**Family**

Family is a social unit of two and more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, living together under one roof. To put it differently, it means to feel secure, to have someone who you can count on, who shares your problems. But it also means to have respect for each other and responsibility. Your closest family are the people who accept you no matter who you are. The love of a family should be unconditional, and everyone should try their best to provide all they can for the people in their family, both emotionally and financially. However, the world has seen major changes in the face of the family in the past few decades. Since 1975, the divorce rate has doubled resulting in the increase of single-parent households, remarriages and extended families. The variety of forms a family may take includes: Nuclear family, single-parent family, extended family, childless family, gay parent family, adoptive parent family, foster families, etc.

Let‘s have a look at each type in detail.

1. The nuclear family - two adults and their children – is the main unit in society.

2. The extended family – also includes grandparents and other relatives.

3. The single-parent family – in which children live with an unmarried, divorced or widowed mother or father.

4. The foster family - provides a home for children who have been abandoned, neglected or abused and who temporarily are not able to live at home.

5. The childless family - Some couples choose to postpone having children until their careers are well established or not to have any at all. Childless families may also be the result of the availability of birth control measures (contraception, abortion).

Family life has several stages. First you have to find 'the one' - that special person we are destined to love, marry, and spend the rest of our lives with. The next stage is “marriage“ - It refers to the stage of family life during which a couple legally unites and begins a life together. In our society, not only do we idealize romantic love, but we tend to also idealize marriage as 'happily ever after.' Just for your information, the wedding industry appears to profit quite well from this. Not only is it booming, but the average cost of a US wedding today is around $25,000! The next step for successful marriages in the traditional family cycle is child rearing, which is the stage of family life during which a married couple brings up their children. Once the children are grown, a married couple's relationship and responsibilities change significantly. Aging refers to the stage of family life after one's children have become independent. I'm sure you've heard the metaphor 'spread their wings and fly,' referring to children leaving their parents' home.

**Relationships**

When it comes to healthy relationships, there is no one-size-fits-all advice. A good relationship is more than something we want—it’s something we need to be the happiest, healthiest, or the most productive. There are four main types of relationships: couple, family, a relationship in the work environment, and friendship. Anyway, there are also special types of relationships, such as steady relationship, open relationship, secret relationship, held-by-loss relationship, long-distance relationship, love-hate relationship, etc. Having a relationship brings not only pros, but also many cons. It reminds me of a saying “every cloud has a silver lining“ which means that people in a relationship can also have problems.

**Vocabulary**

family tree [ˈfæmlɪ triː] - rodokmen

family member [ˈfæmlɪ membə] – člen rodiny

nuclear family [ˈnjuːklɪə] – nejužší rodina

extended family [ɪkˈstendɪd] – rozšířená rodina

foster parents [ˈfɒstə] - pěstouni

siblings [ˈsɪblɪŋ] - sourozenci

only child [ˈəʊnlɪ tʃaɪld] - jedináček

relatives [ˈrelətɪvz] - příbuzní

in-laws [ɪnlɔːz] - příbuzní z manželovy strany

mother-in-law [ˈmʌðə ɪn lɔː] - tchýně

step sister [step] - nevlastní sestra

nephew/niece [ˈnefju: / niːs] – synovec/neteř

great-grandmother [greɪt-grændmʌðə] - prababička

get engaged [get ɪnˈgeɪdʒd] – zasnoubit se

get married [getˈmærɪd] – vdát se

get divorced [get dɪˈvɔːst] – rozvést se

widow [ˈwɪdəʊ] - vdova

child rearing /bringing up [tʃaɪld [rɪəɪnk / brɪŋɪnk ʌp] - vychovávat

get on with [get ɒn wɪθ] – vycházet s

date [deɪt] - rande

hen party/stag night [hen pɑːtɪ] – rozlučka se svobodou

steady relationship [ˈstedɪ rɪˈleɪʃənʃɪp] – stálý vztah

husband/wife [ˈhʌzbənd / waɪf] – manžel/manželka

newlyweds [ˈnjuːlɪˌwedz] - novomanželé

fiancé/fiancée [fɪˈɒnseɪ] – snoubenec/snoubenka

bride/groom [braɪd / grʊm] – nevěsta/ženich

wedding [ˈwedɪŋ] - svatba

marriage [ˈmærɪdʒ] - manželství

honeymoon [ˈhʌnɪˌmuːn] - líbánky

propose to [prəˈpəʊz tə] - požádat o ruku

**Conversation Questions**

1. What do you think about arranged marriages?

2. Have you ever been in a complicated/open/secret relationship?

3. Can you describe an argument you have once had with a friend or a family member?

4. Speak about the wedding customs in your country.

5. What is your opinion about abortion? Are you for or against it?

6. Do you know what “generation gap“ is?

7. What do you think are suitable reasons for getting divorced?

8. Who is the breadwinner in your family?

9. Agree or disagree? Why yes/why not?

Children should obey their parents until they leave home.

Husband and wife should share household chores.

People should not have more than two children.

Cheat on your partner but never say a word!

Gay marriages are nothing abnormal nowadays.

10. Explain these in English: look through rose-tinted spectacles, look down one´s nose at, answer back to your mum, a black sheep, to be in a family way, to be a spitting image of, to wear the trousers, one´s flesh and blood, to be at each other´s throats