...
- некоторые не могут обойтись без поддержки ...
- источник большинства проблем и волнений
- что бы там ни было
- показывать счастливые гармоничные семьи по ТВ
- «типичная» английская семья обычно состояла из ...
- получить развод
- неполные семьи
- нести ответственность за вторую семью
- поддерживать отношения
- финансовая помощь в виде пенсии
- родственники по линии жены / мужа
- родственники / родня
- вести отдельное / самостоятельно домашнее хозяйство
- такое положение вещей считается нежелательным
- материально / экономически не зависеть от родственников
- поддерживать тесные родственные связи
- принимать важные решения сообща
- принимать участие в...
- удивляться вседозволенности, предоставляемой американскими родителями
- беспрекословно подчиняться кому-либо
- строгий родительский контроль
- американцы глубоко убеждены
- иметь свободу выбора
- высоко цениться
- делать выбор
- соответственно своему возрасту и степени зрелости
- поощрять детей в принятии решений
- с раннего возраста
- обставить / украсить комнату
- зарабатывать деньги
- разнообразие учебных предметов
- подготовительные или профориентационные курсы
- общаться, встречаться, бывать в обществе (тусоваться)

- считаться неудачей / расценивать как ...
- пенсионный возраст
- обзавестись собственными семьями
- принимать во внимание
- заботиться о ком-либо

**4. Give the opposite of:**

- love (n)
- happy (adj)
- dependent (adj)
- divorce (v)
- difference (n)
- difficult (adj)
- close (adj)
- frequently (adj)
- obey (v)
- allow (v)
- break from one's family
- be a failure
- useless (adj)
- permanent (adj)

**5. Are these statements true or false according to Text 2? Use these True or False phrases in your answers.**

<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>
I fully agree with you!	I disagree with you!
I'm of the same opinion.	I differ from you.
That's all right!	Far from it.
That's it! Just it! Exactly so!	Just the reverse.
I'm all for it!	Just the other way round!
Undoubtedly.	Nothing of the kind.
Beyond all doubts.	I object to it.
Looks like that.	It makes no sense.
I think so. I expect so.	By no means.

- 1) There are many different views on family life.
- 2) The family unit in Britain is in crisis and the traditional family life is in the past.
- 3) A "typical" British family used to consist of a mother, a father and three children.
- 4) There have been no changes in British family life recently.
- 5) Marriage and the family are not so popular as they once were.
- 6) Members of a family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins – don't keep in touch with each other.
- 7) Each generation is keen to become independent of parents in establishing its own family unit.
- 8) Relationships within the British family are different now.
- 9) More than half of all old people are looked after at home.



- 10) Many others live in Old People's Homes, which are private.
- 11) The English are a nation of stay-at-home.
- 12) Most American families consist of a mother, a father and two children.
- 13) It is usual for members of the family other than the husband, wife and children to live together.
- 14) The nuclear family is economically dependent of the rest of the family.
- 15) In the American family the husband and wife usually share important decision making, the children do not participate in it.
- 16) Foreign observers are frequently amazed by the permissiveness of American parents.
- 17) Americans believe strongly that parents should decide the course of their children's life.
- 18) Young people are expected to break from their families by the time they have reached thirty.
- 19) The job-retirement age in the USA is 60.
- 20) Elderly couples feel useless and lonely with neither an occupation nor a close family group.
- 21) An "ideal" family is one that consists of a husband, a wife, and their dependent children.

**Exercise 6. Translate the sentences into English using the vocabulary of the text. Do it in writing.**

1. Некоторые люди не могут обходиться без поддержки и любви своих близких. Другие говорят, что семья является источником большинства проблем и волнений.
2. Семья, состоящая из отца, матери и детей, называется "nuclear family". Семья, которая включает 2-3 поколения, проживающих вместе, называется "extended family".
3. В Великобритании легко получить развод. Это приводит к тому, что появляется большое количество неполных семей.
4. Члены семьи – бабушки, дедушки, тети, дяди и т.д. – поддерживают отношения, но встречаются реже, чем раньше. Это происходит потому, что родственники часто покидают родной город в поисках работы. Такая семья называется "scattered family".
5. Отношения внутри семьи изменились, родители предоставляют своим детям больше свободы в принятии решений. Отец в большей степени занят воспитанием детей, так как мать работает.
6. Американские семьи обычно ведут отдельное домашнее хозяйство. Совместное проживание с бабушками или дедушками является нежелательным.
7. В американской семье муж и жена принимают важные решения. Взрослые дети также участвуют в этом.
8. Иностранные обозреватели часто удивляются вседозволенности, предоставляемой американскими родителями. Например, отец редко ожидает от своего сына беспрекословного подчинения, и детям часто разрешается делать то, что они пожелают. Строгий контроль со стороны родителей отсутствует.
9. Американцы идут на пенсию в 65 лет. К этому времени дети покинули дом, женились и обзавелись своим хозяйством. Пожилые родители чувствуют себя одинокими и никому не нужными.
10. Что такое «семья»? Для более точного определения семьи мы должны принимать во внимание различные виды семьи, которые существовали или все еще существуют и в Америке, и в других странах.

### TEXT 3.

#### THE VALUE OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY WHEN RAISING CHILDREN

Having the support of an extended family can help parents through many of the tougher times with child raising. Extended families play an important part in at least three areas of parenting. The extended family can assist with childcare needs on a limited or full-time basis. They can come to the rescue when parents cannot see solutions to problems that they face with their children. In this case, twenty heads can be much better than two. The extended family can give a greater sense of the importance of the family reputation and name than just a single set of parents could ever do.

Many parents suffer through finding babysitters and childcare providers for their small children. When these parents are attached to a strong extended family unit, childcare is rarely a problem. Grandparents and aunts and uncles frequently are only too willing to watch the little ones for an evening or in an emergency. Often, permanent childcare solutions can be found within the extended family that will give dependable care at a large monetary savings to young parents. Because of the availability of childcare, parents will have far fewer absences from work due to problems in this area.

In an extended family that spans multiple generations, parenting help is easy to find. Questions that arise about situations in children's lives often have already been faced and answered by previous generations of family members. Having a lot of such people also means that the family will have influence in the school and other public venues that will help keep young lives out of trouble.

Extended families also can give children a sense of depth and importance that a nuclear family cannot achieve. Children can see the value of a good name extending back through multiple generations. This builds a sense of family pride and self-esteem into the child. The feeling of being with your own kind and having a place to belong cannot be overstated. The family becomes the place where you go to be accepted unconditionally.

A child's self-worth is derived in this situation from who they are rather than from what they do. Even the trouble makers serve a value because they can be seen as detrimental to the well-being of the family. This can be important when the young person is tempted to head down pathways that are not in his or her best interest. The stream of advice and support is too great to resist.

#### Answer the following questions

1. What can help parents through many of the tougher times of child raising?
2. In how many areas of parenting do extended families play a part?
3. How can extended families assist and come to rescue?
4. What do many parents suffer through?
5. When is childcare rarely a problem?
6. Can permanent childcare solutions be found within the extended family? Give examples.
7. Why will parents have far fewer absences from work?
8. What is easy to find in an extended family?
9. A sense of what can extended give children?
10. What builds a sense of family pride and self-esteem? How?
11. What cannot be overstated?
12. What place does the extended family become?

#### **TEXT 4.**

### **CAN EXTENDED FAMILIES BE HEALTHIER THAN NUCLEAR FAMILIES?**

According to some studies, Italian parents like to live with their grown children far more than most people do in the rest of western society. Grown children successfully living with their parents, and those parents making a welcoming home for their children, where everyone is encouraged to be an adult and appreciated for what they have to offer, is an art form. Most of us in Western World have run away from doing this, believing that it was unhealthy, both for the parents and for the children, to permit young adults to stay at home beyond a certain age.

We tend to believe that there is something pathological about grown sons who choose to stay at home with their mothers. While it is true that these men do take longer to establish homes of their own, we also know that many men take longer to mature emotionally, than many women do, and letting them have a few more years to grow up might not be such a bad thing.

Some people believe that living in extended family situations can be healthier emotionally for everyone involved, including the children who are born into those families. And, families survive better when they help each other, sharing their resources with one another. But, in order to do this successfully, you have to believe that the benefits of an extended family are far greater than the benefits of living alone.

Studies have shown that women at home alone with their small children, day-after-day, can develop pathologic symptoms akin to those experienced by explorers in the far north, who had to remain for months at a time in lonely outposts, seeing no one, with only their records to keep and their machines to tend. We call it cabin fever. Let's face it; young mothers with cabin fever are not much fun for their children. On the other hand, young mothers who enter the work force, having to leave their children at home with babysitters or in day-care centres are often denounced for depriving their children of their loving presence, and themselves for missing their children growing up. Yet, in our world, it is nearly impossible for one income to keep a family fed, clothed and housed. Both parents must work and must depend on the kindness of others to care for their children.

Thus, a loving extended family can solve some of these problems, though for all of us, learning how to change gears and value all the members of our family enough that we are willing to help support them in whatever ways we can is perhaps the hardest thing to learn. But it may be one of the most necessary things we learn, so that we can all survive through the twenty-first century as healthy and loving human beings.

#### **TEXT 5. EXTREME FAMILY TIES**

Family can be an important part of a person's life, and for some nationalities being close to your family is more important than it is to others. For example, families in Southern Europe are generally quite close, although in the past they spent even more time together. This is also true of families in the Middle East. But it is the Bedouin people who have the closest ties of all.

Traditional Bedouin families live in large tents about half the size of a basketball court. The tents are divided into two sections: the first is for receiving guests in true Bedouin style – they have the

reputation of being the world's most generous hosts. Visitors are always served a big meal as soon as they arrive. The second part of the tent is the family's shared kitchen, living room, dining room, and bedroom. They don't have tables and chairs, as the whole family sits on the floor to eat. And instead of beds, everybody sleeps on mattresses, which are piled into a corner of the room during the day.

Several generations usually share the tent. The head of the family is the mother, and she is the one who gives the orders. Her husband and her children live with her, even when the children are married and have their own children. The sons and sons-in-law look after the animals, while the daughters and daughters-in-law clean the tent, cook the meals, and look after the younger grandchildren. The older ones are left to run around outside. There may often be as many as 30 people under the same roof.

The few young people who have left the family to live in the city visit their mothers nearly every day. It can be quite a surprise to see a shiny new Mercedes pull up outside one of the tents and watch a smart young man get out to greet his relatives.

Bedouin people do not like to be separated from their families and there is a very good reason why. If they are poor, sick, old, or unemployed, it is the family that supports them. Elderly people are never left alone, and problems are always shared. Children who work in the city are often responsible for their families financially. In this way, Bedouin families aren't just close; they are a lifeline.

1. In the past, most families in Southern Europe and the Middle East were ...

**a.** smaller, **b.** closer, **c.** richer, **d.** larger

2. There isn't much ... in a Bedouin tent.

**a.** furniture, **b.** light, **c.** space, **d.** food

3. Bedouin ... spend most of the day inside.

**a.** men, **b.** women, **c.** children, **d.** animals

4. Young Bedouins who live in the city...

**a.** hardly ever go home, **b.** don't earn much money,

**c.** earn much money, **d.** don't lose touch with their families.

5. Members of a Bedouin family help each other to ...

**a.** survive, **b.** get a job, **c.** choose clothes, **d.** to study

**Make a PRESENTATION on a typical family in the country of your choice.**

## TEXT 6. MARRIAGE

### Read the text and translate it into Russian in writing

**Marriage** is a thing which only a rare person in his or her life avoids on; most single people are “**alone but not lonely**”. True **bachelors** and **spinsters** make up only a small percent of the population.

