



- ▶ Describe the pictures. What kind of family does each one show?
- ▶ What are the differences between the pictured families?
- ▶ Are there any families close to you that you think of as unusual?
- ▶ How much do you think your family shapes your character?

DISCUSSION

Do you think family is important? Why or why not?

Do you think parents and their children can become real friends as adults?

When do you think parents should start treating their kids as adults, and what does this mean to you?

If you have a sibling: Who is closer to you – your sibling, even if your characters are different, or your closest friend?

If you don't have a sibling: Would you want to have a sibling, even if meant less attention and less privacy at home for you?

Have you started thinking about your future family? What kind of family would you like to have?

JUST IMAGINE

You and a friend have been asked to write an idea for a TV drama about two very different families. Come up with some ideas of what these families could be like and describe them. How are they similar to each other and how are they different? What is the connection between them? How do they get on? What are the relationships between the various family members? What are their attitudes to each other? What problems do they face? What advantages do they have?

DATA MINER

More than half
of all married
couples have
dependent children
living at home.

The vast majority
of Member States'
families consist of
households with
one child.

In 2016, almost two-thirds of all
households in the EU were composed of
one or two persons.

From: *People in the EU: who are we and how do we live?*,
a Eurostat publication

QUOTES

“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.”

George Burns
humourist

“When everything goes to hell, the people who stand by you – they are your family.”

Jim Butcher
author

“Family isn't something that's supposed to be static, or set. People marry in, divorce out. They're born, they die. It's always evolving, turning into something else.”

Sarah Dessen
author

WORD BANK

immediate family / extended family / multigenerational family / a single-parent family / to be an only child / to live alone / a partner, girl/boyfriend / to get, be engaged / to get, be married / to separate, break up, split up / to divorce, get divorced / custody / shared custody / to put (a child) up for adoption / to adopt / a surrogate (mother) / artificial insemination / fertility treatment / (good/bad) parenting / siblings / step siblings / half siblings / cousins / aunts and uncles / nephews and nieces / grandparents / great-grandparents / relatives / to be close / nearest and dearest / loved ones / generation gap / household / family ties / family bonds / a family gathering