

4

Family is what we shape it to be



Source: Adobe Stock/pressmaster

4 a

Warm-up: talking families

Speaking

Get into small groups and talk about the following:

- » What does your family mean to you?
- » Has your relationship to your family changed recently? How?
- » What's it like growing up with / without siblings?
- » What kinds of families do you know different from yours?
- » What is your definition of a family?



4 b

The various types of family

Vocabulary

Find the correct term for each definition.

VocabBooster

adoptive • grandparent-headed • same-sex • single-parent •
extended • blended • nuclear • foster

The term "patchwork family" which is common in German is not normally used in English-speaking countries.

1. _____ families: traditionally, this model included a mother, father, and their children, though this structure is no longer the only or most common model
2. _____ families: a household with one parent raising children
3. _____ families: involve a wider network of relatives, such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, living together or nearby
4. _____ families: families formed when parents with children from previous relationships marry or partner, resulting in new sibling relationships (half-siblings, stepsiblings)
5. _____ families: families headed by two mothers or two fathers
6. _____ families: families where a child is legally placed into a permanent home with parents who are not their biological parents
7. _____ families: families that temporarily care for a child who has been removed from their home
8. _____ families: situations where grandparents raise their grandchildren

4 c Speaking

Modern relationships on mailboxes

joint custody:
gemeinsames
Sorgerecht



Source: CartoonStock/Edward Koren

- » Get into pairs and describe the cartoon.
- » Pick one mailbox inscription and think of a little story to go with it. Consider how kids might feel in this very arrangement.
- » Speculate on the cartoonist's message.

4 d Reading

Stepfamilies – to blend or unblend?

Read the account of a modern stepmother. Some parts are missing. Choose the correct part (A–I) for each gap (1–6). There are two extra parts that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.



Source: Adobe Stock/stockbusters

Australian English

Why we 'unblended' our blended family

the bulk of sth:
most of sth

5

I'm no stranger to doing things 'my way'. I had my daughter on my own and was a single mother for many years before meeting my husband when my daughter was seven. I myself was raised by a single mother. My biological father was gay. And I grew up with a brother with special needs.

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I met my now-husband in 2016, (0) ___. By 2017, we had blended our families, moving everyone onto a property big enough for the six of us. Because that's what society says you do when you meet and already have children, right? In 2018 we made it official. We got married and were now a properly blended family consisting of my daughter and me, my husband, and his three children from a previous marriage.

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I gladly took on the stereotype titles of 'stepmother' and 'wife' and we began our lives as we were supposed to. Like all families, there was complexity involved. It's hard to blend families,

particularly (1) ___. But we wanted to believe that we would be different.

Perhaps we were kidding ourselves all along. My stepchildren spend the bulk of their time with their biological mother on the other side of the city – a 45- to 60-minute drive on any given day, depending on when you leave and what's happening with the traffic.

This meant, on the days (2) ___, actually collecting kids and school bags and shopping that was needed. It wasn't ideal, but at this stage we were still just blindly doing what we thought was best. When after homeschooling due to Covid, 2022 finally brought a return to school and our epic commute, it was like someone pulled a blind up. We finally saw the light of day. (3) ___, and it definitely wasn't adding any joy to their childhoods.

I first came across the 'unblended' family through Shelley's TikTok account. Her family

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35

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epic: long and
difficult
commute:
Pendelstrecke



to pull up the
blind: to raise /
open a window
blind

20

to uncouple: 45
abkoppeln
spurred: 50
angespornt

shares a house, but the property is split into two, with mum and her kids in one part of the house, and dad and his in another. They come together for holidays and family time such as days out or dinners together but have not blended their children's lives.

Spurred on by Shelley, I looked deeper (4) ... I saw these families and their successes and wondered, could it work for us? Could the five days we have with my stepchildren be five days for him and his children to just be together in their own place? Could my daughter and I still be a part of family life, coming together and catching up on weekends and special occasions? This would be more like the way it was *before* we blended our families, before we moved in together, (5) ...