Millions of others **get married** because of the fun of **family life**. And it is fun, if one takes it with a sense of humor.

There is a lot of fun in **falling in love** with someone and chasing a prospective **fiancée**, which means **dating** and **going out** with the candidate. All the **relatives (parents, grandparents and great-grand-parents, brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, stepmothers and stepfathers and all in-laws)** meanwhile have the fun of criticizing your choice and giving advice. The trick here is not to listen to them but **propose to your bride-to-be** and somehow get **her to accept your proposal**. Then you may arrange the **engagement** and **fix the day of the wedding**.

What fun it is to get all those things, whose names start with the word “wedding” – **dress, rings, cars, flowers, cakes**, etc.! It is great fun to pay for them. It is fun for the **bride** and the **groom** to escape from the guests and go on a **honeymoon trip**, especially if it is a **wedding present** from the parents. The guests remain with the fun of gossiping whether you **married for love** or **for money**.

It’s fun to return home with the idea that the person you **are married to** is somewhat different from the one you knew. But there is no time to think about it because you are **newlyweds** and you **expect a baby**.

There is no better fun for a **husband** than taking his **wife** to a **maternity home** alone and bringing her back with the **twins** or **triplets**.

And this is where the greatest fun starts: **washing the new-born’s nappies** and **passing away sleepless nights, earning money to keep the family, taking children to kindergarten** and later **to school**. By all means it is fun to **attend parents’ meetings** and to learn that your children **take after you** and don’t **do well at school**.

The bigger your children grow, the more they **resemble you outwardly** and the less they **display likeness with you inwardly**. And you start **grumbling at them** and discuss with your old friends the problem of the “**generation gap**”. What fun!

And when at last you and your grey-haired **spouse** start thinking that your family life has calmed down, you haven’t **divorced** but **preserved your union**, the climax of your fun bursts out!

One of your dearest **offsprings** brings a long-legged blonde to your house and says that he wants to marry. And you think: “Why do people ever get married?”

## TEXT 7. COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

Courtship and marriage customs vary considerably from culture to culture. In Canada, the customs tend to reflect the diverse ethnic backgrounds in the country; at the same time, many customs described here are characteristic of Canadian weddings in general.

Arranged marriages are rare among Canadians. Most people prefer to get to know members of the opposite sex by going out together. Some may even live together before marrying! If two people decide to get married, they become engaged and the bride-to-be may receive a diamond ring from her fiancé'. While the parents' permission is not required unless the bride or groom is under legal age, most couples do hope for their parents' approval of the marriage.

Once the couple have set the date, they have many decisions to make — whether they want a large or a small, traditional or non-traditional, civil or church wedding. Weddings also vary in style depending on the ethnic traditions of the bride and groom. Before the wedding, the bride may be given a number of "showers" by her friends. During these small parties, the bride is "showered" with gifts for the home. Friends of the groom may throw a bachelor party before the wedding day. The expense of the wedding itself is traditionally the responsibility of the bride's parents, but today the costs are more likely to be shared by both families and by the bride and groom themselves.

On the day of the wedding, it is considered bad luck for the groom to see the bride before the ceremony. The groom usually wears a tuxedo or a formal suit; the bride wears a white gown with a veil. She should have "something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue."

Traditional weddings take place in a church. The groom waits at the altar with the best man. The ushers seat the wedding guests. Bridesmaids walk up the aisle in a procession followed by the bride, who is accompanied by her father. A minister or priest performs the ceremony and the maid (or matron) of honour and the best man act as official witnesses.

The reception after the ceremony is usually a dinner followed by an evening of dancing. The bride and groom greet their guests in a receiving line. While the guests are seated for the meal, there are speeches and toasts. When the guests clink their glasses with silverware, the bride and groom are expected to stand up and kiss each other.

Before the bride and groom leave the reception, they go to all the guests, thanking them and giving them each a piece of wedding cake to take home. The bride throws her bouquet to the unmarried women; the woman who catches it is said to be the next to be married. The groom throws the bride's garter to the unmarried men. Rice (or confetti) thrown at the bride and groom is a symbol of fertility.

Marriages come under provincial jurisdiction. A couple must wait at least three days after the licence is obtained to have the ceremony. Judges or marriage commissioners perform civil ceremonies. A civil ceremony is a legal rather than a religious rite.

### **1. Look up the words in a dictionary, transcribe and learn them:**

courtship, marriage, diverse, ethnic, characteristic, arranged, rare, engaged, bride-to-be, diamond, permission, required, groom, legal, approval, to vary, bachelor, expense, to share, ceremony, tuxedo, gown, veil, altar, usher, bridesmaid, aisle, priest, witness, silverware, bouquet, garter, confetti, fertility, jurisdiction, license, commissioner, religious, rite.

### **2. Give the English equivalents to the following using the words and word-combinations from the text:**

отличаться в значительной мере; отражать широкий спектр этнических устоев; встречаться с кем-либо; объявить помолвку; будущая невеста; получить бриллиантовое кольцо в подарок от жениха; родительское благословение; быть несовершеннолетним; надеяться на родительское согласие на брак; назначить день свадьбы; устроить мальчишник; материальные затраты на свадьбу; ждать у алтаря; рассаживать гостей; проводить церемонию; выступать в качестве свидетелей; прием гостей после церемонии бракосочетания; постукивать столовым серебром по праздничному бокалу; религиозный обряд, ритуал.

## **TEXT 8. FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON TO MARRY**

### **SHIPMATES AND SOULMATES**

#### **Pre-reading tasks**

**1. Read the following statements about love and marriage. Do you agree or disagree with them? Give your reasons and share your answers with the class. Do the people in your group respond to the statements in the same way?**

1. “True love” comes to you only once in your lifetime.
2. “Love at first sight” can happen.
3. It is possible for old people (older than 75) to fall in love.
4. It is very important that your husband or wife is your “soul mate” – your best friend and partner, someone who understands you.
5. The most important reason to get married is to have children.
6. It is important for a woman to marry a man who can make enough money to support a family.
7. It is important to marry someone who shares your religion.
8. Choosing the person you marry is the most important decision of your life.

**2. Read the title of the story below. With your groupmates, make a list of questions you think the story will answer.**

*Example: How did the people from the story meet?*

**3. Now read the full story. When you have finished reading the story, look back at the questions you and your groupmates wrote. Which questions did the story answer?**

*Now read a true story about two couples who unexpectedly found love on a cruise ship.*

#### **Shipmates and Soul Mates** **by Elizabeth Leland**

Unable to sleep, Mary Aaronson got out of bed in the middle of the night and walked out of her lonely house. She lived on the coast of England, and from the garden of her house she could see the Atlantic Ocean. She gazed out over the ocean and then looked up to find the brightest star in the sky. Night after night, she talked to the star as if she were talking to her husband. “Edward! I don’t like being on my own!”

Edward, Mary’s husband, had died of lung cancer, and Mary couldn’t remember how to live without him. She missed dancing in his arms on Saturday nights. She missed walking hand in hand with him through the English countryside. She missed picnicking by his side on the cliffs overlooking the sea.

She was 63 years old and living alone for the first time in her life. She confided in her daughter, Moya, that she was terribly lonely. “Let’s take a holiday”, her daughter suggested.

Half a world away, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Merritt Burns also found it impossible to sleep. He knelt by his bed and prayed. He took sleeping pills. When the pills didn't work, he'd walk the streets of Charlotte for hours.

During the day, he tried to shut the world out. He closed the curtains in his house, stopped the newspaper, cut off the cable TV. Often his son would visit and find him sitting in the dark. "How did your day go?" his son would ask. "I've been just sitting here," he would answer, "hoping that nobody would call or come by."

Merritt had lost his wife, Lydia, to cancer after 54 years of marriage. He was 76 years old and he wanted to die.

"Let's take a vacation together," his son, David, pleaded.

And so, Merritt Burns and his son, David, flew to the western coast of Canada and boarded a cruise ship bound for Alaska. Mary Aaronson and her daughter, Moya, flew from England and boarded the same ship.

On the first night of the cruise, the four were seated together at the dinner table. Mary and Merritt hit it off immediately. They talked about North Carolina and England, about their families, about the seven-day cruise. They laughed a lot, something they both needed desperately to do. When Mary invited Merritt to go sightseeing with her when the ship docked in Alaska, Merritt immediately said yes.

As Mary and Merritt walked through the streets of Juneau, Alaska, Mary took Merritt's hand. They walked hand in hand the rest of the day. That night, Merritt confided in his son. "Oh, I could have a lot of fun with her. She's brilliant." But Merritt had known Mary such a short time. Was he getting carried away? "Maybe this is just a silly infatuation – at my age!" Merritt said. "Enjoy it, Dad," David told him.

Meanwhile, Mary was confiding in her daughter. "He makes my heart go flutter!" To her daughter, Mary seemed like altogether a different person, no longer a lonely widow. She looked radiant, cheeks flushed, hazel eyes sparkling. "Do you think I'm making a fool of myself at my time of life?" Mary asked. "No, Mum. Go for it," Moya told her. Mary and Moya talked mostly about Merritt. But they also talked about Merritt's son David. David and Moya were both single – David was divorced, and Moya had never married – and Mary had noticed that David seemed to be flirting with Moya. "David's so nice," Mary said.

"He's not the one for me," Moya answered.

David was worrying so much about his father and still grieving for his mother that he kept his personality hidden. He was quiet and subdued. Whenever Merritt wasn't with Mary, David was by his side, a 48-year-old man following his father everywhere. Once David and Moya were together on the deck of the cruise ship. A little girl walked up to them and asked, "Are you married?" "Married?" Moya said, and laughed. "We're practically brother and sister!"

When the cruise ended, Mary and Moya flew back to England, and Merritt and David flew back to North Carolina. Every day Merritt called Mary from North Carolina, where it was 5 pm, to wish her good night. Three months later, he flew to England to visit her. Walking hand in hand with Mary through the English countryside, Merritt knew he'd met his soul mate. Without warning, Merritt lifted Mary off her feet and sat her down on a rock. At 5 feet 11 inches, 180 pounds, he was still strong at 76. "You sit here," he said. "I'm going to sing you a love song." "Be my love, for no one else can end this yearning," Merritt sang. Mary looked around her. She could see people walking their way. "What will people think of me sitting up here on this rock with Merritt below, belting out a love song?" she wondered. That night over dinner at a pub, Merritt and Mary talked of marriage. "Look" he told her. "I'm old. I've got one



foot in the grave. I can just see us getting married and my breaking down and you having to take care of me.” “Well, if you’ll take me just as I am,” Mary said, “I’ll take you just as you are. We’ll grow old together”.

Mary and Merritt decided to get married in North Carolina. After Mary left England to prepare for the wedding, it was Moya’s turn to feel lonely. Her father had died and her mother was 4000 miles away across an ocean. Alone in the dark, she sat on the floor of her house and sobbed.

Moya flew to the United States for her mother’s wedding in the company of two of her aunts. There to meet them at the airport were David and Merritt. It felt good to Moya to have so much family around, to be held close by people who cared. As they walked to the car, Moya took David’s hand. That simple gesture that came so naturally to Moya that day, surprised David. Yet he was excited about what it might mean.

