

# Relations with others

Family

Rafa lives with **your** parents

Rafa lives with **his** parents

Younger sister- older /elder brother

He has got two brothers and one sister

Siblings

Have you got any siblings?

Do you have any siblings?

She lives with her parents and brother

# 1. Being a Family

- a family where the children live with only one parent: **one-parent family, single-parent family**
- a name given to all the members of a family: **surname, family name**

*'What's your surname?' 'Jones.'*

- the way a family lives: **family life**

*How are you enjoying family life?*

- all the people who live in one house: **household**  
a large household
- anything connected with the private family home is **domestic**  
*domestic life*  
*domestic violence*

## 2. Being related

- a member of your family: **relation, relative**;  
adjective: **related (to you)**; the way you are  
connected: **relationship**

*We've got the relations coming over for the day. We've  
got the same name but we're not related.*

*'Is he related to you?' 'Yes he's my brother.'*

*'What's the relationship between Sue and Lucy?'*

*'They're cousins.'*

- a person who is not a member of your family is  
**unrelated, not related**

- near in a family relationship (for example a cousin):  
**close**; opposite: **distant**

*A close/distant relative of mine*

### 3. Similarities between family members

- to look like or be like a parent or older member of your family: **take after sb**

*You really take after your mother.*

- something such as an illness or a quality which is passed from parents to children is **hereditary**

*All the men in that family are bald - I suppose it's hereditary.*

- something which is passed on from a parent to all their children and their children's children **runs in the family**

*All her children are very artistic - it must run in the family.*

## 4. Taking care of a family

- to look after children in a family until they are adults and to teach them how to behave: **bring sb up, raise sb**

*Bringing up children is never easy. to raise a family*

- the way sb is brought up: **upbringing**

*to give a child a good upbringing*

- a person who earns all or most of the money in a family: **breadwinner**

*My father recently lost his job so my mother's the main breadwinner now.*

- to have enough money to be able to look after a family: **support a family**

*I need a job so I can support my family.*

## Family members

- the family consisting just of parents and their children:  
(formal) **nuclear family**
- the family including grandparents, aunts, uncles,  
cousins, etc: (formal) **extended family**
- your closest relative, who should be told if you are  
injured or killed: **next of kin**

## 5. Parents

- a mother or father: **parent** (usually plural); adjective: **parental**

*I'm going to meet her parents. parental love*

-the state of being a mother or a father: **parenthood** (noun U)

-a parent who brings up a child on their own: **single parent**

- names for a father: **dad, daddy**, (formal) **father**

-the state of being a father: **fatherhood** (noun U), (formal) **paternity** (noun U)

- behaving like a father: **fatherly, paternal**

*Fatherly concern. Paternal duties*



- Names for a mother: **mum** (AmE **mom**), **mummy**, (formal) **mother**

*Where does your mum work?*

-The state of being a mother: **motherhood** (noun U)

*Motherhood really suits her.*

- Connected with women who are going to have or have just had a baby: **maternity**

*a maternity dress. Maternity leave* (= time off from work in order to have and care for a baby)

- Behaving like a mother: **motherly**, **maternal**

*She's a motherly sort of person. maternal instincts-*

a woman who is expecting a baby: **expectant**

**mother**

## 6. Children

Molly and Bill have four children- Anna and Julia are their **daughters**, (informal) **girls**

*The girls are cooking the supper tonight.*

- Paul and Mark are their **sons**, (informal) **boys**

*He's extremely proud of his boys.*

Paul is older than Mark: Paul is Molly and Bill's **older/elder son**; Mark is their **younger son**

Anna is older than Julia: Anna is Molly and Bill's **older/elder daughter**; Julia is their **younger daughter**

Paul is older than Anna, Julia and Mark: he is Molly and Bill's **oldest/eldest (child)**

Mark is younger than Anna, Julia and Paul: he is their **youngest (child)**

Note: elder and eldest can only be used before the noun; they cannot be used with 'than'.

