

Unit 1

The Family

I. Pre-Reading

1. How many people are in your family?
2. How many members of your family live together?
3. How is family life in North America similar to or different from family in your native country?

The family in Western world has changed greatly during the last two centuries. Social scientists say that this change in the family is one of the important changes from a traditional society to a modern society.

Before the 19th century, family usually arranged marriages for their children. Young people did not decide who they wanted to marry. After they got married, they usually had a lot of children. This family was an important part of the larger family of aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and other relatives.

By the 19th century, most young people could choose the person they wanted to marry. A marriage joined two people and not two families. Two people could get married because they loved each other, not just because their families wanted them to marry.

At the same time parents began to realize that they had to take very good care of their children. They had to take care of their health and try to give them an education. Before this, most people did not go to school. The family members all worked together at home. Later, people realized that education was necessary for a good life.

Many parents decided that they should have fewer children so they could give each one a good life. They thought it was important for a mother to spend as much time as possible with children. After 1800 more fathers worked outside the home for money. Mothers stayed at home and had greater control of the children and the home

than the fathers had. Most homes did not produce anything. Home was a safe, warm place for the father after work and for the mother and children all day. The other relatives were still important, but they were separated more than before.

Family life is changing even faster in the United States today. Each year there is almost one divorce for every two marriages. Many children grow up in a home with a mother but no father, and the mothers generally have to work outside the home to take care of the family.

In Canada people are getting divorced and remarried more often. They are having fewer children. This trend is having a powerful effect on a country where change usually comes slowly.

Some social scientists think that soon there will be no family life in The United States as we know it today. They do not know how people will live. Others think that society needs families, and we will always have them.

II. Working with Vocabulary

A. Focus on the Reading

Choose the best word or phrase for each sentence.

arranged	divorce	produce	remarried	social
century	each other	realize	separated	society
control	greatly	relatives	traditional	so

1. _____ scientists say the change in family life is very important.
2. The change in family life is an important change from a traditional _____ to a modern society.
3. Before the 19th century, families usually _____ marriages for their children.
4. By the 19th century, two people could get married because they loved _____, not just because their families wanted them to marry.
5. In the 19th century, parents began to _____ that they had to take very good care of their children's health and education.
6. Many parents decided they should have fewer children, _____ they could give each one a good life.
7. Mothers stayed home and had _____ of the home and children.

8. Most homes did not _____ anything. They were safe and warm places for families.
9. Other _____ such as aunts, uncles, and cousins were still important, but they were _____ more than before.
10. Today there is almost one _____ for every two marriages in a year.

B. Focus on New Contexts

arranged	divorce	produce	social
each other	realize	separated	society
control	so	relatives	

1. Several of Keiko's _____ came to the airport when she left for Canada. Her parents, her brothers, and grandparents were all there.
2. Mexico and Venezuela both _____ oil, but many people think that all oil comes from Saudi Arabia.
3. I was late for work because I was having fun with my friends. I never looked at my watch. I didn't _____ it was so late!
4. Clara has a very small apartment, but she _____ her furniture so her desk is near the window.
5. Each student in my class is from a different country, so we speak English to _____.
6. In some countries girls and boys are _____ in their educations. There are girls' schools and boys' schools.
7. Because the driver was driving very fast on an icy road, he lost _____ of his car and hit a tree.

III. Understanding the Reading

A. Main Idea

Check (✓) the three main differences between families today and families before the 19th century.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. family size | 2. choosing a husband or wife |
| 3. clothes to get married in | 4. a comfortable house |
| 5. the number of divorces | |

B. Comprehension Questions

Answer the questions about the reading.

1. What has happened to Western family during the last two centuries?

2. What do social scientists say about this change?

3. Before the 19th century, were families usually large or small?

4. After 1800, why did people usually get married?

5. Why did many parents decide to have fewer children?

6. After 1800, what did mother do?

7. How is family in the United States changing today?

C. Details

Write **T** if the sentence is true and **F** if it is false.