David seemed like a different person to Moya. No longer worried about his father, he was light-hearted and funny. He made her laugh so much, tears rolled down her cheeks. The week she stayed in North Carolina for her mother’s wedding, Moya spent by David’s side.

Now it was David and Moya who acted like teenagers falling in love. As Moya’s mother walked down the church aisle to marry David’s father, Moya nudged David and said, “Maybe we should knock them out of the way and say, ‘Wait! It’s our turn!’” David grinned.

After her mother’s wedding, Moya went back to England, but three months later she returned to the United States to spend more time with David. She realized that he was the one for her after all. When David asked Moya to marry him, she said yes. David and Moya, like their parents, married in North Carolina. After their wedding, they drove to the cemetery where David’s mother was buried. David placed Moya’s wedding bouquet on his mother’s grave. “Mom, this is Moya,” David said quietly.

David and Merritt have not forgotten Lydia Burns, wife and mother, who died in 1996. Nor have Moya and Mary forgotten Edward Aaronson, husband and father, who died in 1995. Lydia and Edward are still thought about, still missed, still loved. The legacy of their lives is the love that bloomed between Merritt and Mary, David and Moya. It was almost as if, from wherever they were, they had planned it all.

## **Building Vocabulary**

**2. Recalling new words. Which words have the same meaning as the underlined words from the story? Circle the letter of the correct answer.**

1. Mary’s husband had died, and she was living alone for the first time in her life. She was terribly lonely.
  - a. very
  - b. a little
2. David knew that his father wanted to die. He pleaded with him to take a vacation.
  - a. “Please, please take a vacation,” he said with emotion.
  - b. “I think it would be a good idea to take a vacation,” he said casually.
3. During their first dinner together, Merritt and Mary talked and laughed. They hit it off immediately.

- a. asked each other questions
  - b. became friends
4. Merritt and Mary had both been very sad, but now they were laughing – something they both needed desperately to do.
    - a. very much
    - b. sometimes
  5. Merritt thought that his conversations with Mary were interesting. “She’s brilliant,” he said.
    - a. very intelligent
    - b. very funny
  6. After a day of sightseeing with Mary, Merritt began thinking about a future with her. He wondered if he was getting carried away.
    - a. was losing control of himself because he was excited
    - b. should take another cruise because he was enjoying this one very much
  7. Merritt had known Mary only a short time. He was afraid his feeling for her were just a silly infatuation.
    - a. a deep sympathy he felt for Mary because she had lost her husband
    - b. a foolish love that would not last long
  8. Mary confided in her daughter. She told her, “Merritt makes my heart go flutter!”
    - a. Mary told her daughter some personal things she did not want other people to know.
    - b. Mary told her daughter some news she wanted all her friends and relatives to know.
  9. David’s mother had died, and he was still grieving.
    - a. feeling very sad and upset
    - b. feeling a little sad
  10. After Mary left for North Carolina, it was Moya’s turn to feel sad and lonely. She sat on the floor of her house and sobbed.
    - a. planned her future
    - b. cried loudly
  11. After their wedding, David placed Moya’s bouquet on his mother’s grave.
    - a. a ring
    - b. a bunch of flowers

**3. Using new words. Complete the sentences with examples from your own life. In small groups, take turns reading your sentences aloud. Ask your groupmates questions about their sentences.**

1. Children plead with their parents when \_\_\_\_\_.

2. A person many people in my native country believe is (or was) brilliant is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I desperately need to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The person I confide in most is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In my country, people often give a bouquet to someone who \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Developing Reading Skills**

#### **1. Understanding the main ideas. Write down below what you would say about each person from the text. The first one is done for you.**

1. His name is Merritt Burns. He's 76 years old, and he's from North Carolina. His wife died of cancer, and he was very lonely – so lonely that he wanted to die. His son invited him to go on a cruise to Alaska. On the cruise he met Mary. They fell in love and got married.

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. Understanding where a story takes place. Write the name of the place on the line. The first one is done for you.**

1. Mary's house is on the coast of this country. England
2. Merritt lives in this city. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The cruise ship departed from this country. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Merritt and Mary walked hand in hand through the streets of this city in Alaska.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Merritt sang a love song to Mary in the countryside of this country. \_\_\_\_\_
6. At a pub in this country, Merritt and Mary talked about getting married. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Both couples got married in this US state. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. Use information from the story to guess the answers to the questions below.**

*Example: What do some older married couples do in their free time in England?  
 They go dancing, walking and picnicking.*

1. What do some people in the United States do when they can't sleep?

2. What might a person in the United States do if he or she didn't want any contact with the outside world?
3. In England and the United States, what might adult children do with a grieving parent to help the parent feel better?
4. Where do people in England sometimes go for a meal or a drink?
5. In what building do people in the United States sometimes get married?

## TEXT 9. WHO WANTS TO MARRY A SOULMATE

### Pre-reading tasks

#### 1. Personal stories

Merritt Burns and Mary Aaronson fell in love on a cruise ship. Merritt thought Mary was “brilliant,” and Mary said Merritt made her heart beat fast. What are you looking for in a spouse? Are you looking for someone who is brilliant? Are you looking for someone who makes your heart beat fast?

*The people below, all students at a university in the United States, were asked what they are looking for in a husband or wife. Read what they said.*

**Burim (27, Kosovo):** I think it will be better to find someone from my country, who is from the same culture and has the same traditions, the same religion . . . someone who will respect me, my family, and my friends. She will be from the same place, and she will understand me more. I don't plan to find a girl, get married, see if it works, and then if it doesn't, get divorced, which I see many people here in the United States do. That's why I would like to find a religious girl, exactly the girl I am looking for, and then live my whole life with her.

**Zsofi (25, Hungary):** I know for certain that I would only marry someone I had known for a few years. You can come across some surprises if you trust yourself too much and make judgments too quickly. If I ever get married, I definitely will marry somebody whom I can look up to and who will never let me be too wishy-washy. I love the differences between the two genders, but as time passes men are becoming very woman-like. My husband has to be a man who can stand on his own two feet.

**Aldo (22, Brazil):** I don't want my wife and me to be too independent. Couples in the United States are so independent, they can get everything by themselves. But then after they have a fight, they can just say, “Why should we stay together? One of us can move”. In my culture, people struggle and have to depend on one other. When couples have a fight, they have to put up with each other. That's why marriages in Brazil last longer. I'm looking for someone who can complete me. I don't want someone who can do pretty much the same things I can. I'm not saying that she has to cook and I have to cut the grass. If I like to cook and she likes to fix computers, that's OK. Some things my wife should know how to do better than me, and some things I should know how to do better than her.

**Kanjana (24, Thailand):** I think it's important to find someone who wants to have children. When people get married, they should have children because children can take care of us when we're older. It's hard to find someone who loves us as much as our children do. I also think it's important for the man to have enough money. If the woman can earn money, that's good, too, but it's more important that the man earns enough because he is the leader of the family. But if I had to choose between a man who has a lot of money and a man who understands me and loves me, I would choose the one who loves me.

**2. Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.**

- A. Are any of the opinions expressed above similar to your own? Give reasons for your opinions. If you have a story to support an opinion, tell it to your classmates. (For example, do you, like Burim, want to marry someone from your country? Why? Do you know two people from different countries who got married and had problems? Tell the class the story.)
- B. What would you answer if someone asked you, "What are you looking for in a spouse?" Explain your answer.

**3. News and views**

You have read the responses of four international students to the question, "What are you looking for in a spouse?" Then you thought about how you would answer that question. Now you will learn what most young adults in the United States are looking for in a husband or wife.

**Before you read the article, try to predict what the survey showed. Read each statement below. Do you agree or disagree with them.**

1. Young adults in the United States are probably looking for the same qualities the four international students are looking for.
2. They are probably looking for the same qualities their parents and grandparents were looking for.
3. They are probably looking for the same qualities I am (or was) looking for

**Now read the article to find out what the survey actually showed.**

**Who Wants to Marry a Soul Mate?**

1. What are young adults in the United States looking for in a spouse? Are they looking for a person who will be a great father or mother someday? No. Are they looking for someone who will help them financially? No. Are they looking for someone who shares their religion? Most say no. What, then, are they looking for in a husband or wife? They are looking for someone who is, above all, their "soul mate"—someone who is their best friend and partner, someone who understands them, someone with whom they have a deep emotional connection.

2. That information comes from a recent telephone survey of 1,000 Americans ages 20 to 29. Researchers at Rutgers University called young men and women living in the eastern United States and read statements about marriage. The young adults were asked to reply “yes” if they agreed with the statement and “no” if they disagreed. Here, for example, are a few of the statements:

- \* The main purpose of marriage is to have children.
- \* A woman should not rely on marriage for financial security.
- \* It is important to find a spouse who shares your religion.

To the surprise of the researchers, the statement receiving the largest percentage of "yes" responses, with 94 percent agreeing, was: “When you marry, you want your spouse to be your soul mate, first and foremost.”

3. Sociologists say these results indicate that in the United States young adults’ attitudes toward marriage are different from those of their grandparents and great-grandparents. Many of the social, economic, and religious reasons for marrying and choosing a spouse that were important to previous generations are no longer important. In the past, for example, many people believed the purpose of marriage was to have children—to create a family. Only 16 percent of young adults questioned in the survey believe that “the main purpose of marriage is to have children.” In earlier generations, most women saw marriage as a way to become economically independent from their parents and financially secure. Today, a young woman is more likely to rely on herself financially, believing that her own education and career—not her husband’s—will give her economic independence and security. Not long ago, most people in the United States thought it was very important to marry someone of the same religion. Today, only 42 percent of young adults believe this.

4. Replacing yesterday's social, economic, and religious reasons for marrying are reasons that are romantic, perhaps even naive or unrealistic. Today’s young adults want, more than anything else, to have togetherness, support, and closeness in their marriages; they want a “super-relationship” between two people, rather than a relationship that is just one of many close relationships they have.

5. Some sociologists believe that young people in the U.S. may be looking for this “super-relationship” because they do not have many other relationships that are strong and lasting. Contemporary U.S. society is mobile—many people move as often as every seven years—and the pace of life is frantic. Those two factors make it difficult to have deep and lasting relationships. In addition, the divorce rate is high in the United States; 43 percent of all marriages end. So, young adults may be looking for the emotional support and comfort that is missing from other parts of their lives.

6. Hayley Kaufman, a reporter at the *Boston Globe* who is in her late 20s, agrees that the high divorce rate may explain her generation’s search for a soul mate. In a *Boston Globe* article, she writes:

7. While the soul-mate idea may have older Americans shaking their heads and laughing, it makes perfect sense to those of us who are in our twenties and thirties. We're the ones, after all, who watched our parents split up and our friends’ parents split up.

8. By the mid-1980s, as the American divorce rate was peaking at 50 percent, our lives had been marked by events our parents never could have dreamed of when they were kids. We sat through family-therapy sessions before getting dropped off at school puffy-eyed and sniffing. We woke up one morning to discover that Dad had packed a suitcase and moved into an apartment. At the tender age of 10, we carried around two different sets of house keys—one set for Mom’s house, another set for Dad’s.