- to take a child into your home and make him/her your son/daughter by law: **adopt** (sb); noun (C/U): **adoption**; an **adoptive parent** or **family** is one that has legally adopted a child  
*the child is adopted*
- to take a child who needs a home into your family and to care for him/her without becoming the legal parents: **foster** (sb)- the people who foster a child are called **foster parents, foster mother, foster father**
- a child who has been fostered is a **foster child** (plural **foster children**)

- if your father/mother marries again, your new parent is a **stepmother/stepfather**; you are their **stepson/stepdaughter, stepchild** (plural **stepchildren**)
- a person who takes responsibility for a child in a church ceremony (a christening/baptism) : **godfather/godmother, godparent**; the child is their **godson/goddaughter, godchild** (plural **godchildren**)

## 7. Grandparents

- the parents of your parents: **grandparents**;  
female: **grandmother**, (informal) **granny**  
**grandma**; male: **grandfather**, (informal)  
**granddad** (also **grandad**) **grandpa** - the  
children of your children: **grandchildren**;  
female: **granddaughter**; male: **grandson**- the  
parents of your grandparents:  
**great-grandparents**; female:  
**great-grandmother**; male:  
**great-grandfather**

-a person in your family who lived a long time before you, from whom you are descended:  
**ancestor**

*My ancestors came from Scotland.*

-a person who is related to sb who lived a long time ago is that person's **descendant**

- a single stage in a family history: **generation**

*The photograph shows three generations in our family - my grandparents, my parents, and me.*

## 8. Brothers and sisters

-Anna (see above) is Paul's **sister**; Paul is Anna's **brother**

*-Anna and Julia are sisters; Paul and Ken are brothers*

- Paul is older than Anna: Paul is Anna's **big brother**, **older/elder brother**; Anna is Paul's **little sister**, **younger sister**- a brother/sister with whom you share one parent: **half-brother/half-sister**- if your mother or father marries again and your new parent has a child by a previous marriage, this child is your **stepsister**, **stepbrother**

This is Steve, my stepbrother.



- either of two children who have the same parents and are born at the same time: **twin**

*They're twins. My twin sister*

twins who look exactly the same are **identical twins**

- three children who have the same parents and are born at the same time: **triplets**

-four children who have the same parents and are born at the same time: **quads**, also **quadruplets**.

- five children: **quintuplets**, also **quin**

## 9. Extended family

- the brother of your father or mother: **uncle**
- the sister of your father or mother: **aunt**,  
(informal) **auntie**
- a child of your uncle or aunt: **cousin**
- the son of your brother or sister: **nephew**
- the daughter of your brother or sister: **niece**
- Note: the husband of your aunt is also called your uncle. The wife of your uncle is also called your aunt.

## 10. Husbands and wives

- the person that a woman is married to: **husband**- the person that a man is married to: **wife** (plural **wives**)
  - the person that sb is married to (man or woman): (formal) **spouse**
  - two people who are married: (married) **couple**
  - to live with a person as if you were married: **live with sb**
- She's not married but she's living with somebody.*
- the person that sb lives with, as if they were married: **partner**

the father/mother of your husband or wife is your **father-in-law/mother-in-law** (plural **fathers-in-law/mothers-in-law**)

- the parents of your husband or wife: **parents-in-law**, (informal) **in-laws**

*She doesn't get on very well with her in-laws.*

the wife of your son is your **daughter-in-law**;

the husband of your daughter is your **son-in-law**

- the husband of your sister, or the brother of your husband or wife, is your **brother-in-law**;

the wife of your brother, or the sister of your husband or wife, is your **sister-in-law**

## 11. Marry

- **Be married (to sb)** . If you have a husband or a wife, you **are married (to sb)**

*She's married to a farmer.*

- **getting married-** to take sb as your husband or wife: **get married (to sb), marry (sb)**

*We've decided to get married next year. Will you marry me?. I don't think he'll ever marry.*

- the state of being husband and wife:  
**marriage** (noun C/U), (formal) **matrimony**  
(noun U)

- connected with being married: **marital**  
*They're having marital problems. Pre-marital  
sex.*

*An extra-marital affair*

- the state of being married; the time people  
spend together as a married couple: **married  
life** (noun U)