____ 1. Families in the Western world have not changed very much in the last 200 years.

____ 2. Before the 19th century, people usually got married because they were in love.

____ 3. During the 1800s a marriage joined two families, not just two people.

____ 4. Education is necessary for a good life.

____ 5. Many children in the United States grow up in a home with only one parent.

____ 6. Relatives are together more now than they were two centuries ago.

____ 7. Life is more complicated for families now than it was before.

IV. Word Study

A. Prefixes

The prefix **re-** means “to do something again.”

Here is an examples: **re- + read** = **reread** (to read again)

If you don't understand a story the first time you read it, then you should **reread** it.

Add the prefix **re-** to each word. Then choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

arrange	do	order	tell
build	married	take	write

1. George made many mistakes in his first composition. Before he gives it to his teacher tomorrow, he is going to _____ it.
2. Dave and Susan got divorced 10 years ago. Last year Susan got _____ and moved to Canada with her new husband.
3. I think I should _____ the furniture in my apartment. The way I have the tables and chairs now makes the room look crowded.
4. Children love to hear their grandparents tell stories! They often ask their grandparents to _____ their favorite stories many times.
5. The new waiter at the restaurant forgot our order for dinner, so we had to _____ everything.
6. If you don't get a good score on the TOEFL exam this week, you can _____ it next month.

B. Word Form: Nouns

Sometimes verbs and nouns have the same form. Sometimes we can change adjectives and verbs to nouns by adding a suffix or changing the form of the word.

Look at the nouns below. Notice how they are related to other words.

-ity		Same Form	
Adjective	Noun	Verb	Noun
Able	ability	change	change
electric	electricity	control	control
National	nationality	divorce	divorce
Necessary	necessity	choose	choice*

(* This is different.)

Choose the correct noun form of the word in the **bold** type to complete each sentence.

- electric** 1. Yesterday there was a big storm and we lost the _____ at school. Everything was dark!
- national** 2. Katrina was born in Spain. her first language and her _____ are Spanish.
- control** 3. After 1800, mothers usually stayed home and had _____ of the children and the home.
- necessary** 4. An education is very important for a good life. Parents must explain this _____ to their children.
- able** 5. My cousin is able to learn languages very quickly. She uses this _____ in her job as a tour guide.
- possible** 6. Ali doesn't know where to go on vacation. He might choose Mexico, but Puerto Rico is another _____.
- choose** 7. You must choose which movie to see tonight. I chose the movie last week. Now it's your _____.

Some nouns in English end with the suffix **-age** . Look at the examples:

A **passage** connects those buildings. In winter people can walk through the hall from one building to the other without going inside.

Add the suffix **-age** to each word. Then choose the best noun for each sentence.

Spelling notes: 1. If a word ends in **Y**, change the **y** to **i** before adding **-age**.

2. If a word ends in **e**, change the **e** before adding **-age**

marry	_____	out	_____
short	_____	post	_____
store	_____	pack	_____

1. Parents used to arrange the _____ of their child. Now people usually marry the person they love.
2. Louis bought presents to send to his parents. He packed them carefully in a box. Then he took the _____ to the post office and mailed it.
3. Because of very bad weather, most of the Brazilian coffee crop died. Now the supermarkets in the United States are short of coffee. They do not have enough coffee to sell because of this _____.
4. How much _____ do you need to send a letter to Saudi Arabia? You can find out at the post office.
5. The electricity went out last night during the storm. No one could turn on the lights. The power _____ lasted for three hours.
6. Our apartment building has a _____ room. It is a place to put things that people do not use very often.

C. Prepositions

The preposition **by** means “near” or “along.” You should also use the preposition **by** with time, when you want to show that something should happen *before* or *not later than* a certain time.

Look at these examples:

The table is **by** the chair.

I walk **by** the river every Saturday morning.

Please be here **by** 8:00 A.M. for class.

Complete the sentences with **by, of, at, or to**.

1. The teacher's desk is _____ the door in our classroom.
2. Married people in the United States used to have a lot _____ children.
3. Mary sits near me in writing class. Who sits _____ you?
4. You should be _____ the airport _____ 4:00 to take the 4:30 plane.
5. Parents need to take care _____ their children.
6. Our lunch hour starts _____ noon everyday. We must go back to class _____
1:00 or we will be late.
7. My class went _____ the new Chinese restaurant last week. We ordered a lot
_____ wonderful food. It was all delicious!