9. Even if our parents decided to stick it out, many of our friends’ parents didn’t. We watched as parent after parent moved out and, frequently, remarried. We were the ones who got the phone calls after our

depressed, angry, and just plain sad adolescent friends had just eaten a holiday dinner with a bunch of step relatives they barely knew.

**10.** ‘The people we saw split up weren’t soul mates—not by a long shot. Surely, they’d been in love at some point. But they got married for a lot of other reasons. They wanted a provider. Or someone who shared the same religion. Or a good mother for their kids. Or they thought it was just time.

**11.** It’s no wonder young Americans want a soul mate. After a lifetime of broken bonds, we’re all hoping for one relationship that will last.

**12.** The survey seems to support Ms. Kaufman’s belief that her generation is looking for “one relationship that will last.” When researchers read this statement: “It is unlikely that I will stay married to the same person for life,” only 6 percent of young adults agreed. In other words, 94 percent of the people who participated in the survey intend to stay married to their “soul mates” for their entire lives.

**13.** Older adults—even the ones shaking their heads and laughing at the “soul mate” idea—wish them well and hope they do.

### **BUILDING ACADEMIC VOCABULARY**

**The words below are on the Academic Word List. \* Find the words in “Who ‘Wants to Marry a Soul Mate?’” (The number in parentheses is the number of the paragraph.) If you are not sure what a word means, look it up in your dictionary. Then use the words in the sentences that follow.**

**financially** (1)

**previous** (3)

**created** (3)

**bond** (11)

**attitude** (3)

**generations** (3)

**secure** (3)

**participated** (12)

**economic** (3)

**rely on** (3)

1. Some people believe that the universe began with a big explosion, but others do not believe it was \_\_\_\_\_ in that way.
2. If your car always starts and never breaks down, you have a car you can \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A photo of a woman with her daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter shows four \_\_\_\_\_ in a family.
4. Most job applications ask for information about work experience you’ve had. You usually have to list all your \_\_\_\_\_ employers.
5. He has a close relationship with his cousin, but the \_\_\_\_\_ with his brother is even stronger.
6. When she was in high school, she played soccer and belonged to several clubs; all together, she \_\_\_\_\_ in four after-school activities.
7. Small children stay close to their mothers, where they feel safe and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Students who hated school but like it now had a change in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Someone who loans you money helps you out \_\_\_\_\_.
10. If a country’s unemployment rate is high—that is, if a lot of people can’t find work—the country’s \_\_\_\_\_ situation is not good.

### **DEVELOPING READING SKILLS**

## UNDERSTANDING THE MAIN IDEAS

**There are three correct ways to complete each sentence. Draw a line through the one incorrect answer.**

1. A recent survey indicates that young adults in the United States want to marry a “soul mate.” A soul mate is someone
  - a. with whom you have a deep emotional connection.
  - b. who understands you.
  - c. ~~who will help you financially.~~
  - d. who is your best friend and partner.
  
2. The survey was conducted in this way:
  - a. Researchers at Rutgers University in the United States telephoned 1,000 Americans ages 20 to 29.
  - b. The researchers read statements about marriage.
  - c. The young adults responded “yes” if they agreed with the statement and “no” if they disagreed.
  - d. The researchers asked the young adults to describe what they were looking for in a spouse.
  
3. In the past, many people believed that
  - a. the purpose of marriage was to have children.
  - b. marriage was a way for a woman to become financially secure.
  - c. it was very important to marry someone of the same religion.
  - d. marriage was hard work and a full-time job.
  
4. Some young adults in the United States do not have many deep and lasting relationships because
  - a. in the United States, work is more important than friends and family.
  - b. people move often, making it difficult to make friends.
  - c. the frantic pace of life leaves no time for friends.
  - d. family members become separated when parents divorce.
  
5. Hayley Kaufman, a reporter at the Boston Globe, writes that
  - a. the divorce rate was at 50 percent when she was growing up.
  - b. many couples in her parents’ generation married not for love but for other reasons.
  - c. the “soul mate” idea makes perfect sense to her generation.
  - d. she has already found her soul mate.

## SEPARATING FACT FROM OPINION

The ability to separate a fact from an opinion is an important reading skill. A *fact* is information that is known to be true or can be proven. For example, this statement is a fact: “In the United States, the average age for men to marry is 27, and for women it is 25.” Opinions are people's ideas and beliefs and cannot be proven. This statement is an opinion: “Men should not get married until they are at least 25 years old.”



**Read the following sentences from the article. If you think the sentence gives you a fact, write *F* on the line. If you think the sentence gives you an opinion, write *O* on the line.**

  F  1. Researchers at Rutgers University in the United States conducted a telephone survey of 1,000 Americans ages 20 to 29.

      2. It is important to find a spouse who shares your religion.

      3. The main purpose of marriage is to have children — to create a family.

      4. Ninety-four percent of the people who participated in the survey say they want their spouse to be their soul mate.

      5. A woman should not rely on marriage for financial security.

      6. Young adults in the United States want to marry for reasons that are romantic — perhaps even naive or unrealistic.

      7. Contemporary U.S. society is mobile: Many people move as often as every seven years.

      8. In the mid-1980s, the American divorce rate was peaking at 50 percent.

## **WRITING**

**Choose one of the following topics to write about.**

1. Do you want your spouse to be your soul mate, first and foremost? Explain your answer,
2. Re-read the statements in the survey. Find a statement with which you strongly agree, or find a statement with which you strongly disagree. Explain why you agree or disagree with the statement.
3. At matchmaking Web sites, people try to find love on the Internet. First, they fill out a form that helps them describe themselves. (They give their eye color, height, religion, occupation, etc.) Then they write an essay with a maximum length of 400 words. The instructions for writing the essay are: “Describe yourself and your personality.” There is a list of “helpful questions to get you started.” Read the following questions found on one matchmaking Web site. Then choose one of the questions and answer it.
  - > How would your best friend describe your personality?
  - > What do you like to do for fun?
  - > What types of music move you?
  - > When are you the happiest?
  - > When are you most at peace?
  - > What have you done that makes you proud?
  - > If you could choose a super power, what would it be?
  - > If you could invite any five people (living or dead) to dinner, who would they be?
  - > What's your idea of a perfect date?
  - > Do you believe in love at first sight? Why or why not?
  - > What are you looking for in an ideal mate?

## TEXT 10. WEDDING CUSTOMS

### Read the text and translate it into Russian in writing

**A.** Picture a wedding in North America. You will probably think of a bride wearing a white dress and veil, walking down the aisle, accompanied by her father. The groom is dressed in a suit, and accompanied by his best man. During the ceremony, the groom puts a ring on the bride's finger, or perhaps they exchange rings as a judge or religious leader pronounces them husband and wife.

**B.** Did you ever wonder where these traditions come from? Many wedding traditions are very old and come from different lands. For example, the tradition of having a best man comes from northern Europe in about 200 AD. At this time, a person who wanted to get married usually chose someone from the same village, but sometimes there were not enough women for all the men. Since men did not have the opportunity to meet women as they do to-day, the only way to find a wife was to capture one. When a man set out to seize a bride, he and a friend would go to the next village and snatch any woman they could find walking alone. The two men had to be strong to carry the woman away. Obviously, the "best man" was needed for the job. Perhaps this is where we get the tradition of carrying a bride over the threshold of her new home on the wedding night. We also get the saying "to sweep a woman off her feet" from this custom.

**C.** Today a bride in North America usually wears white. Around the sixteenth century, white became the symbol of purity and innocence. The veil was first introduced by the ancient Greeks and Romans, who wanted to protect the bride from the evil eye of a jealous suitor. The custom of having bridesmaids and ushers probably began with the Romans, who required ten witnesses at a wedding. Bridesmaids dressed like the bride, and ushers dressed like the groom. The idea was to outwit the evil spirits, who would not know who were the real bride and groom. Today, a bride wears "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue." The item that is old is generally a piece of clothing from a woman who is happily married. This item is supposed to transfer good fortune to the new bride. Something borrowed is often a relative's jewellery. It should be made of gold to represent the sun, which is the source of life. Something new is usually the wedding dress or veil. Something blue is a bit of blue ribbon that represents loyalty or permanence, since blue is the colour of the heavens.

**D.** Long ago, wedding guests did not eat the wedding cake - they threw it at the bride! The wedding cake symbolized fertility, and was an important part of the ceremony since every marriage was expected to produce children. Wheat, another symbol of fertility and prosperity, was also thrown on new brides. Other young women tried to catch the grains of wheat, to ensure their own future marriages. Today we carry on this tradition by throwing rice at the newlyweds.

**E.** A wedding ceremony often concludes with the bride tossing her bouquet to the bridesmaids. The bridesmaid who catches the flowers is said to be the woman who will marry next. Today, the bridal bouquet is made of delicate flowers such as roses, orchids or lilies of the valley. In the past, it was not made of flowers, but of herbs. The herbs often had a very strong odour, and were selected to ward off witches and demons. Brides carried bouquets of rosemary, chives and even garlic.

**F.** There are also traditions for the best time of the day for a wedding. In the seventeenth century, morning weddings were considered bad luck because the groom often arrived at the wedding unshaven and wearing dirty and dishevelled clothing -the result of a late-night bachelor party, no doubt. Today,

we continue to have bachelor parties, although not always the night before the wedding. Weddings can take place at any time of the day - morning, after-noon or evening.

**G.** There are several theories about the origin of the wedding ring. It is made from gold, thought to be the most enduring metal. The circle of the ring symbolizes eternity - the endless love of the couple and a perfect, lifelong union. Wedding rings have been placed on different fingers, according to country. The early Hebrews wore the wedding ring on the index finger. In India, wedding rings were worn on the thumb. In the East, wedding rings had no religious or symbolic significance, and were not worn at all. Today the wedding ring is usually worn on the fourth finger of the left hand, following the traditions of the Greeks. The Greeks believed that a vein called the "vein of love" ran from this finger directly to the heart. Since the heart controlled both love and life, it was logical that this finger wear the pledge of love.

**1. Read carefully for details and answer the questions.**

1. Who accompanies the bride down the aisle?
2. Who accompanies the groom down the aisle?
3. Who pronounces them husband and wife?
4. Explain how the tradition of having a best man began.
5. What does the white colour symbolize?
6. What was the reason for the veil?
7. Why did the Romans have bridesmaids and ushers in their wedding parties?
8. What things are traditionally used in these categories?
  - a) something old
  - b) something new
  - c) something borrowed
  - d) something blue
9. How was the wedding cake originally used?
10. What did the wedding cake symbolize?
11. What has replaced the custom of throwing wheat at the bride and groom?
12. What is the meaning of catching the bridal bouquet?
13. Why did bridal bouquets have a strong odour in the past?
14. Why were morning weddings considered unlucky in the 17<sup>th</sup> century?
15. Why are wedding rings made of gold?
16. Which finger was used for the wedding ring by the following?
  - a) the early Hebrews
  - b) people in India
  - c) people in the East
  - d) the Greeks
17. What was the heart believed to control?