Our questions highlighted what we really needed in our family; a solution that brought back joy for us all and put our children's needs first. 60 Eventually, it felt like something we *had* to do. This wasn't conscious uncoupling. It was coupling at its most modern – the unblended blended family.

Our future includes two households for our 65 two families, one unblended blended family, and a marriage that includes time together in our three-person blended family with my daughter, my husband, and I, and time apart (6) ... And then, of course, there will be lots 70 of time together where we will share meals, movies, make memories and can just enjoy being together.

- A Together my husband and I realised that the drive for the kids wasn't fun
- B They spend their holidays and special days together
- ☒ C and it was love at first sight
- D and found there was a whole movement of unblended blended families
- E they were with us, a decent drive both ways for school pickup, not including parking
- F while my husband spends time with his biological children
- G and so I decided to unblend my family
- H when there is conflict between the new blended household and previous partners
- I before we got married and travelled blindly down that stereotypical 'blended family' path

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
C						

Test format
Multiple matching

4 e

Speaking

Looking at a situation from a different viewpoint

Tell the story of this "unblended" family from the viewpoint of one of the four children. Take some notes first. Include the situation before the parents' marriage, the blending and finally unblending. How might they have felt about all this?

Adopted families

Adoption is a legal proceeding that creates a parent-child relation between persons not related by blood; the adopted child is entitled to all privileges belonging to a natural child of the adoptive parents (including the right to inherit).

Intercountry adoption is the process by which you adopt a child from a country other than your own through permanent legal means and then bring that child to your country of residence to live with you permanently. Sometimes international adoptions are not carried out in careful and legal ways. In such a case, adopted children might have serious identity issues even later in life.



Source: AdobeStock/HaleyJay

Source: midlifelices.com.au/relationships/family/the-new-modern-why-we-unblended-our-blended-family/

4 f

Listening



Track 1

Being lied to about one's identity



Filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem was – like more than 140 000 South Korean adoptees – sent to live with a family in the US after the Korean War in the 1950s. It turned out that there were malpractices and even human right violations in this process. She explored the adoption issue during the Korean War in several documentaries.

Source: chickeneggsfilms.org/filmmakers-and-films/filmmaker/deann-borshay-liem

You are going to listen to a re-recording of an interview with Deann Borshay Liem about her quest for origin and identity as well as the role of the Korean government in the adoption process. Then answer the questions below.

reconciliation:
Versöhnung

to falsify: fälschen

to traffic (trafficking,
trafficked):

Menschenhandel

betreiben (Straftat-
bestand)

to staff: personell
ausstatten

1. What do we learn about her adoption and growing up?
2. What triggered her to ask questions about the adoption?
3. What did she eventually have to cope with?
4. Why is it important to know one's origin?
5. What makes her so angry about the outcome of the official investigations?
6. How does she describe her feeling about the findings?
7. Which countries have been involved a lot in international adoptions with questionable procedures?
8. What should authorities do, according to her?



4 g

Speaking



Learning more about Deann Borshay Liem's work

Watch the trailer of Liem's documentary [Geographies of Kinship](#) and talk about it in small groups.

4 h

Language in use

Wesley spent several years in a foster care unit of Children's Village (CV). Children's Village was founded in 1949 and is one of the largest NGOs worldwide supporting children without parental care.

honor roll: list of the best students

Becoming an adopted family

Read the account of Wesley, a young person from Honduras. Some words are missing. Complete the text by writing one word for each gap (1–15) in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

"I accepted them as they are ..."

I'm used to bouncing around from place to place. I grew up with my grandma in Honduras – my family had restaurants, and I always loved being around food and the kitchen. But when I came to the US at (0) ___ 10 to stay with my mom, things didn't work out as planned and finding a place to stay was tough. I entered residential care at the Children's Village (CV), and to be honest I was scared. But once I got there I (1) ___ connected with the staff and they really helped me. I've been able to make up all the school credits I needed to enter my senior year, and I've also (2) ___ a lot of awards for having perfect attendance and being Student of the Week. Now I'm on the high honor roll and on track to graduate in June. CV also (3) ___ something for me that I never expected: finding a permanent home and family.

