

● How big is your (immediate) family?

My (immediate) family is small. / I have a big family.
/ I wish I had a bigger family. / My family is big (but we don't / we rarely / we seldom see each other, because...).

● What can you tell me about your family?

I have a mother / mum (*BrE*) / mom (*AmE*) and father / dad. It's only me, my mother and father. / My parents are divorced. My mother / father is remarried / has a new husband / wife. I have a step-mother / step-father / step-brother(s) / step-sister(s). I have no siblings / I am an only child. / I have a younger / older brother / sister. I have two brothers / sisters. / I have a twin brother / sister. / I am one of triplets / quadruplets. Both / All of my grandparents are in good health. / Unfortunately, one of my grandmothers / grandfathers died / passed away when I was... / I only have one grandmother. I have no / a few / many / plenty of / two aunts / uncles / cousins. My brother / sister (is married and) has a child / son / daughter, so I also have a brother-in-law / sister-in-law and a nephew / niece.

● What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of coming from a big family?

Having a big family means there are more people to share your joys and troubles with / to rely on (as long as you get on well with each other). The advantages of coming from a big family / having a lot of siblings are that you have lots of people for company / to help you with... The disadvantages are that... you have to share your things / if you're younger you have to wear hand-me-downs / there are more siblings to fight with... If you have a big family, you are never alone, which can be an advantage but also a disadvantage, for example, when... you want to talk to somebody on the phone / you need to study...

● What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an only child?

The advantages of being an only child are that you get all your parents' attention / love. You have... everything to yourself / more privacy and time / more space to yourself... You don't have to share your things. The disadvantages are that you can be lonely / you can feel alone / you miss out on the support from having siblings...

● Who do you take after more, your mother or father?

I look more like my father, but share more character traits with my mother. I am a lot like my father in many ways, we are both tall and thin / athletic / interested in sports... and we both have dark / curly... hair / long legs / the same sense of humour. My mother / father and I both have the same colour of hair... My mother

/ father and I both share the same... I'm a bit more like my grandmother / grandfather (on my mother's / father's side) than either of my parents. I inherited my mother's / father's / grandmother's / grandfather's sense of humour / musical talent / green eyes...

● How well do you get along with your parents?

My parents are more like friends to me, I can tell them (almost) anything / share secrets with them. / My parents are a bit hard on me, they're always... criticising my choice of friends / telling me how disappointed they are with me... My parents have (quite) high expectations of me, and the pressure is sometimes unbearable. My parents pretty much ignore me, so I can get away with almost anything.

● How well do you get along with your siblings?

I (don't) get along very well with my brother / sister... we (don't) have a lot in common. My older brother / sister picks on me / used to pick on me quite a bit... I get along with my siblings much better now that we are all adults. / I get along with my brother / sister very well, we often spend time together.

● What kinds of things do you and your family (like to) do together?

My family and I go skiing / hiking / on trips... together. / I like to discuss things with my parents / help my parents / father / mother in the garden / train our dog... We don't spend much time together nowadays, but when I was younger / smaller, we used to sit around the fire / go to the cinema / spend at least a week by the sea... together. / My parents are very busy but they always find some time... to ask me about my studies / social life / hobbies / interests / to spend time with me at weekends / on holidays...

● Do you have any influence on family matters? Which ones?

My family is quite democratic, we all have an equal say in family decisions. My parents discuss / ask my opinion on most / many matters, for example, which school I wanted to go to / where we will go on our next holiday... I have no influence whatsoever on anything... / I have / get no say in (almost) anything. My parents often ask my opinion, but never seem to take it seriously.

● What household chores / work do you do? How much or how often do you help around the house?

I usually take out the trash / do... the washing up (*BrE*) / the dishes (*AmE*) / ironing / dusting / laundry / shopping / Hoovering (*BrE*) / vacuuming (*AmE*)... I try to help out as much as possible so I... / To tell the truth, I avoid housework whenever I can.