**2. Give the English equivalents to the following using the words and word-combinations from the text:**

- a) невеста в белом платье и фате; идущая по проходу; в сопровождении отца; жених в выходном костюме в сопровождении шафера; надеть кольцо на палец невесты; обменяться кольцами; провозгласить мужем и женой;

- b) интересоваться, откуда произошли эти традиции; отправляться на поиски невесты с целью захвата таковой; вносить невесту на руках в ее новый дом в день свадьбы;
- c) символ чистоты и невинности; защитить невесту от дурного глаза ревнивых поклонников; обмануть (провести) злых духов; приносить счастье (удачу) невесте; источник жизни (всего живого);
- d) символизировать богатство и способность к воспроизведению потомства; продолжать традицию;
- e) свадебная церемония часто заканчивается тем, что невеста бросает свой свадебный букет подружкам; нежные цветы; розы, орхидеи, ландыши; иметь резкий запах; отворачивать демонов;
- f) считаться дурной приметой; прибыть на свадьбу небритым и в мятой одежде; мальчишник; без сомнений;
- g) происхождение обручального кольца; самый прочный металл; символизировать вечность; крепкий, долговечный союз; древние иудеи; указательный палец; не иметь ни религиозного ни символического значения; залог (обет) любви.

## TEXT 11. MORE WEDDING CUSTOMS

Customs and superstitions surrounding weddings, those that have survived countless generations up to the modern day, and a few for after the wedding. Wedding days are often considered the most important day of many people's lives. For this reason alone, throughout the past and into modern day, numerous customs and superstitions have developed around the wedding event, in hopes of creating "The Perfect Day!"

A very common custom still honored today is in reference to a time-old saying, "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a silver sixpence inside your shoe". So old is this that tracing it back to its origination is nearly impossible. Some contribute it to Victorian times, others say it is even older than that. The *old* is believed to be the friends and family attending the wedding. The *new* is represented by the couple themselves, as a new union. The *borrowed* is something from the families that is to be returned, such as the bride's wedding dress, or the veil, borrowed from her own mother. Modern day brides often wear a bit of blue material tucked out of sight. The sixpence can be any form of money, tucked into the bride's shoe, this to bring wealth, both in monetary means and love, to the union.

The veil and the bridesmaids were originated not as decorations or to allow your friends to share in your happy day, but to help confuse the evil spirits that were believed to be lurking about on this holy day. The veil, by hiding the face, particularly the eyes, confused the evil spirits. Bridesmaids would surround the bride, thus confusing the evil spirits as to who was the actual bride. In a similar belief, the best man is supposed to protect the groom from the day the wedding is first set in motion, until he is rightfully married to his impending bride.

Weddings have historically taken place in higher numbers during the month of June than any other month of the year. This ties into the old belief that it was lucky to be married on the day of the full

moon. A wedding on the June day of a full moon was considered to be the most prosperous and long-lasting union of all. These go together with the belief that a wedding on a bright, sunny day, which June is well known for, foretold good luck for the bride and groom, compared to being married on a rainy day, which foretold bad luck and a short marriage.

The world over, people throw rice at weddings. Why? It shows that the guests wish fertility, prosperity, and long-lasting happiness for the newly married couple. Colors have long played a part in the planning of weddings. While many believe that the white of the wedding dress signified that the bride is a virgin, this is not actually true in all societies. An old saying sums up the colors in a wedding very well:

Marry in white, you will do all right

Marry in blue, your man will be true

Marry in brown, you will live in town

Marry in green, you should be ashamed to be seen

Marry in red, wish yourself dead

Marry in black, better turn back

Marry in yellow, not marrying the right fellow

Marry in gray, sadness will come your way

The day of the week that the wedding is to take place is also steeped in custom, hence the saying:

Marry on Monday for wealth,

Tuesday for health,

Wednesday the very best day of all,

Thursday you will soon be counting your losses,

Friday your crosses,

and if married on Saturday, you will have no luck at all!

One tradition that has been around so long is whether or not it is good luck for the bride to make her own wedding dress. Some people believe it is lucky, others feel it is very unlucky for the bride to even help with the making of the dress.

Throwing of the bride's bouquet is good luck for the bride, and foretells the next of her friends to be married. Whoever catches the bouquet should take a small sliver of the wedding cake home with her and place it beneath her pillow just as she goes to sleep that night. She will dream of her future husband on that single night.

Many superstitions also exist for right after the wedding to start the marriage off right. The new couple should borrow a coffeepot for the first three months, then purchase one together. A new broom and frying pan are needed to start the couple off on a road to happiness, never start off a marriage with these two items old or already used. The bride should cook her new husband and herself their first meal; it should not be eaten at a restaurant or an in-laws' house. Never sell the wedding dress. It can be borrowed out, or even given away, but never let money be received for the dress or the marriage will come to a quick end.

Keep in mind these are all just customs and superstitions. Marriage is a union between two people who love each other! (But it never hurts to add a little luck in whatever way you can!)

## **TEXT 12. IN AND OUT OF LOVE**

If a couple wants to get married in North America, they can do it at just about any time and just about any place. So, although most people chose to marry in traditional ways, some marriages are quite unusual. People get married on motor-cycles, on horseback, at the circus, on television and even in jail. One couple was married under water, wearing scuba-diving gear. The only 3 requirements for a marriage to take place are as follows: 1) the man and woman must agree that they both want to get married and that they want to marry each other; 2) the ceremony must take place before an official, such as a judge or religious leader; 3) the marriage ceremony must have witnesses. Aside from these requirements people can be quite individual as to the time and place of their wedding.

Some people take a long time to make up their minds. There are people who seem to be afraid to take the plunge. They plan to get married but they never actually do it. The longest engagement on record was between two people in Mexico City. From the time they were engaged until the wedding day was a record of 67 years. When they finally got married, they were both 82 years old. Nobody is sure whether they couldn't make up their minds or whether it was because their parents didn't approve of their choices. There was another couple who was sure they wanted to get married. The man and woman were both lawyers and they became so concerned about the details of the wedding that they wrote their own wedding vows for the ceremony. The wedding vows covered 47 pages of legal-sized paper and it took the judge more than 5 hours to read them. By the time the ceremony was over most of the guests had left. Only the bride and groom's parents were still in the room and they were asleep.

There is no particular age to get married but the majority of people in North America marry when they are between 20 and 30 years old. In Canada the average age of a person, getting married for the first time is 25 for a woman and 27 for a man. Not everyone chooses to get married at this stage of life, however. According to the Guinness Book of Records a couple who lived in Wisconsin got married when the bride was 84 years old and the groom was 103.

The oldest bride on record got married when she was 102. She married a much younger man - he was only 83 years old. On the other hand, there have been some marriages when the bride and groom were very young. The marriage with the record for the youngest bride and groom took place between an 11-month-old boy and a 3-month-old girl. The marriage was arranged by their relatives in order to end a dispute between the two families that had been going on for 20 years. After the marriage the family stopped fighting while they waited for the bride and groom to grow up.

Most people consider marriage to be a lifetime commitment but some people choose to marry many times. Elizabeth Taylor, the actress, was married 8 times, for example. The record for the greatest number of recorded marriages, however, was held by a man in California. This man was first married in 1927. During his life he divorced and remarried 27 times. He also had 21 children. Two of E.Taylor's marriages were to the same man. But this is nothing compared to a couple in Arizona who can't make up their minds whether they want to get married or not. It seems they can't live with each other and they also can't live without each other. They hold the record for marrying each other the most times. They have married and divorced each other 51 times. At the moment they are living together or are they living apart?

Another more exotic record is the record for bigamy. A bigamist is someone who illegally marries more than one person at the same time. One bigamist married 104 women in 14 different countries using 4 different names. During one ocean cruise he managed to marry 4 different women. When he was caught, he said that he loved them all but the judge wasn't impressed and he was fined and sentenced to 28 years in jail.

There have also been some unusual proposals over the years. When Queen Victoria was crowned the Queen of England in 1837, she was 18 years old and was not married. She knew that she wanted to marry and have a family. So, she decided to take action. She invited her cousin, the German Prince Albert to visit her and proposed marriage. Happily, he accepted and Victoria and Albert had 13 children together. Later she wrote in a letter that she felt it was up to her to propose marriage to Albert because no one would have proposed marriage to the Queen of England.

### **1. Answer the questions.**

1. Name four unusual places where people have been married.
2. What are the three conditions for a legal marriage in North America?
3. What is the record for the longest engagement?
4. Why did the couple wait so long?
5. Why did the two lawyers write their own wedding vows?
6. How long did the wedding ceremony take?
7. What happened to the guests?
8. What is the average age for people to marry in Canada?
  - a) for men
  - b) for women
9. How old were the oldest couple?
10. How old was the oldest bride on record?
11. Why did the youngest couple marry so young?
12. What was the result?
13. Who married eight times?
14. What is the record for the most marriages?
15. How many times did the couple in Arizona marry and divorce each other?
16. How many people did the bigamist marry?
17. What did he say in court?
18. How did the judge react?
19. What did Queen Victoria do when she wanted to get married?

20. How many children did she have?

21. Why did she think that she had to propose?

**2. Paraphrase the following using the words and word-combinations from the text:**

- two people who are married or having a sexual or romantic relationship
- to become someone's husband or wife
- a man who has never been married
- the relationship between two people who are married
- the sort of swimming under water while breathing through a tube connected to a container of air on your back
- a set of equipment of tools you need for a particular activity
- something that is needed or asked for
- a formal or traditional set of actions used at an important social or religious event
- someone who has a responsible position in an organization
- someone who is present when an official paper is signed or who signs it to prove this
- to decide finally to do something, esp. after delaying it or worrying about it for a long time
- an agreement to marry someone
- to think that someone or something is good, right or suitable
- someone whose job is to advise people about laws, write formal agreements or represent people in court
- to be worried about something
- a serious promise
- a woman at the time she gets married or just after she is married
- a man at the time he gets married or just after he is married
- a member of your family
- a situation in which two countries or groups of people quarrel or disagree with each other
- a promise to do something or to behave in a particular way
- to be the person who has achieved the best results in...
- to legally end one's marriage
- the crime of being married to two people at the same time
- a holiday on a large ship
- to make someone pay money as a punishment
- to be officially and legally given a punishment
- the act of asking someone to marry you
- to begin doing something immediately (with a lot of energy)

**3. Give the English equivalents to the following using the words and word-combinations from the text:**

в любое время и в любом месте; жениться или выходить замуж традиционным способом; костюм с аквалангом для дайвинга; требования (условия) для заключения брака; церемония бракосочетания; свидетели; помимо этих требований...; быть самостоятельным в выборе места и времени своего бракосочетания; занимать много времени; принимать решение; бояться сделать ответственный шаг; они планируют брак, но никак не женятся; рекордная по продолжительности помолвка; родители не одобряли их выбор; их так беспокоили детали...; супружеская клятва; мировому судье потребовалось более 5 часов, чтобы прочесть их брачные



обязательства; к моменту окончания церемонии; не существует особых возрастных рамок для вступления в брак; средний возраст человека, впервые вступающего в брак; согласно книге рекордов Гиннеса; рекордно престарелая невеста; с другой стороны; брак, заключенный рекордно молодыми женихом и невестой; с тем, чтобы положить конец вражде между семьями; рассматривать брак как пожизненное обязательство; рекорд по количеству официальных вступлений в брак удерживает житель Калифорнии; по крайней мере; но это ничто по сравнению с парой из Аризоны; им, кажется, вместе тошно, а врозь скучно; удерживать рекорд по...; развестись с кем-либо; рекорд по многоженству; незаконно вступить в брак; на судью это не произвело никакого впечатления; многоженец был оштрафован и приговорен к 28 годам тюрьмы; стать королевой Англии; перейти к решительным действиям; сделать предложение; принять предложение.

