

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

FAMILY MEMBERS

- parents, mom and dad; husband and wife; grandparents
- children: son and daughter, siblings: brothers and sisters / an only child; grandchildren
- other relatives: uncle, aunt; cousin; nephew, niece
- mother-in-law, father-in-law; sister-in-law, brother-in-law; daughter-in-law, son-in-law
- stepmother, stepfather
- half-brother = stepbrother, half-sister = stepsister

FAMILY TYPES

- nuclear family (consists only of parents and their children)
- extended family (consists of parents, children, grandparents, aunts and other relatives)
- single-parent family (a family with only one parent)
- traditional vs. modern family
- broken family = dysfunctional family (family in which parents have divorced or separated)
- close-knit family (family in which members have a good relationship to one another; there are close bonds among members)

THE ROLES IN THE FAMILY

breadwinner- person whose earnings support the family financially

head of the family – the most important, authoritative person in the family

the strength – person who makes the most important decisions

the love- person who keeps the family together

the black sheep – the one who is thought to be a disgrace to other family members

housewife- sbd who does the cooking, laundry, ...

careerist – sbd. to whom work is more important than family life

TRADITIONAL vs. MODERN FAMILY

- large, there are many children in the family
- usually father is the only breadwinner, therefore the family can be hard up
- mother is the housewife and the love- she takes care of children, she does most of the household chores
- divorce rate is low
 - both parents work, often long hours
 - families are small, there is a dearth of kids
 - family members do not spend much time together
 - they lead a hectic and stressful lifestyle and consume ready-made food
 - lack of quality communication
 - a sudden increase in cohabitation (couples live together without being legally married - there is a fall in marriage rate and there is an epidemic of divorces)

PROBLEMS THAT FAMILY MEMBERS ENCOUNTER IN MODERN DAY LIFE

- constant arguments and quarrels
(They are often at loggerheads = they aren't on friendly terms = they fall out)
- lack of face-to-face conversation, unconditional love, affection, warmth, devotion
- members become estranged
- career becomes more important
- alcoholism, drugs, gambling, sex addiction
- fatal illnesses, incurable diseases, mental problems, death of a beloved person; suicide
- divorces and separations
- difficult teenagers
- generation gap
- too authoritative, bossy parents; unapproachable members
- imbalanced, irresponsible, unpredictable members in the family
- sexual abuse and violence
- laissez fair upbringing (not setting limits to the children)

FUNCTIONS OF A FAMILY

- to bring up = raise and educate children; to be involved in the upbringing of...
- to love, respect, cherish, trust each other
- to talk to, listen to, give sound advice to sbd.
- to offer warmth, protection, support, comfort to sbd
- to make you feel safe, needed, loved, accepted in the family

MORE USEFUL VOCABULARY

- to start or create a family
- to resemble sbd in the family = to look like sbd = to take after sbd. (Like father like son)
- to feel cut off from the rest of the family