

# Family Ties




## Start thinking!

Do you have a large or small family?  
How many of you live together?  
How many cousins/uncles/aunts do you have?



## Reading

- 1  **1.01** Read the post and comments on a social networking site. Whose family sounds most like yours?
- 2 Read the post and comments again, and decide if the following statements are true (T), false (F) or not stated (N).
  - 1 Jenny has a very large family. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 Gokhan has brothers and sisters. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 Masha is younger than her sister. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 Pete regularly stays with his biological father. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 Alicia wants to meet her biological parents. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 Alex's biological father lives in Greece. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Write a word or short phrase from the comments to the post to answer each question.
  - 1 Who says that they have a pet?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 Why doesn't Angie live with her father?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 What's Alex's sister like?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 When does Pete stay with his real dad?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 What do some of Gokhan's friends do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 What is Masha also doing right now?  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Jenny

Hi all my MyFace friends around the world! We're doing a project at school on families at the moment and I need your help. Do you have a large or small family? Who do you live with? Do you all get on? I'd love to know what your family's like! Comments please!

 17 people like this.



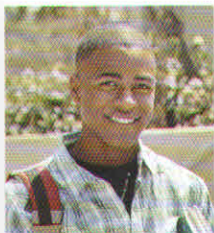
### Gokhan

Hi from Ankara, Turkey! Jenny, my family's quite small because I'm an only child. In the flat where we live, there's just me and my mum and dad. But my grandparents (my mum's parents) live in the flat upstairs, and my dad's parents live nearby too, so it's not too lonely! To be honest, I sometimes wish I had a brother or sister to play with, but at least I have a bedroom to myself! Some of my friends have to share a room with their brother or sister. I wouldn't like that!



### Masha

We're doing a project on families at school at the moment too, Jenny! I live with my parents and my older sister, Natalia, in Novosibirsk in Siberia, Russia. Natalia and I love each other (of course!) but we don't always get on. She's always complaining that I play my music too loud! I often get annoyed with her, though, because she borrows my things without asking! (Natalia, if you're reading this, I want that magazine back!)



### Pete

Hello from California, USA! My family's a bit complicated. My parents are divorced, and I live with my mum and my stepfather. My dad

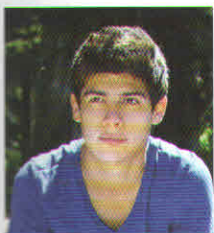
also remarried after the divorce, and I spend almost every weekend with him and his wife (my stepmum). I've got a stepsister called Angie. That's my stepfather Alan's daughter from a previous marriage, but she's older and works in New York, so she doesn't live with us. I've also now got a half brother because my dad and my stepmum have just had a baby! I told you it was complicated! It's great, though. We all get on really well. My parents are still good friends, and my stepfather and stepmother like each other too. It's actually a really loving family, and I'm really grateful for that.



### Alicia

Hi, Jenny! My parents adopted me just after I was born, and I live with them and my brother and sister and our dog, Cassie. Even though I'm adopted and my brother and

sister aren't, our parents treat us all the same. I totally feel part of the family, and don't want or need to find my biological parents. As far as I'm concerned, my mum and dad are my real parents! (By the way, I live in Lublin, Poland.)



### Alex

Hi from Australia! I'm Greek-Australian, so most of my family live on the other side of the world. Here in Brisbane, there's me, my mum and my younger sister, Georgia.

Georgia's a bit spoilt, to be honest. Anything she asks for, my mum gives it to her! The rest of my mum's family all live in Greece. That's more than 15,000 km away! I've got three aunts, two grandparents and loads of cousins there, and I've never met any of them in person. My mum keeps in touch with them by phone and email, and I've spoken to them (of course!), but it would be lovely to meet them. I'm sure I will, one day!

## WORD BOX

**4** Use words or phrases from the article to complete the sentences. You've been given the first letter to help you.

- 1 It would be fun to have a brother, instead of being an  
o\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Lisa gets what she wants. She's becoming very selfish and I think she's a bit  
s\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 My parents are d\_\_\_\_\_ and I see my dad every weekend at his house.
- 4 My mum met a man last year and she  
r\_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 My dad married Sarah's mum last month so Sarah's my s\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 It's important to grow up as part of a  
l\_\_\_\_\_ family.
- 7 I didn't know you were a\_\_\_\_\_.  
Do you want to find your real parents?
- 8 Kevin and I have the same mother but different fathers, so he's my h\_\_\_\_\_  
b\_\_\_\_\_.



## Have your say!

- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of being an only child?
- Is it better to share a room with a brother or sister, or have your own room? Why?

# G Grammar clinic

## Present tense review

👁 Look at *Grammar database* pages 166–168 before you do the exercises.