## TEXT 13. WEDDING

### I. Complete the text with the following words and phrases.

*bride    guests    reception    speech    ceremony    wedding dress*

#### I nearly caused a wedding disaster!

Last weekend was my wife`s sister`s wedding in a little town in southern Egypt, and I nearly ruined it. I flew in from the UK two days before, and my one job was to bring the \_\_\_\_\_, which the \_\_\_\_\_ had had specially made by a well-known designer in London.

Well, my flight to Cairo was delayed so when I landed, I was in a hurry. I quickly picked up my suitcase and caught the overnight train heading south. As soon as I got there I went to my hotel, opened my suitcase, and to my horror realized that it wasn`t mine, My suitcase – with the dress inside – was presumably still in the airport in Cairo, or even worse, in the hands of a stranger. The \_\_\_\_\_ was at 11 o`clock the following morning!

I immediately went to the station and took the first train back to Cairo and amazingly found the suitcase still at the airport. After another overnight train, I was back just in time for the wedding. I hadn`t slept much at all, but I had the dress. The bride looked great and \_\_\_\_\_, which was at the hotel, was beautifully organized. All the \_\_\_\_\_ had a great time, but I was so exhausted that by the time the best man was giving his \_\_\_\_\_ I had already fallen asleep at the table.

### II. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) What are the weddings like where you live?
- 2) Who are the main people?
- 3) Where are the wedding ceremonies usually held, e.g. a church, a registry office, the town hall, etc.?
- 4) Where do people usually hold receptions? What kind of food and drink is typical? Do the bride and groom cut a cake?
- 5) Do people make speeches at the receptions? What are the speeches like?

6) Do people have stag parties (the groom and his friends) and hen parties (the bride and her female friends) before the wedding? What usually happens?

**III. Look at the headlines of three news stories about weddings that went wrong. What do you think happened in each wedding?**

BRIDE RUINS WEDDING WITH JOKE  
 GROOM SETS FIRE TO WEDDING  
 BETTER LATE THAN NEVER?

**Now read the stories and match them with the headlines. Complete the chart.**

	1	2	3
Where was it?			
Who were the people?			
What went wrong?			
Did the wedding take place?			

1. Our next story comes from Austria, where the perfect wedding was ruined by a joke. The bride, 27-year-old Tina Albrecht, and her fiancé Dietmar Koch, wanted to get married at a beautiful castle in Steyr, a small town in Austria. There was just one problem. When the registrar asked Tina, “Do you take this man to be your husband?” she replied, “No, I don’t”. Tina was just joking, because she wanted to bring a bit of humour into the ceremony, and of course she immediately corrected herself and said, “No, sorry, I do”. But by then it was too late. Unfortunately for Tina and Dietmar, the law in Austria says that if either the bride or the groom says “I don’t” the wedding must be stopped and it can’t be held again for at least ten weeks. As a result, the entire wedding was cancelled, and all the guests were sent home. Ms Albrecht said: “No we have to wait until March before we can try again.” She added: “Looking back on my joke, I suppose it was probably not so funny.”

2. Here’s an unusual story about a wedding disaster in Tokyo. It seems that the groom, 39-year-old Tatsuhiko Kawata, got a very bad case of wedding nerves the night before the wedding. According to the police, Mr Kawata decided he wasn’t really ready to get married. So, what did he do? At 2.30 in the morning he went to the hotel where the ceremony was to take place and set fire to it! Kawata was arrested after hotel staff told the police that he had phoned that afternoon saying he was thinking of cancelling the wedding. He told a Japanese newspaper, “I thought if I started a fire, I wouldn’t have to go through with the wedding.”

3. Next, we go to a small town near Chicago, where an ordinary wedding has ended very strangely – in fact, it ended before it even began. The problem started because the groom, Timothy Thompson, was late for his wedding. He was also very excited. As a result, when he got into his car, a Jeep Grand Cherokee, to drive to the church, he ended up driving at 100 miles per hour. According to the police, not only was he driving way over the speed limit, but he was also driving dangerously, and at one point almost crashed. When the police finally caught up with him in the parking lot of the church, Timothy explained that he was only speeding so that he could get to the church before the ceremony began, but

the police were not in a romantic mood, it seems. They arrested him and took him to jail, and the wedding was cancelled.

**Have you heard any stories about wedding disasters? What went wrong?**

**V. Tell the group about the wedding you went to. Talk about:**

*the bride and groom*

*the wedding ceremony*

*the clothes everyone wore*

*the flower girls or pageboys*

*the reception*

*the meal*

*the speeches that were given*

*any special traditions you noticed*

*anything that went a bit wrong*

## **TEXT 14. A PLACE IN THE FAMILY**

**1. Get Ready to Read. Discuss these questions in a group.**

1. What is the size of the family in which you grew up?
2. What position did you have in the family (oldest, youngest, etc.)?
3. Is there anything that you didn't like about your position in the family when you were growing up?
4. Were there any advantages to the position you had in the family?
5. What do you think is the most desirable place in the family?

**2. Read the text “A Place in the Family” quickly for general ideas. Find the paragraphs that talk about:**

1. first-born children
2. only children
3. middle children
4. last-born children

### **A Place in the Family**

**A.** None of us chooses the kind of family into which we will be born. It may be a big family, a small family, or somewhere in-between. There may be brothers, sisters, a mixture of siblings, or we may be only children. Each of us has a place in the family hierarchy, however, and each of us strives to fit into the family in our own way. According to some experts, our birth order may determine many of the personality traits we develop later in life.

**B.** Think about the youngest or last-born child. People often describe the baby of the family as spoiled and demanding. The exception, of course, is last-borns themselves, who may be more inclined to describe themselves as victims of their bossy, know-it-all elders. Anthropologists who study the family

point to the relaxed, outgoing nature of youngest children. They suggest that they grow up competing with older children for their parents' attention and learn to be natural entertainers. One advantage of being the last to arrive in the family is that the parents have often eased up on many of the rules and regulations that governed older children. With parents paying less attention, last-born children are free to follow their own dreams without interference.

**C.** One study of birth order found that three-quarters of the major scientific inventions made in the last five years can be attributed to youngest children. The study points out that the career choices of last-borns reflect their relaxed, people-oriented approach to life. They will often be found in fields that employ their optimistic, creative, fun-loving approach to life. Consequently, last-borns may often choose to work in sales, entertainment, science, or helping professions such as therapy, nursing, and social work.

**D.** First-born children, as a group, display another set of characteristics. As the first child on the scene, a first-born meets with inexperienced parents and becomes the guinea pig for all of the parents' good intentions. By comparison, later-born children have the benefit of more experienced, relaxed parents. By the time later babies are born, parents have more realistic and reasonable expectations for their children.

**E.** At the same time, first-borns benefit from having their parents' undivided attention. Higher expectations are communicated to them and they are groomed for success. However, they may suffer the disadvantage of having to set a good example for younger children. Older children are often given a lot of responsibility early on, and expected to make decisions for younger siblings.

**F.** One of the characteristics that scientists attribute to family position is a more dominant and confident nature in first-borns. These children have been trained to assume responsibility readily, and they make good leaders. Other traits that have been observed in first-borns are self-confidence and generosity. Oldest children are also good listeners. Because they are serious and goal-oriented, they are often found in professions such as architecture, journalism, teaching, and law. All the astronauts chosen for the US space programmes have been first-borns.

**G.** What about middle children? Sandwiched between older and younger siblings, they can feel like the forgotten ones in the family. Middle children are often observed to be the most secretive members of the family. Their characteristics can be hard to pin down. This is not surprising when you consider that a middle child may be the second of three, or the third of six, for example. In addition, middle children may be second children, but still be the first girl or the first boy in the family.

**H.** People studying birth positions have noted that middle children tend to be better adjusted than their brothers and sisters. They are often good problem solvers and they display good skills as negotiators. Middle-borns are generally noted for their tact, loyalty, and humour. Being natural negotiators, they frequently find careers as managers, counsellors, and diplomats, and may have high ambitions that allow them to surpass their older siblings.

**I.** Finally, there are only children. Like first-borns, they are initiators and leaders. Because their parents have had such high hopes for them, they tend to have high standards for themselves. Only children are often serious and scholarly and they are attracted to the same careers as first-borns. Like first-borns, they enjoy taking initiative; but unlike first-borns, they may not get along well with people their own age. They may be better at dealing with older people and younger children, in relationships where their roles are clearly defined.

**J.** Are the experts telling us that our place in the family will determine our character traits for life? No, not really. What experts do say is that, while birth order may influence the kind of people we become, in the long run many other life experiences play as great a role. In the final analysis, the way we are is really up to us.

**3. Read carefully for details and answer the questions.**

1. What do some experts believe about our personality traits?
2. How is the baby of the family sometimes described?
3. How does the last-born sometimes answer?
4. According to anthropologists, why do last-borns seem to be natural entertainers?
5. Why are last-borns often freer than older children to follow their dreams?
6. What careers do last-borns often choose and why?
7. What problem do first-born children have with their parents?
8. What advantage do later-born children have?
9. Why are first-born children frequently successful in their careers?
10. Why do first-borns make good leaders?
11. What professions attract oldest children?
12. Why are the characteristics of middle children more difficult to observe?
13. List some traits of middle children.
14. Why do only children have high standards for themselves?
15. Name one difference between first and only children.
16. Do experts believe that our place in the family determines our characteristics for life? Explain.

**4. Practise Vocabulary. Match the meanings.**

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. characteristics      | define    |
| 2. brothers and sisters | show      |
| 3. benefit              | try       |
| 4. pecking order        | hopes     |
| 5. people-oriented      | place     |
| 6. expectations         | traits    |
| 7. pin down             | outgoing  |
| 8. strive               | siblings  |
| 9. eased up             | hierarchy |
| 10. determine           | relaxed   |
| 11. display             | advantage |
| 12. position            | influence |

**5. Give the English equivalents to the following using the words and word-combinations from the text:**

родные братья и сестры; семейная иерархия; попытаться занять свое место в семье; согласно утверждениям экспертов; личностные черты характера; быть склонным делать что-либо; всезнающие, заправляющие всем взрослые; смягчить (ослабить) правила и требования; применять (использовать) свой оптимистичный, творческий, веселый подход к жизни; демонстрировать ряд черт характера; следовательно; неопытные родители; стать подопытным кроликом; благие родительские намерения; посчастливиться иметь более опытных и спокойных родителей; в то же самое время; быть настроенным (программированным) на успех; принимать решения за младших братьев и сестер; показывать хороший пример младшим детям; с готовностью принимать на себя ответственность; уметь внимательно слушать; находиться в положении между старшими и младшими; выявить черты характера; легче (лучше) приспособляться; уметь хорошо решать проблемы; демонстрировать хорошие дипломатические навыки; превзойти своих старших братьев и сестёр; возлагать большие надежды на..... ; предъявлять к себе высокие требования; усердный (прилежный) ; плохо сходиться со сверстниками; легче общаться с более старшими; порядок появления на свет детей в семье;

#### **6. Discuss the following.**

1. Who do you look like?
2. Who do you take after in character?
3. Do you think you will bring up your children similarly to the way your parents brought *you* up? Do you intend to be more/less strict? More/less indulgent?
4. In what way do you hope your children's life will be better than yours?

