**Mila University Center**  **2024/2025  
Department of Letters and Foreign Languages**

**Module: Reading (L 1/S2)**

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**Family:**

You can use a **family tree** to diagram the relationships among your **family members**. A person who is related to you by a long series of connections can be called a **distant relative**.

If you’re lucky, you have a **loving family** or a **close-knit family** – these expressions refer to a family that has good relationships, where everyone loves each other and helps each other. If you were raised in a loving family, then you probably had a **carefree childhood** – that means you had nothing to worry about when you were young.

On the other hand, a family in which the relationships are bad or unhealthy can be called a **dysfunctional family**. If the children experience abuse, poverty, or problems with the law, we can say they had **a troubled childhood**.

Perhaps the parents went through a **bitter divorce** – that means a separation in which there were bad/angry feelings between the husband and wife. It’s also possible to have a **messy divorce**, with a prolonged legal battle involving lots of conflicts about the separation of the former couple’s assets (money and possessions). The decisions about the separation of assets are made in the **divorce settlement**. A family in which there are divorces or separations is sometimes called a **broken home**.

Sometimes the mother and father fight over **custody of the children** – that refers to who has the primary responsibility of caring for the kids. A judge can **grant joint custody** – that means the exhusband and ex-wife share the responsibility – or **sole custody** to only one parent. For example, a judge might **award** **sole custody** to the mother, and the father has to **pay child support** – regular payments to help with expenses for the kids.

If it was a **mutual divorce/separation** – that means the ex-husband and ex-wife agreed to separate without fighting – then they will probably stay **on good terms with each other** (meaning to have a polite relationship without conflicts).

If a woman **gets pregnant** without being married or in a relationship, then she will become a **single mother**. Some women in this situation choose to **have an abortion**, and others prefer to **give the baby up for adoption**. The time when the baby is planned to arrive is called the **due date** – you can also say the baby is due in mid-October, for example.

After the woman **has the baby** (or **gives birth** to the baby), the baby is given to the **adoptive parents**, who will **raise the child** or **bring up the** **child** as if it was their own. Sometimes, when the adopted child is older, he or she tries to find their **birth mother** (biological mother).

**Exercise:** Circle the best word to complete each sentence:

1. A friend of mine **gave / took / went** birth to her son at home with the help of a nurse.

2. A number of the kids in my classroom come from **broken / damaged / hurt homes.**

3. After a **hostile / cruel / bitter** divorce from his wife of 20 years, the actor married a woman young enough to be his daughter.

4. I see my **excepted / expanded / extended** family once a year, during our annual family vacation.

5. I was raised in a very **joyful / loving / tender** family, in which everyone helped each other.

6. I was **created / grown / raised** by my grandparents after my parents passed away.

7. I'm on good **friends / relations / terms** with all my former boyfriends.

8. John had a **carefree / careful / careless** childhood, growing up with happily married parents and three brothers.

9. Many women regret **giving / having / taking** an abortion years afterwards.

10. My aunt's going through a **messy / sloppy / untidy** divorce; she's paying a fortune in legal fees.

11. My husband doesn't get along with a few of my family **people / individuals / members**.

12. Although my salary is low, I get child **assistance / provision / support** from my ex-husband.

13. My sister **got / had / made** pregnant immediately after she got married.

14. My son is making a diagram of our family **roots / tree / web** for a school project.

15. My wife is pregnant with twins. They're **come / due / here** in February.

16. Sally was granted sole **custody / guardian / keeping** of the children from her first marriage.

17. Teenagers who had a **distressed / troubled / worsened** childhood often have behavior

problems in school.

18. The celebrity wrote a book about his **debilitated / defective / dysfunctional** family.

19. The divorce **contract / reimbursement / settlement** awarded the wife $500,000.

20. There are four people in my **close / immediate / neighbouring** family.

21. They have three biological children and two **adopted / adoptive / adopting** children.

Reference:

<https://quizyourenglish.com/blog/collocations-family-example-text>