**1** Read these sentences and phrases from the comments to the post on pages 6 and 7. Match each one with an explanation.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 That's more than 15,000 km away! _____                                       | a This is a regular habit.                       |
| 2 Natalia and I love each other (of course!) but we don't always get on. _____ | b This is an annoying habit.                     |
| 3 I spend almost every weekend with him and his wife... _____                  | c This is a temporary situation.                 |
| 4 We're doing a project at school on families at the moment... _____           | d This is a general, scientific truth.           |
| 5 She's always complaining that I play my music too loud! _____                | e This is a feeling or situation, not an action. |

**2** Circle the correct tense in each sentence.

- Our family *goes/is going* on holiday to Spain every year.
- Did you say you *stay/are staying* with friends until your house is ready?
- My sister doesn't have a car because she *doesn't drive/is not driving*.
- People *live/are living* in many different kinds of family.
- Brothers and sisters often *argue/are arguing* about unimportant things.

**3** Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in the box. You may need to use a negative form.

try • go • learn • see • live • like

- My brother and I \_\_\_\_\_ to the local secondary school.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ here until the new house is ready.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ French for my trip to Paris next month.
- My grandparents \_\_\_\_\_ milkshakes, but I do!
- 'Wait a second. I \_\_\_\_\_ to find my keys.'
- We \_\_\_\_\_ our cousins every Christmas.

**4** Use the notes to make complete sentences.

- My brother/always/complain about/me to my parents.
- In our house,/we/always/eat dinner together/and I/like it.
- My stepsister/play/the piano and she/know/hundreds of songs.
- I/think/Mum/have a shower. She/usually/have a shower at this time.
- My relationship with my sister/get/better.
- I/not believe/everything my brother/tell/me.

**5** Read Jenny's comment about her own family. Find six mistakes with verb tenses and correct them. Use contractions (*you're*, etc) where you can.



**Jenny**

Thanks for all your comments! You all have really interesting families! Masha,

you do a project on families too, so I thought I'd tell you about my family. There are five of us in my family – my mum and dad, me, my older brother, Alex and my younger sister, Lizzie. My mum's being a newsreader on TV and my dad works in an office (I'm not really knowing what he does!). I'm generally getting on very well with Lizzie and Alex, but they're always playing tricks on me, and that's very annoying! I've also got two sets of grandparents, and they often come to visit us. In fact, Grandma Mollie and Grandpa Doug stay with us at the moment, which is nice. I'm loving my family!

# Vocabulary builder

## Adjectives to describe people

1 Match the words in the box with the correct definitions.

selfish • popular • sensitive • arrogant • pessimistic  
amusing • ambitious • considerate • generous  
optimistic • modest

If you are ...

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_, you want to be very successful.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_, you think the future is going to be bad.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_, you have lots of friends.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_, people think you are funny.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, you share what you have with other people.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_, you get upset very easily.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_, you think the future is going to be good.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_, you only care about yourself.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_, you care about other people's feelings.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_, you don't like to talk about your achievements.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_, you think you are better than other people.

## Word formation: prefixes

2 Complete the sentences with the correct negative form of the word in bold. Use *in*, *un*, *im*, *dis*, *il* or *ir*.

- 1 I'm sure Nigel didn't mean to be \_\_\_\_\_ when he spoke to you this morning. **kind**
- 2 A lot of people think it is \_\_\_\_\_ to visit without calling first. **polite**
- 3 Nadine thinks she's \_\_\_\_\_, but I think she's quite pretty. **attractive**
- 4 Don't be \_\_\_\_\_! Let your sister play with you and your friends! **fair**
- 5 I think it's very \_\_\_\_\_ of you to lie to your brother like that. **honest**
- 6 My mum is \_\_\_\_\_ of being rude to anyone. **capable**
- 7 Jenny is in trouble after doing something \_\_\_\_\_. **legal**
- 8 Don't include any \_\_\_\_\_ points in your description. **relevant**

## Phrasal verbs with up

3 Phrasal verbs with *up* often have meanings connected to making things appear or things suddenly appearing. Match the words in the box with the definitions.

makes up • turns up • comes up  
thinks up • brings up

- 1 If a person \_\_\_\_\_, they arrive unexpectedly.
- 2 If a problem \_\_\_\_\_, it appears unexpectedly.
- 3 If a person \_\_\_\_\_ an idea, they have it before anyone else.
- 4 If a person \_\_\_\_\_ a story, they create it.
- 5 If a person \_\_\_\_\_ a subject, they mention it in a conversation.