My new dads Mike and Chris and I found each other (4) ___ a program called "You Gotta Believe." They were in orientation to become foster parents, and I was speaking on a panel of teens in care. We (5) ___ an impression on each other, and when I saw them again a few months later at one of the organization's picnics we spent the day together. At that point, I just knew they were (6) ___ to be my parents. They spent Thanksgiving with me at Williams Cottage on CV's campus. Then, on Christmas Eve 2019, I had my first overnight, which turned (7) ___ me spending a



palate: taste

Test format
Open gap-fill

whole week with them. Right when I started doing regular stays at their home, the pandemic (8) ___, and schools shut down. It was the perfect time to remain with them, and we became a family full-time. When they committed to adopting me, it was an amazing feeling. The transition was easy because we had (9) ___ known each other so well.

I remember Chris saying at the first meeting that he was worried no kid (10) ___ want gay parents, but I didn't care as long as they loved me. I wanted to be with them, so I accepted them as they are. It never (11) ___ to me that parents could be vulnerable and worry about if the kid wanted them, so that really connected us.

This past Christmas morning I wanted to give my dads a special present, so when they came downstairs, I yelled "good morning dads!". I had (12) ___ called them dad before, so it was a special moment for all of us.

Now I'm looking (13) ___, and I've decided I want to go to culinary school. My dad, Chris, says I have a sophisticated palate and a natural (14) ___ to cook, and I love cooking dinner for the family. My dads have funds set aside for me to (15) ___ my education, and CV is helping me with the application process and deciding which school I want to attend. I feel really lucky.

Source: childrensvillage.org/i-accepted-them-as-they-are/

Write your answers here:

0	age			
1		6		11
2		7		12
3		8		13
4		9		14
5		10		15

4 i

Reading

Living in an immigrant family

Some of you might grow up in an immigrant family or have friends who are raised in such a family. Such children / teenagers are often faced with situations that make them grow up and mature quickly.

Read an article by Youdline Joseph reporting her and others' experiences. What is the text about? Present the most important points of the text in full sentences.



AE

A child with immigrant parents grows up quickly

My father left his native country of Haiti at age 26, shortly after he married my mother. This was all to set the foundation for new beginnings with his soon-to-be family of five.

5 At a young age, it never occurred to me that my parents were immigrants. We did mostly everything that other families did.

Being raised in the Haitian culture has influenced me in numerous ways but has also forced me to take on roles that most adolescents are

not familiar with.

Accompanying my mother to fill out job applications, translating for my parents when they did not know the right words to say, and finally, filing for citizenship through me when I turned 15

21, were all memories that I savor the most. Fulfilling these duties for my parents showed me that the role I serve in my parents' lives is more than just a daughter. I'm also a trusted mentor.

20

to savor: to appreciate

major: a student's main subject or field of study

to instill in sb: jdm beibringen

bio pre-med major: a student majoring in biology who is also preparing for medical school

FAMU: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (historically Black university)

to mold AE / to mold BE: to shape

Senior public relations major Catisha Joseph is also a child of Haitian parents. She speaks about some of the effects she experienced growing up.

25 "Being raised in an immigrant household influenced me to embrace my culture and accept it. Also, it instilled in me a strong work ethic, early independence, and to stand up for what I believe in at all times," Joseph said.

30 The sacrifices that my parents had to make can never amount to the translations I have done for them. What I have done for them cannot surpass the lessons they have shown me. The question, "Why don't your parents just apply to become citizens," occasionally pops up from time to time. If it were that easy my parents would have become citizens 20 years ago. Leaving my home to attend FAMU was one of the hardest decisions for me. Knowing that I

40 may be leaving my parents to do things on their own scared me.

Would they be able to speak to a representative if they felt like they were being treated unfairly?

Would they be able to complete their day-to-day 45 lives without me being present?

Social work major Keslene Etienne discussed how much of an impact it was for her to leave her home.

"I served a huge role in my household when I 50 lived with my mom, but after leaving to go off to college it taught my mother to learn how to do certain things on her own without relying on me," said Etienne.

The hard work and dedication of immigrants in 55 America are unmatched. Fighting to be accepted by society and constantly having to work your way up is an everyday battle.

