

Lesson 1

common expressions about the family

Your parents and your siblings (brothers and sisters) are your family. Your relatives are your uncles, cousins, grandparents, etc. You celebrate big family celebrations with all your relatives and loved ones.

A family with one or two children is a nuclear family, and a family with more than two children is an extended family.

You can use a family tree to show the relationships between your family members.

If you are lucky, you will have a loving family. It means that your family members have a good relationship with each other and help each other.

If you grew up in a loving family, your parents not only had a happy marriage, but they also had a friendly relationship with you.

On the other hand, in some families, there is a couple who does not get along well with each other, and it leads to conflicts and quarrels. Usually, the couple compromise, and their dispute is settled. However, the conflicts can cause a divorce. Consequently, the couple divorce because their marriage is failing. In this case, they must set up their divorce. They say they should make it official. In such situations, the children must be cared for by the mother or father. In Germany, there are more single mothers than single fathers, since the children usually stay with the mother after the parents have separated. When there are major conflicts between divorced parents, sometimes it is better if only one parent had custody of the children. If the mother raises the child alone, the father has to pay the child's support.

If a woman becomes pregnant without marriage, she is also a single mother because she has to raise the child alone.

In this situation, some women opt for a foster family because they cannot take care of the children enough. After the woman has had the baby, the child is adopted. Sometimes when the adopted child gets older, they try to find their birth mother.

Some mothers are also childminders. They need both to earn money and to take care of their children.