## Magic metaphors

4 When we talk about *people*, we sometimes use words or phrases that have a connection with *temperature*. Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

warm • cool • icy • hot-tempered  
cold-hearted

- 1 I thought John was very \_\_\_\_\_ when he said he didn't care about people who don't have enough money.
- 2 My grandfather was a very \_\_\_\_\_, kind man who would do anything for anybody.
- 3 Our headteacher is quite \_\_\_\_\_ and gets very angry about unimportant things.
- 4 Tony is really \_\_\_\_\_. He doesn't let anything worry him.
- 5 When I asked Mrs Brown how old she was, she didn't answer me; she just gave me a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ look instead!



## Listening

- 1 You are going to listen to five people talking about members of their family. Before you listen, read the questions and talk about what each person might say in these situations.
- 2 **1.02** You will now hear five people talking about members of their family. For questions 1–5, choose the best answer (A, B or C).
  - 1 You hear John talking to his friend. Why is his dad angry?
    - A because John was late home
    - B because John was not studying
    - C because John broke something
  - 2 You hear this woman speaking on the radio. What job does her sister do?
    - A doctor
    - B teacher
    - C architect
  - 3 You hear this conversation on a bus. Who does the boy miss?
    - A his father
    - B his brother
    - C his uncle
  - 4 You hear this teenager speaking on the phone. Why is she upset?
    - A because her sister uses her things
    - B because her sister goes out a lot
    - C because her sister is always annoyed
  - 5 You hear your friend on the phone inviting you to a family party. Whose birthday is it?
    - A his cousin's
    - B his brother's
    - C his mother's



## Soundbite /ɪ/ and /i:/

**1.03** Listen to someone saying ten words. Look at the list of words and write down the number of each word you hear. What is the secret ten-digit number?

0 bit 2 pill 4 seat 6 mill 8 still  
1 meal 3 steal 5 sit 7 beat 9 peel

Now write down your secret number. Say the words and ask your partner to find your secret number! If they can, score a point!



## Speaking

- 1 Read what Julie says about her family.



*'There are five of us in my family. There's me, my two sisters, my mum and my dad. I go to the local comprehensive and I'm in the first year. I'm the eldest. My dad runs a shop and my mum's a lawyer. My ambition is to be a lawyer, like my mum, when I grow up.'*

- 2 Choose the most natural way of expressing each idea.

Useful Phrases

- 1 a 'There are three of us in my family.'
- 1 b 'My family consists of three members.'
- 2 a 'I go to the second year of the Second High School of my town.'
- 2 b 'I'm in the second year at my local secondary school.'
- 3 a 'I have one sister and one brother and I am older than them.'
- 3 b 'I've got a sister and a brother and I'm the eldest.'

- 3 In pairs, ask and answer the questions. Try to say as much as you can. Use the phrases below to help you.

- Do you come from a large family?
- Are you still at school?
- What do your parents do?
- Would you like to do the same job as they do?

My family's quite small/large.  
There's me, ...

Yes, I'm only fourteen, so I'm still at school. I go to ...

My father's a ... and my mother works as a ...

Look at Speaking database - Giving personal information on page 165.



## Use of English

### Stative verbs

👁️ Look at *Grammar database* pages 167–168 before you do the exercises.

#### 1 Circle the correct tense in each sentence.

- 1 I *think/am thinking* that your family is the most important thing in life.
- 2 My mum *can see/is seeing* my maths teacher tomorrow.
- 3 Elaine *isn't looking/doesn't look* like her sister at all.
- 4 The Robinson family *owns/is owning* a lot of the land around here.
- 5 Living with all your cousins *sounds/is sounding* like chaos to me!
- 6 You look unhappy. What *are you thinking/do you think* about?

#### 3 For questions 1–10, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).



### Word patterns

#### 2 Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in the box.

look • accuse • deal • blame • care

- 1 My sister is always \_\_\_\_\_ me for her problems.
- 2 It's hard to \_\_\_\_\_ with people who won't listen to you.
- 3 Mum \_\_\_\_\_ me of lying, but it was my brother's fault, really!
- 4 I try to \_\_\_\_\_ about the feelings of the other members of my family.
- 5 Auntie Pat usually \_\_\_\_\_ after us when my mum's at work.

## Babysitting

Babysitting is a good (0) wdy for teenagers to earn some extra spending money, and it can teach you some valuable skills too. Looking (1) \_\_\_\_\_ young children – even for a few hours – isn't always easy. Problems (2) \_\_\_\_\_ up, and kids don't always do what they're told, especially when they know their parents are away. At times (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that, you have to stay calm – and that's an important lesson to learn. You mustn't let the situation (4) \_\_\_\_\_ out of control. However badly the kids behave, don't let them (5) \_\_\_\_\_ you – and don't get depressed! It's not your (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that they're misbehaving, but it is your responsibility to solve the problem. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a solution to problems like this is an extremely important skill, so where better to begin than trying to get noisy kids to go to bed? The question is, how do you deal (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a problem like that? The secret is to be calm, but firm. Don't start shouting and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ them of destroying your evening. Just keep repeating in a calm, firm voice what you want them to do. It takes a bit of practice, but it (10) \_\_\_\_\_ work in the end! Good luck!

