

How to Talk About Family in English

Not a perfect family story. Just an honest one.

TODAY'S TOPIC

For many people, family is complicated. Some of you live far from yours. Some have close relationships, some do not. Some are building a new kind of family somewhere else.

All of that is worth talking about. You do not need a perfect story. **You only need a true one.**

START HERE (SAY THESE OUT LOUD)

One sentence each. Do not write. Just speak.

1. Do you have siblings? Are you close?
2. Where does your family live now? Are you near them?
3. When did you last speak to a family member?

If you get stuck, start with *"In my family,"* and say one thing that is actually true.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

You do not need all of these. Choose 2 or 3 that match your situation.

close-knit	very connected, spend a lot of time together <i>"We are a close-knit family."</i>
to take after someone	to look or act like a family member <i>"I take after my mother."</i>
to keep in touch	to stay in contact, even from far away <i>"We keep in touch over video call."</i>
generation gap	differences in thinking between older and younger family <i>"There is a generation gap between us."</i>
to look up to someone	to respect and admire them <i>"I looked up to my older brother."</i>
family dynamics	how family members relate and interact with each other <i>"The family dynamics changed when I moved away."</i>
to run in the family	a trait many family members share <i>"Stubbornness runs in the family."</i>
to fall out with	to have a serious argument and stop speaking <i>"We fell out for a while but talked again."</i>

SPEAKING PRACTICE (CHOOSE 3 TO 5)

Answer out loud. 30 to 60 seconds each. Do not write. Just speak.

4. How would you describe your family in two or three sentences?

5. Who in your family are you most similar to? In what way?
 6. How has your relationship with your family changed since you moved or grew older?
 7. Is there a family tradition you have kept, even away from home?
 8. Is there something your family does not understand about your life now?
 9. If you could tell one family member something you have never said, what would it be?
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GO FURTHER

Choose one. Speak for 1 to 2 minutes. It is fine to pause and think.

10. How has your family shaped who you are, without you choosing it?
 11. Can people you are not related to become family? Has that happened for you?
 12. What does "family comes first" mean to you now, compared to when you were younger?
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THIS WEEK'S SMALL ACTION

Call, message, or voice note one family member this week. Say something you mean.

Once this week. That is enough.

Want more practice? The members edition has extended vocabulary, a partner activity, group discussion questions, and a real-life speaking structure.