Bio pre-med major Marie Alexandre believes her drive and determination were passed on by 60 watching her parents do it every day.

"My immigrant parents influenced me to be the woman I am today. I believe my self-identification was molded from the both of them. I continue to go hard every day in order to make 65 them proud for they have always done the same," Alexandre said.

Source: www.thefamuanonline.com/2019/10/30/a-child-with-immigrant-parents-grows-up-quickly/

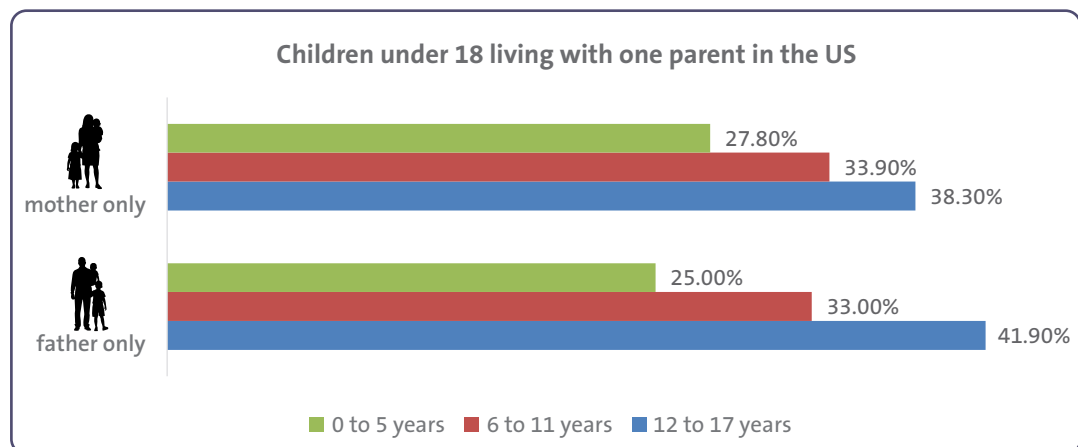
Single-parent families

4 j

Lead-in

America's high rate of single parenthood

Note: Overall, about 80% of all single parents are women. Globally, the US has the highest percentage of single parents (30%).



Source: US Population Survey 2022

Note: Due to rounding, the total of all percentages may not add up to 100.

Source: Adobe Stock/Ideasy Mind

- » Get in pairs and analyse the graphic.
- » Discuss reasons for these figures.
- » Speculate how children of different age groups might be affected.

4 k

Reading

Growing up with a single parent

Read the text about being raised by a single mother. Complete the sentences (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Source: Adobe Stock/
aleksey vanin

AE

Let us now praise single moms



cloistered:
separated from
the outside
world
5
to rope sb into
sth: to persuade
sb to do sth

bulk foods: un-
packaged foods
sold by weight
or volume
10

carob: Pulver
aus den getrock-
neten Früchten
des Johannis-
brodbaums
15

latchkey kids:
children who
return to an
empty home
after school
20

school tuition:
fees paid for
attending
school
25

to lament: to
complain
30

Roughly 24 million, or one-third of all American children under age 18, are living with an unmarried parent, according to a 2018 analysis of US Census Bureau data. And 81% of those single parent homes are headed by a mom. This has been a growing trend since the late 1960s. The number of kids being raised by mostly single moms has more than doubled between 1968 and 2017.

Yet despite growing up in the middle of this trend, in the 1970s and '80s, when divorce was increasingly common and despite being part of a generation of latchkey kids who came home from school while parents were still at work, I was, I confess, embarrassed to be raised by a single mom when I was growing up.

For the majority of my 12 years of Catholic school, I was the only student who lived with one parent. And for that reason, I was also, demonstratively, the poorest kid in my school. We lived off one paycheck, or paychecks when my mom held multiple jobs at once. The modest child support went to school tuition.

Like most kids, I didn't want to be different. I wanted to be "normal." "Why can't we just be normal?" I'd often lament to my mom. I was embarrassed by our car, which broke down; embarrassed that we didn't seem to go anywhere for vacation; that I didn't have brand-name clothes (thank God for school uniforms that greatly leveled the playing field); or video games; or cable TV; or anything else that my classmates had. I was embarrassed that my dad, who lived in a neighboring state, never came to any school events.

