

Family Matters: Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students do the exercise individually then check in pairs.
3. Stop the activity.
4. Elicit feedback. (**Answers: mother, wife, sister, daughter, aunt, grandmother, granddaughter**)
5. Consolidate pronunciation.

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students discuss the words in pairs.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

Activity 3

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students begin their conversation, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

Activity 4

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers:

1. A nuclear family consists of a mother, a father and their children (biological or adopted) whereas the extended family includes grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins, possibly (but not necessarily) living together.
2. Single-parent families are becoming more common partly due to the fact that the stigma of having children out of wedlock has largely been forgotten and partly because divorcing an unsatisfactory partner has become more acceptable socially and easier legally.
3. Read the Quick Quiz below. You will need to go through the answers with your students because the answers are not available to them at EnglishClub.com. The students read a short text connected with the TP subject then answer gap-fill questions on the text. The first letter of each word of each of the gaps is then taken and rearranged to make a word connected to the TP subject.

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find the **word** connected with this month's talking point subject, 'Family Matters'.

1. The phrase 'extended family' describes a largerNETWORK..... of relatives – grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins.
2.ONE.... – parent families are those where one of the parents is no longer part of the family unit, possibly due to death or divorce.
3. In sociological terms the traditional familyUNIT... serves many purposes.
4. The females would prepare the food and takeCARE.. of their babies.
5. When the extended family is not available people often find their friends taking on a moreIMPORTANT... role in their family life.
6.SINGLE... – parent families are becoming more and more common these days.

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Answers: COUSIN (C for Care [4], O for One [2], U for Unit [3], S for Single [6], I for Important [5], N for Network [1]).

Activity 5

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. Did students find that most people agreed or disagreed with the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)

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