



UNIT 4
TOPICAL VOCABULARY

Topical vocabulary:

1. Complete these sentences with an appropriate word or phrase from A, B or C.

1. Mr and Mrs Smith live at home with their two children. They are a typical example of a modern family.

A. *extended* B. *nuclear* C. *compact*

2. Mr and Mrs Popatlal live at home with their aged parents, children and grandchildren. They are a typical example of a traditional family.

A. *nuclear* B. *enlarged* C. *extended*

3. Mrs Jones lives on her own and has to look after her two children. There are a lot of families like hers.

A. *single-parent* B. *mother-only* C. *mono-parent*

4. Some parents need to their children more strictly.

A. *bring down* B. *bring about* C. *bring up*

5. When I was a child, I had a very turbulent

A. *upbringing* B. *upraising* C. *uplifting*

6. Mrs Kelly is and finds it difficult to look after her children on her own.

A. *divorced* B. *divided* C. *diverged*

7. Many men believe that is the responsibility of a woman.

A. *childhelp* B. *childcare* C. *childaid*

8. is a particularly difficult time of life for a child.

A. *Convalescence* B. *Adolescence* C. *Convergence*

9. A person's behaviour can sometimes be traced back to his/her

A. *creative years* B. *formulating years* C. *formative years*

10. The country has seen a sharp drop in the in the last few years.

A. *birth rate* B. *baby rate* C. *born rate*

11. She has five who rely on her to look after them.

A. *dependants* B. *dependers* C. *dependents*

12. crime is on the rise, with over 30 per cent of thefts being committed by young people under the age of eighteen.

A. *Junior* B. *Juvenile* C. *Children*

Topical vocabulary:

2. Match sentences 1 – 12 with a second sentence A – M. Use the key words and phrases in bold to help you.

1. Mr and Mrs White are very **authoritarian** parents. A. They don't look after their children very well.
2. Mr Bowles is considered to be too **lenient**. B. He is fascinated by the way they learn new things.
3. Mr and Mrs Harris lead **separate lives**. C. He very rarely punishes his children.
4. Billy is a **well-adjusted** kid. D. I live with my mother and visit my father at weekends.
5. The Mannings are not very **responsible** parents. E. He never listens to a word I say, and is always playing truant from school.
6. My parents are **separated**. F. Brothers and sisters usually bear some resemblance to one another.
7. Parents must look after their children, but they shouldn't be **overprotective**. G. Although they are married and live together, they rarely speak to each other.
8. Professor Maynard has made a study of the **cognitive processes** of young children. H. They are very strict with their children.
9. I'm afraid my youngest child is **running wild**. I. Of all of these, the teenage years are the most difficult.
10. She looks quite different from all her **siblings**. J. Children need the freedom to get out and experience the world around them.
11. There are several **different and distinct stages of development** in a child's life. K. He's happy at home and is doing well at school.
12. Tony was raised by a **foster family** when his own parents died. L. Many families take in children who are not their own.



Topical vocabulary:

3. Complete this case study with one of the words or phrases from Exercises 1 and 2. You will need to change one of the word forms.

Bob's problems began during his (1) years. His parents got (2) when he was young, and neither of them wanted to raise him or his brother and sister, so he was (3) by a (4) chosen by his parents' social worker. Unfortunately, his foster father was a strict (5) and often beat him. Bob rebelled against this strict (6), and by the time he was eight, he was already (7), stealing from shops and playing truant. By the time he reached (8), sometime around his 13th birthday, he had already appeared in court several times, charged with (9) crime. The judge blamed his foster parents, explaining that children needed (10) parents and guardians who would look after them properly. The foster father objected to this, pointing out that Bob's (11) – his two brothers and sister – were (12) children who behaved at home and worked well at school.

This has raised some interesting questions about the modern family system. While it is true that parents should not be too (13) with children by letting them do what they want when they want, or be too (14) by sheltering them from the realities of life, it is also true that they should not be too strict. It has also highlighted the disadvantages of the modern (15) family where the child has only its mother and father to rely on (or the (16) family, in which the mother or father has to struggle particularly hard to support their (17)).

In fact, many believe that we should return to traditional family values and the (18) family: extensive research has shown that children from these families are generally better behaved and have a better chance of success in later life.

Topical vocabulary:

5. Use the Topical Vocabulary in answering the questions:

1. What is done in this country to make the child a responsible person? 2. What are the basic patterns of upbringing, both within the family and in collective situations? What roles do parents, school and age-segregated groups play in bringing up children? 4. What is the role of mother and father in a modern family? 5. Is a young mother more eager than previous generations to enroll her child in nursery? Why? 6. Do you consider grandparents and their influence important in the process of upbringing? 7. How does the regular school using the well-proven techniques of collective up-bringing care for the individual needs of a child? 8. What is more important in the process of upbringing school (teachers, collective) or home (parents) background? 9. What home atmosphere encourages a child's development? 10. What are the best ways, in your opinion, to praise and punish a child? 11. Do you think child-care books necessary for young parents? What else can be helpful?

<https://www.esl-lab.com/academic-english/raising-children/>



Topical vocabulary:

6. What solution can you offer for the following problems?

1. "To the average child his parents are kill-joys. They are always saying "No". No getting dirty, no jumping on the sofa, no running around naked, no hitting the little sister."
2. "Much more than a direct rebuke, sarcasm infuriates children. It makes them completely irrational and they direct all their energies to planning counter-attacks. They will be completely preoccupied with revenge fantasies. Sarcasm not only serves to deflate a child's standing in his own eyes but in the eyes of his friends as well."
3. "I don't like James to play with Paul next door. Paul uses very bad language, and James will pick it up. But Paul is James's best friend and he sneaks out and sees him very often. So I lock him up in the bathroom as a punishment. Sometimes I deliberately don't speak to him for hours on end."



Topical vocabulary:

13. The extracts given below present rather controversial subjects. Have a discussion on these issues.

A. Should a child be allowed to do **anything** he likes when he is ill?

B. Should parents help their children with their homework?

C. Is play work for children?

16. Comment on the following quotations:

1. Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them. (O. Wilde)

2. The childhood shows the man as morning shows the day. (J. Milton)

3. It is a wise father that knows his own child. (W. Shakespeare)

4. When children are doing nothing, they are doing mischief. (H. Fielding)