And I was teased for it. "Why don't you get a new car?" "Your gym shoes are fake Nikes." "Do you even have a dad?" I was often angry. I got into a lot of fights. When the principal's office called home because I had got into it with another kid, it was always my mom who had to come in.

Of course, my mother, like all parents, only added to that embarrassment. She was, and still is, artistically inclined and health conscious.

We went to museums and art stores instead of amusement parks and toy stores. I went to a summer camp run by cloistered monks ... in heavy brown robes. My mom performed in community theater and sometimes roped me into bit parts. We went to clown school ... together. At Christmas, I often got books and clothes. And my mom shopped for groceries at health food stores, which was much more unusual back then and involved a lot of bulk foods, homegrown sprouts and warm, freshly ground peanut butter. I had an all-carob Easter one year. I was embarrassed by my untradable school lunches and embarrassed at meals when friends spent the night.

Sitting under a framed movie poster of Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi," my friend would stare at an unappetizing breakfast bowl of "natural" cereal I poured for him out of a bulk food bag. His breath would blow a few rice puffs out of the bowl and across the table. "We can drizzle honey on it!" I'd say, as if that would solve everything. And then he'd go home to eat his Honeycomb or Count Chocula or whatever. [...]

Being raised by a single parent required an enormous amount of self-reliance. I got myself to school in the morning, figured out how to apply to college, paid my way through that education and embarked on a career with no shortcuts or introductions. Our poverty made me class-conscious even as I earned my way into the middle class myself. My role model for what women are and should be was smart, strong, independent and deserving of all respect.

Even my childhood embarrassment was character-building, giving me a deeper sense of self-worth that is dependent neither on material things nor the opinion of those I don't admire. I'm not embarrassed now. Being raised by a single mother means the opposite to me today: I have a pride in her for enduring so much (including the indignity of a son perpetually embarrassed by our situation).

Source: edition.cnn.com/2023/05/14/health/single-mom-parenting-wellness – David G. Allan

Test format Note form

0	More than three quarters of kids in single parent settings are brought up ...	by their mothers
1	In his private school the author definitely was ...	
2	To make ends meet his mother ...	
3	He resented not ... (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	
4	When growing up he considered his situation ... (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	
5	Unlike his fellow students' his gifts ...	
6	His mother's food made him even more ...	
7	Growing up in a single-parent household made him ... (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	
8	As a grown-up with a good education and job, he ... (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	

4 I

Listening

Single father, better dad – thoughts from a divorcee dad

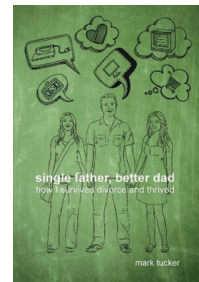
Listen to the re-recorded account by Mark Tucker about how he learned to cope with a new role. While listening take notes on the following aspects:



Track 2

charitable: großzügig
aisle [aɪl]: Gang
inept: ungeschickt, unbeholfen
plough through ice cream: almost eat up
Deep Purple: an English rock band formed in 1968, often regarded as one of the pioneers of hard rock and heavy metal, with roots in progressive rock

- » his emotions and thoughts after separation
- » changing role / coping with basics
- » how the relationship to his kids changed
- » developing cooking skills
- » coping with loss / getting help
- » finding a new partner
- » his overall personal growth



Cover of the book written by Mark Tucker

Warning: Not all such stories come with a happy ending!

4 m

Speaking

Single parenting – a growing trend



“Being a single parent is twice the work, twice the stress, and twice the tears, but also twice the hugs, twice the love, and twice the pride.”
(by an unknown author)



Source: Adobe Stock/
gogondayo

Test format Individual long turn

Give a four-minute talk on the topic of single parenting in which you

- » explain challenges single-parent families might have to face,
- » analyse why there are so many more single mothers than fathers,
- » assess if being raised by a single mother or single father makes a difference.