### **TEXT 15.**

#### **YOUNGER BROTHER OR ONLY CHILD? HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?**

##### **THE YOUNGER BROTHER. NOVELIST TIM LOTT**

Rivalry between brothers is normal, but there was a special reason for the tension between us. I was very ill when I was born, and spent three months in hospital with my mother. My brother did not see her at all during that time, as he went to stay with an aunt. When our mother returned home, it was with a sick newborn baby who took all the attention. No wonder he hated me (although if you ask Jeff, he will say that he didn't – we remember things differently). My brother and I were completely different. We shared the same bedroom, but he was tidy, and I was really untidy. He was responsible, I was rebellious. He was sensible, I was emotional. I haven't got any positive memories of our childhood together, though there must have been good moments. Jeff says we used to play Cowboys and Indians but I only remember him trying to suffocate me under the bedcovers. My relationship with Jeff has influenced my attitude towards my own four daughters. If the girls fight, I always think that the younger child is innocent. But the good news about brothers and sisters is that when they get older, they value each other more. Jeff is now one of my best friends, and I like and admire him greatly. For better or for worse, we share a whole history. It is the longest relationship in my life.

The only child. Journalist Sarah Lee

I went to boarding school when I was seven, and the hardest thing I found was making friends. Because I was an only child, I just didn't know how to do it. The thing is that when you're an only child you spend a lot of your time with adults and you're often the only child in a gathering of adults. Your parents go on living more or less the way they have always lived, only now you are there too. I found being an only child interesting because it gave me a view of the world of adults that children in a big family might not get. And I know it has, at least partly, made me the kind of person I am – I never like being one of a group, for example. If I have to be in a group, I will always try to go off and do something on my own, or be with just one other person – I'm not comfortable with being one of a gang. My parents are divorced now and my mother lives in the US and my father in the UK. I feel very responsible for them – I feel responsible for their happiness. I'm the closest relative in the world to each of them, and I am very aware of that. (*Adapted from a British newspaper*)

**A. Which do you think has more advantages, being an only child or having brothers and sisters? Why?**

**B. Work in pairs. A - read The Younger Brother, B - read The Only Child.**

**C. Tell your partner about 1 and 2 below. Whose childhood sounds happier?**

1. other family members who are mentioned
2. how the writer's experience as a child affects him / her now

**D. Find the words in the texts for definitions 1-12.**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ ill
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ it's no surprise that
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ competition between two people
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ the time when you were a child
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ a meeting of people, e.g., family
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ people who are fully grown
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ knowing about or being conscious of something
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ a school where children can live during the year
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ think that somebody or something is important
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ divided something between two or more people
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ try to hurt somebody else
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ a group of friends

**E. Talk to a partner. Do you have brothers and sisters, or are you an only child? Do you feel positive or negative about it?**

## **TEXT 16. BIRTH ORDER**

**I. What's your position in the family? Are you the oldest child, a middle child, the youngest child or an only child?**

**II. Look at the groups of adjectives. Which group do you think goes with each position in the family?**

- a. Outgoing, charming, disorganized*
- b. Responsible, ambitious, anxious*
- c. Self-confident, independent, spoilt*
- d. Sociable, sensitive, unambitious*

**III. Read the article and check your answers. Complete the article with the reasons A-H.**

- A. they grew up between older and younger brothers and sisters
- B. it's easier for them to break the rules – by the time they were born, their parents were more relaxed about discipline
- C. their parents were more relaxed themselves by the time the second child arrives
- D. they are given everything they ask for
- E. they have always been the baby of the family
- F. they spend a lot of time with adults
- G. they've never had to sort out problems with other brothers and sisters
- H. when the second child was born, they lost some of their parents attention, and maybe they felt rejected

### **How birth order influences your personality**

Nowadays, it is an accepted fact that our position in the family – that is, whether we're an oldest child, a middle child, a youngest child, or an only child – is possibly the strongest influence there is on our character and personality. So, what influence does it have?

#### The oldest child

Firstborn children often have to look after their younger brothers and sisters, so they're usually sensible and responsible as adults. They also tend to be ambitious and they make good leaders. On the negative side, oldest children can be insecure and anxious. This is because 1\_\_\_\_\_.

#### The middle child

Middle children are more relaxed than the oldest children, probably because 2\_\_\_\_. They're usually very sociable – the kind of people who get on with everybody. They are also usually sensitive to what other people need, because 3\_\_\_\_. For the same reason, they're always sympathetic to the ones on the losing side, or in general, to people who are having problems. On the other hand, middle children can sometimes be unambitious, and they can lack direction in life.

#### The youngest child

Youngest children are often very outgoing and charming. This is the way they try to get the attention of both their parents and their older brothers and sisters. They are often more rebellious and this is probably because 4\_\_\_\_. They can also be immature and disorganized, and they often depend too much on other people, because 5\_\_\_\_\_.

#### The only child



Only children usually do well at school, because they have a lot of contact with adults. They get a lot of love and attention from their parents, so they're typically self-confident. They're also independent, as they spend so much time by themselves. And because 6\_\_\_\_, they're often very organized. Only children can sometimes be spoilt, because 7\_\_\_\_ by their parents. They can also be quite selfish and get impatient, especially when things go wrong. This is because 8\_\_\_\_.

**IV. Reread the paragraph that applies to you. Do you think the description of the personality is true for you? Are any of the other descriptions true for people you know, e.g. your brothers and sisters, friends?**

### **TEXT 17. PARENTS ARE HUMANS TOO!**

**Six sentences have been removed from the following article. Choose the correct sentence (A-G) which fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need.**

- A. These doubts can lead to arguments and it's hard for parents to know how to deal with this.
- B. But that doesn't mean they're right on this occasion.
- C. They also need to give you the freedom to make your own decisions.
- D. In fact they're often not actually doing so at all.
- E. And don't take yourself too seriously!
- F. It won't help your attempts to communicate and may only increase the frustrations you're experiencing.
- G. As long as you show them that you appreciate this, they will begin to realise that you're not trying to cause trouble.

Talking to parents, can be difficult, but a little understanding on both sides can make it easier.

Do you ever get the feeling that your parents just don't listen to you? They'd rather discuss how much you're studying and how long you've been playing computer games this evening than helping you book tickets to see your favourite band. It's not that your parents ignore you completely; it's more that they don't see things in quite the same way as you. When you talk to them, they may give the impression that they're taking in what you say. 1\_\_\_\_\_ It's as if the words are going in, but the meaning just isn't getting through to them. And this isn't the only problem you may face.

As you grow up, your personality is developing and you're trying to become more independent, so naturally you have more questions and opinions about all aspects of your life. You start wondering whether your parents actually know what they're talking about. 2\_\_\_\_\_ That's often because it's the first time they've been responsible for a teenager and they're learning to cope!

Obviously, it's important to respect your parents and you should try to understand why they might have a different point of view from yours. Their priority is to provide you with a structured environment, where they can guide and support you. It's crucial for them to know what you're doing and that you're safe. However, it's vital that they try and see your point of view. 3\_\_\_\_\_ After all, in only a few years you'll probably leave home and have to look after yourself!

Although this situation is absolutely normal, it doesn't make it any easier. Ideally, your home should be a place where things can be discussed reasonably and constructively. However, parents are human too and can be hurt by what you say to them. Try to remember that in every family there are good times and bad times, but your parents are there for you throughout. 4\_\_\_\_\_ You'll be taking steps to earn their trust, and they might be prepared to be more tolerant.

Be sensitive! If there is something you really have to talk about, don't bring it up just before your Mum or Dad goes to work or just before bedtime. Think about what you are going to say and during the discussion, keep calm and be open and honest. Avoid talking about how your friends' parents behave in similar situations. 5\_\_\_\_\_ Reminding yourself that many other teenagers are having the same problems can, however, offer the best way of coping with such feelings.

The important thing is to keep talking. 6\_\_\_\_\_ Remember that there's no reason why people should automatically understand all your views. The more you can discuss things with your parents in a mature way, the happier you will feel. On the other hand, if you really find it impossible to talk to your parents, it might be a good idea to find a family member, teacher or professional counsellor who can help you. Above all, stay positive and remember that it won't be long before you'll be able to make your own decisions.

## TEXT 18. PARENTHOOD. BABY AND CHILD CARE

**I. Look at the words used on a website to describe parenthood. Which words focus on the challenges? Which focus on the rewards? What do you think parents mean by them? Would you add any?**

<i>amazing</i>	<i>exciting</i>	<i>relentless</i>	<i>hard</i>
<i>challenging</i>	<i>expensive</i>	<i>rewarding</i>	<i>time-consuming</i>
<i>crazy</i>	<i>fun</i>	<i>stressful</i>	<i>enjoyable</i>
<i>exhausting</i>	<i>noisy</i>	<i>unpredictable</i>	<i>pleasurable</i>

**II. Match the words (1-8) with words (a-h) that have a similar meaning. Use a dictionary.**

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. bring up    | a. monitor    |
| 2. praise      | b. believe in |
| 3. punish      | c. ignore     |
| 4. tell off    | d. discipline |
| 5. check up on | e. compliment |
| 6. trust       | f. indulge    |
| 7. spoil       | g. raise      |
| 8. neglect     | h. criticize  |

**Now choose four words and write examples of each type of parent behaviour without using the word. Let your groupmates guess it!**

### III. Agree or disagree?

*Teachers are more important today in a child's upbringing than their parents.*

*It is easier to be a grandparent than a parent.*

*Parents are not as strict as they used to be.*

### IV.

**A. Are parenting manuals popular in your country? Do you think good parenting is something that can be learned from a book or is it instinctive?**

**B. Read the information about an American childcare manual and its author. How do you think the different editions of the book might have been influenced by the changing times?**

**C. Read two extracts from the 1946 and 1998 editions of *Baby and Child care*. Answer the questions:**

1) How did Dr Spock's ideas about fathers and entertainment change over the years?

2) What do you think of his advice? Is this advice universal? It is relevant in your country or culture?

### Baby and Child Care

#### Fathers

1946: Some fathers have been brought up to think that the care of babies and children is the mother's job entirely. This is the wrong idea. You can be a warm father and a real man at the same time. Of course, I don't mean that the father has to give just as many bottles or change just as many diapers as mother. But it's fine for him to do these things occasionally. He might make the formula on Sunday.

1998: Men, especially the husbands of women with outside jobs, have been participating increasingly in all aspects of home and child care. There is no reason why fathers shouldn't be able to do these jobs as well as mothers. But the benefit may be lost if this work is done as a favour to the wife, since that implies that raising the child is not really the father's work but that he's merely being extraordinarily generous.

#### Entertainment

1946: Conscientious parents often dread comic strips and comic books, thinking that they ruin their children's taste for good reading, fill their minds with morbid ideas, keep them indoors, interfere with homework and waste good money. All these accusations have a bit of truth in them. But when children show a universal craving for something, when it's comics or candy or jazz, we've got to assume that it has a positive, constructive value for them. It may be wise to try to give them what they want in a better form, but it does no good for us to cluck like nervous hens.

1998: There is a darker side to the world of computers. I'm speaking about the majority of computer games. Most of these are variations on the theme of kill the bad guys. The best that can be said of them is that they may help promote eye-hand coordination of children. The worst that can be said is that they sanction, and even promote, aggression and violent responses to conflict.

## TEXT 19. FATHER AND DAUGHTER

Read the feature in a magazine in which members of the same family describe their relationship, *James Mitford*, an actor, and his daughter *Amy*.