*Married life seems to suit you!*

*I spent most of my married life in India.*

-a woman whose husband has died: **widow**

-a man whose wife has died: **widower**

-if you are not married, you are **unmarried**,  
**single**

- a man who is not married is sometimes  
called a **bachelor**

## 12. Before you get married

- to ask sb to marry you: **propose (to sb)**; noun: **proposal**

*He proposed to her and she accepted.*

*A proposal of marriage*

- when people have agreed to get married, they **are engaged**

*We're engaged to be married.*

*Mike and Jill are getting engaged.*

- a man who is engaged to be married to sb is her **fiancé**; a woman who is engaged to be married to sb is his **fiancée**

*I'd like you to meet my fiancée.*



- when two people officially tell people that they are getting engaged, they **announce their engagement**
- a ring which a man gives to a woman when they get engaged: **engagement ring**
- Hen party** (also **hen night**) a party for women only, especially one held for a woman who will soon get married: **the hen**.
- Stag party** (also **stag party**) (both BrE) (NAmE **bachelor party**) a party that a man (**the stag**) has with his male friends just before he gets married, often the night before.
- A stag is a male deer. A female deer is a doe

## 13. When you get married

- the ceremony at which a man and a woman become husband and wife: **wedding**
- the woman who gets married at a wedding: **bride**
- the man who gets married at a wedding: **groom, bridegroom**
- the ring worn by a married person: **wedding ring**
- the man who helps the groom at a wedding: **best man**
- a girl who stands behind the bride during a wedding: **bridesmaid**; a boy who does this: **page (boy)**

- A person who is invited to a wedding: **wedding guest**
- The day when a man and woman get married is their **wedding day**
- a wedding in a church: **church wedding**  
*We want to have a church wedding.*
- the religious part of a wedding: **(marriage/wedding) ceremony, (marriage) service.**

- a party after a wedding ceremony: **(wedding) reception**

*The wedding reception's being held in a hotel near the church.*

- to talk in front of all the guests: **make a speech**; what is said: **speech**

*The bride's father made a speech.*

*The best man's speech was very funny.*

- to hold up your glass and wish success and happiness to sb, before you drink: **toast sb, drink to sb/sth**; noun: **toast** (drink/propose a toast)

*Let us drink to their future happiness.*

*I'd like to propose a toast to the bride and groom*

-a cake made especially for a wedding: **(wedding) cake**

- the holiday that a man and woman take just after they have got married: **honeymoon**

*Where did you go for your honeymoon?*

*They're on their honeymoon.*

## 14. Problems in a marriage

- when a husband and wife decide not to live together because they have problems in their relationship, they **break up, split up, (formal) separate**; noun: **separation**; a husband and wife in this situation **are separated**

*They aren't happy together so they've decided to separate.*

- if a husband and wife do not live together, they **live apart**

*We've been living apart for a few years now.*

- to leave your husband or wife because you do not want to continue your relationship: **leave sb**,  
(informal) **walk out (on sb)**

*I've had enough - I'm leaving you.*

*After years of ill-treatment she walked out on her husband.*

- to leave a husband or wife to be with another person: **leave sb for sb**

*She left her husband for another man.*

- a sexual relationship between a married person and sb who is not their wife or husband: **affair**; sexual behaviour of this sort: (formal) **adultery** (noun U), (formal) **infidelity** (noun U)

*She doesn't know it but her husband's having an affair. To commit adultery*

- the person who has an affair is **unfaithful (to sb)**; opposite: **faithful (to sb)**

*She was never unfaithful to him*



## **Marriages which end by law**

- the end of a marriage by law: **divorce** (noun C/U)

*I want a divorce.*

*The high rate of divorce in some countries*

- to go through the process of divorce: **get a divorce, get divorced, divorce (sb)**

*We've been separated for four years so we've decided to get a divorce.*

*Do you think they'll divorce?*

- a person who has divorced is **divorced**, (usually used about a woman) **a divorcee**

*I think she's divorced. To marry a divorcee*

-after a divorce, the woman who was a man's wife is his **ex-wife**, (informal) **ex**; he is her **ex-husband**, (informal) **ex**

- to be able to keep your children after a divorce: **get custody (of sb)**

*Mothers get custody of their children more often than fathers.*

-the money a person must pay by law to an ex-husband or ex-wife after they are divorced: **alimony** (noun U), **maintenance** (noun U)

- to marry again: **remarry**