- |            |            |        |           |              |             |               |           |
|------------|------------|--------|-----------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| 0 A path   | B road     | C way  | D route   | 6 A fault    | B blame     | C cause       | D reason  |
| 1 A about  | B to       | C for  | D after   | 7 A Doing    | B Finding   | C Making      | D Getting |
| 2 A appear | B come     | C go   | D get     | 8 A over     | B about     | C of          | D with    |
| 3 A like   | B such     | C as   | D similar | 9 A accusing | B attacking | C criticising | D blaming |
| 4 A turn   | B go       | C get  | D come    | 10 A makes   | B does      | C is          | D has     |
| 5 A argue  | B complain | C mind | D annoy   |              |             |               |           |



# Writing

## An informal letter/email

Look at *Writing database - informal letters/emails* on page 154 before you do the exercises.

**1** Read this writing task. Why should your letter be informal?

Your cousin, who lives abroad, has recently written you a letter. In it, she asked you to tell her all the family news she has missed. Write a letter, telling her what she wants to know.

Write a **letter** of between **120** and **180** words in an appropriate style.

**2** Match the formal language with the informal language.

formal language	informal language
1 Dear Mr Smith / Dear Sir/Madam,	a Let me tell you about ...!
2 I hope you are well.	b Tell me ...
3 I am writing to inform you ...	c All my love,
4 In addition, ...	d Can't wait to hear all your news!
5 I wonder if you could tell me ...	e Dear Tina,
6 I look forward to hearing from you.	f Oh, and another thing!
7 Yours sincerely, / Yours faithfully,	g Hope everything's okay.

## Working model

**3** Read the answer to the writing task.

Dear Tina,

It was great to hear from you! Hope everything's okay. Have you started your exams yet? Good luck!

Anyway, you asked me to tell you all the family news. Well, a lot's happened since you were here. The big news is that Uncle Tom got married! Can you believe it? His wife is lovely - she's a doctor and she's really beautiful. We all went to the wedding and had a wonderful time. Grandad danced! It was so much fun.

Oh, and another thing! Dad's got a new job. Do you know the old shopping centre in town? They've built new shops there and Dad applied for a job as a manager and he got it! He's really excited. He starts next week.

One last thing. Do you remember Fluffy, the cat? Well, we can't find her anywhere. We've got no idea where she's gone. It's a bit sad, really. We all miss her. We're hoping she'll come back soon.

We all miss you, too. Everybody sends their love. Can't wait to see you in the summer.

All my love,

Martin

**4** Find these informal words and phrases in the letter.

Anyway, ...

All my love,

Well, ...

It was great to hear from you!

One last thing.

Oh, and another thing!

Dear Tina,

## 5 Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

In informal writing,

- 1 we always use complete sentences.
- 2 we use exclamation marks (!).
- 3 we use contractions (*it's, we're, etc.*).
- 4 we write as if we are talking to the person.
- 5 we use everyday vocabulary.

## Ready to write!

### 6 Look at this writing task. Who are you writing to and why?

You are staying with your pen-friend in England. Write a letter to your brother, Dean, telling him all about the family you are staying with.

Write a **letter** of between **120** and **180** words in an appropriate style. Do not write any addresses.

### 7 Make a plan of your answer. Use your imagination.

- How are you going to start your letter?
  - a Dear Dean,
  - b Dear Brother,
  - c Dear Mr Jones,
- What's the name of the family you are staying with?
- Which town are you staying in?
- Do you like it? Why?
- Who are the members of the family?
- What are they like?
- What do they do?
- What do you want to ask your brother about home?
- How many paragraphs do you need?
- How can you end your letter?
- How can you sign your letter?

Now complete **Writing Planner 1** on page 155.

## Now write!

### 8 You are now ready to write your letter. Use informal language and a conversational tone.

## Check it out!

### 9 Check your work. Tick (✓) what you have done.

I have started and finished the letter in the correct way.

I have used informal language.

I have told my brother about the members of the family.

I have used a friendly, conversational tone.

I have used paragraphs.

I have checked my spelling and my grammar.

My letter is between 120 and 180 words long.

## Look Back

Can you answer these questions? If you can't remember, look through the unit for the answers.

- 1 What do we call someone who doesn't have any brothers or sisters?
- 2 What tense do we use to talk about general truths?
- 3 How would you describe somebody who gets upset easily?
- 4 What's the negative form of 'honest'?
- 5 What have you learned about stative verbs?