As you are reading, try to answer the questions. You won't be able to answer them all, so try to guess the answer if you're not sure.

**James Mitford:** My wife and I only had the one child. It might have been nice to have a son, but we didn't plan a family, we just had Amy.

I see her as my best friend. I think she'd always come to me first if she had a problem. We have the same sense of humour, and share interests. I don't mind animals, but she's completely obsessed with them, and she has always had dogs, cats, horses, and goldfish in her life.

We were closest when she was about four, which I think is a lovely age for a child. They know the parents best, and don't have the outside contacts. She must have grown up suddenly when she went to school, because I remember her growing away from her family slightly. Any father who has a teenager daughter comes across an extraordinary collection of people, and there seemed to be an endless stream of strange young men coming through our house. By the time I'd learned their names they'd gone away and I had to start learning a new lot. I remember I told her off once in front of her friends and she didn't talk to me for days afterwards.

I wanted more than anything else for her to be happy in what she was doing, and I was prepared to pull strings to help her on her way. She went to a good school, but that didn't work out. She must have upset somebody. When she left, she decided she wanted to become an actress so I got her into drama school. It wasn't to her liking so she joined a theatre group and began doing bits and pieces in films. She was doing well, but then gave it up. She probably found it boring. Then she took up social work, and finally went to work for a designer and he became her husband. And that's really the story of her life. She must be happy with him — they're always together.

We have the same tastes in books and music, but it takes me a while to get used to new pop songs. I used to take her to see the opera, which is my big passion, but I don't think she likes it very much, she doesn't come with me anymore.

I don't think she's a big television watcher. She knows when I'm on, and she might watch, but I don't know. It's not the kind of thing she tells me.

We're very grateful for Amy. She's a good daughter as daughters go. We're looking forward to being grandparents.

I'm sure she'll have a son.

**Amy Mitford:** I don't really know my father. He isn't easy to get on with. He's quite self-centered, and a little bit vain, I think, and in some ways quite unapproachable. The public must think he's very easy-going, but at home he keeps himself to himself.

He can't have been at home much when I was a child, because I don't remember much about him. He's always been slightly out of touch with family life. His work always came first, and he was always off somewhere acting or rehearsing. He loves being asked for his autograph, he loves to be recognized.

He has won several awards, and he's very proud of that. He was given the Member of the British Empire, and we had to go to Buckingham Palace to get the medal. It was incredibly boring — there were hundreds of other people getting the same thing, and you had to sit there for hours. He shows off his awards to whoever comes to the house.

I went to public school, and because of my total lack of interest and non-attendance I was asked to leave. I didn't want to go there in the first place. I was taken away from all my friends. He must have been very pleased to get me into the school, but in the end it was a complete waste of money-I let him down quite badly, I suppose. I tried several jobs but I couldn't settle down in them. They just weren't challenging enough. Then I realized that what I really wanted to do was live in the country and look after animals, so that's what I now do.

As a family, we're not that close, either emotionally or geographically. We don't see much of each other these days. My father and I are totally different, like chalk and cheese. My interests have always been the country, but he's into books, music and above all, opera, which I hate. If they do come to see us, they're in completely the wrong clothes for the country — mink coats, nice little leather shoes, not exactly ideal for long walks across the fields.

He was totally opposed to me getting married. He was hoping we would break up. Gerald's too humble, I suppose. He must have wanted me to marry someone famous, but I didn't, and that's all there is to it. We don't want children, but my father keeps on and on talking about wanting grandchildren. You can't make someone have children just because you want grandchildren.

I never watch him on television. I'm not that interested, and anyway he usually forgets to tell me when he's on.

### Comprehension check

*In questions 1-3, there is not necessarily one correct answer only.*

1. How would you describe their relationship?
  - a) It was closer when Amy was a child.
  - b) They get on well, and agree on most things.
  - c) He has more respect for her than she does for him.
  - d) They don't have very much in common.
2. How would you describe James Mitford?
  - a) He has done all that a father can do for his daughter?
  - b) He isn't very aware of how she really feels.
  - c) He's more interested in himself than his family.
3. How would you describe Amy?
  - a) She is selfish and spoilt.
  - b) It took her a long time to decide what she wanted to do in life.
  - c) She found happiness in marriage that she didn't have in childhood.
4. What did he think of her friend when she was a teenager?
5. Why did she leave school?
6. Why did she give up her jobs?
7. What does he think of her husband?
8. Is she interested in his career?

9. Is she going to have children?  
10. How often do they see each other?

## TEXT 20.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES?

**Read the story below and discuss your favourite childhood memories. What do you remember most? Decorating a Christmas tree? A ferry wheel ride? Kite-flying? Climbing trees? Learning to ride a bike? Wearing your mother's high-heeled shoes?**

1. There's not really a specific time that sticks out in my memory, but the happiest days of my childhood (and life actually) were definitely in summer.

The first eleven summers of my life were spent in this caravan site with my granny's best friends and their kids who were my mum's best friends and their kids who were my best friends too. We called the adults auntie and uncle and it really felt like we were one massive family. They lived a couple hours away but in the summer we would all stay in this site by the sea.

There were around twenty other kids in total and every morning we'd all race down to auntie p's caravan and she'd make these amazing syrup pancakes for all the many kids that had suddenly crammed into her caravan.

During the day, we'd walk down to the sea and spend most of the day there playing and just messing around. But my favourite bit was our water fights - the campsite had taps all around, making it perfect for them. They'd carry on for hours, with us going to ridiculous lengths just to not get a little bit more water on ourselves. At the time, the adrenaline rush was just so massive that you would hurl yourself down hills and over fences as if you really were running for your life.

In the evening, we'd go down to the beach for either a barbeque or fish and chips and sing songs while attempting to start fires by rubbing pebbles together. I've lived in London all my life, so I really appreciated those times and the simplicity of it. I've promised myself that one day, when I have my own family I'll take them there and hopefully they can enjoy similar times.

**Write your own story. Try to describe your favourite childhood memory as vividly as possible. Let these poems inspire you and give you food for thought.**

### Poem 1

**PIANO** (BY D. H. LAWRENCE)

Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;  
Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see  
A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling strings  
And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as she sings.

In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song  
Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong  
To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside  
And hymns in the cosy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide.  
So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour  
With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour  
Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast  
Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.

## Poem 2

### SO MUCH IS CARRIED (BY MARK NEPO)

When just a pup, I took her into winter.  
While Paul photographed the heavy snow,  
she, having never run free, circled wildly,  
her little nose caked with white.

She slipped and broke the ice. I can still  
see her puppy face underwater, looking  
for a way out, her tiny paws swatting  
at the thick clear deep.

With no thought, I was waist high and  
wet, sweeping her into the air. She flew  
a good twelve feet and landed with a thud.  
She shook and started to shiver. We rubbed  
her down for two hours, blowing her with  
an old hair dryer. I held her in my shirt,  
near my heart, the whole way home.

I'm fourteen years and seven states away  
and she has died. My first dog. I close  
my eyes and there she is, grown,  
sniffing the air in an open field,  
smelling things I couldn't even sense.

How many times I've played that day  
in the pond: her struggle underwater,  
her drying on my chest.

How much that day has shaped my art:  
always jumping in and sweeping what  
has been baptized in the deep back

into the world, always holding it  
near my heart. As if my life depends on it.

### Poem 3

*We each have these stories in our own journey that have shaped us--either positively or negatively, either as affirmations or cautions. But we seldom are aware of them or how to use them for what we face now. This poem holds such a story for me, from my youth. My father's father was one of four sons born in Russia and living in Brooklyn. This is the gift they gave me as a boy, that I return to often.*

#### **Running the Table** (by Mark Nepo)

On certain Sundays in the late fifties,  
my father's four uncles would sweep into  
our home like a tornado of laughter and  
take us to the local pool hall. They were  
weathered immigrants from Russia--Max,  
Al, Norton, and Axi. They'd sharked their  
way through the Depression, running the  
table, throwing money in a jar. Once Axi,  
hit by a car, broke his thumb, but cursed,  
played and won, before having it set. That's  
how he got his name: Axi, for accident. My  
father always opened up a little more around  
them. I used to wake on Sundays and hope,  
the way quiet children pray in secret for  
gypsies to arrive. But what I remember  
most is being knee-high, not quite able to  
see the table, their laughter circling like the  
gods of Olympus tossing their losses into the  
sea. My brother and I would run through their  
legs. We couldn't make out all that was said.  
But the smell of chalk, and swift strokes scat-  
tering bright balls, the thunder of resilience  
that parted life's harshness--it made me feel  
happy and safe. Sometimes I'd grab one of their  
legs like the tree of life itself. Now, when beat  
up and sad, I find myself drifting into some  
bar, looking for a cue. Then I take the years  
off like a coat, chalk up and sigh; leaning  
over the felt table, waiting for their  
laughter to swallow the world.



*Run the table* - it's a term used in playing pool. It's when you make all of the remaining balls on the table without losing your turn.

## Poem 4

### **It Was Long Ago** (by Eleanor Fajeon)

I'll tell you, shall I, something I remember?  
Something that still means a great deal to me.  
It was long ago.

A dusty road in summer I remember,  
A mountain, and an old house, and a tree  
That stood, you know,

Behind the house. An old woman I remember  
In a red shawl with a grey cat on her knee  
Humming under a tree.

She seemed the oldest thing I can remember.  
But then perhaps I was not more than three.  
It was long ago.

I dragged on the dusty road, and I remember  
How the old woman looked over the fence at me  
And seemed to know

How it felt to be three, and called out, I remember  
"Do you like bilberries and cream for tea?"  
I went under the tree.

And while she hummed, and the cat purred, I remember  
How she filled a saucer with berries and cream for me  
So long ago.

Such berries and such cream as I remember  
I never had seen before, and never see  
Today, you know.

And that is almost all I can remember,  
The house, the mountain, the gray cat on her knee,  
Her red shawl, and the tree,

And the taste of the berries, the feel of the sun I remember,  
And the smell of everything that used to be  
So long ago,

Till the heat on the road outside again I remember  
And how the long dusty road seemed to have for me  
No end, you know.

That is the farthest thing I can remember.  
It won't mean much to you. It does to me.  
Then I grew up, you see.

## Poem 5

### **MANNERS** (by Elizabeth Bishop)

My grandfather said to me  
as we sat on the wagon seat,  
"Be sure to remember to always  
speak to everyone you meet."

We met a stranger on foot.  
My grandfather's whip tapped his hat.  
"Good day, sir. Good day. A fine day."  
And I said it and bowed where I sat.

Then we overtook a boy we knew  
with his big pet crow on his shoulder.  
"Always offer everyone a ride;  
don't forget that when you get older,"

my grandfather said. So Willy  
climbed up with us, but the crow  
gave a "Caw!" and flew off. I was worried.  
How would he know where to go?

But he flew a little way at a time  
from fence post to fence post, ahead;  
and when Willy whistled he answered.  
"A fine bird," my grandfather said,

"and he's well brought up. See, he answers  
nicely when he's spoken to.

Man or beast, that's good manners.  
Be sure that you both always do."

When automobiles went by,  
the dust hid the people's faces,  
but we shouted "Good day! Good day!  
Fine day!" at the top of our voices.

When we came to Hustler Hill,  
he said that the mare was tired,  
so we all got down and walked,  
as our good manners required.

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