

# 47 Ages and stages

## A Growing up

Age	Stage
0–1 approximately	a <b>baby</b>
1–2	a <b>toddler</b>
2–12 approximately	a <b>child</b> – this period is your <b>childhood</b>
13–17 approximately	a <b>teenager</b> (14 = early teens)
18+	an <b>adult</b>
20–30	<b>in your twenties</b> (24–26 = <b>mid twenties</b> )
30–40	<b>in your thirties</b> (38 = <b>late thirties</b> )
40+	people are <b>middle-aged</b> ; <b>in middle age</b>
60 or 65	<b>retirement</b> (= when people stop work; they are <b>retired</b> )
75+	<b>old age</b> (you can also use <b>elderly</b> )

*Note:* For boys, the period between 14–17 approximately (slightly younger for girls) is called **adolescence**, i.e. you are an **adolescent**. In law you are an **adult** at the age of 18, but many people think of you as an adult when you leave school.

## B Childhood and adolescence

Sam (on the right) was **born** in Scotland but when he was two, his father got a new job in London and he **grew up** in the south of England. He went to **university** at 18 where he ...



## C Romance

... where he **met** Anthea. He **went out with** her (= she was his **girlfriend**; he was her **boyfriend**) for three years, but towards the end they had lots of **rows** (= arguments) and they **split up** (= **broke up** / separated). In his **mid twenties** ...



## D Marriage

... in his **mid twenties** he **met** Maureen. They **fell in love** and **got married** within six months. A year later she got **pregnant** and they had their first child, a boy. As you can see, she is now **expecting** their second child (to be pregnant = to be expecting a baby). But sadly Sam met another woman and he left Maureen two months ago to live with the other woman.



# Exercises

## 47.1 What stage of life are these people at?

- 1 Paul isn't 2 yet, so he's still a .....
- 2 Albert was a bus driver for 40 years but stopped work two years ago, so he is now .....
- 3 Susan is 25, so she is in her .....
- 4 Caroline is 50 this year so she is now in her .....
- 5 Ron is 33 and his wife is 32, so they are both in .....
- 6 Joan is 75 this year, so she is quite .....
- 7 Jason was born six weeks ago, so he's a .....
- 8 Leyla is 13 this year, so she'll soon be a .....
- 9 Ravi is 18 this year, so legally he becomes .....
- 10 15 is often a difficult age for boys going through .....

## 47.2 Are these sentences *true* or *false* about the people on the opposite page? If the sentences are *false*, write the correct answer below. Try to answer the questions first without looking at the opposite page.

- 1 Sam was born in Scotland.  
.....
- 2 He grew up in the south of Ireland.  
.....
- 3 He went out with Anthea for two years.  
.....
- 4 They split up because Sam went to live in Japan.  
.....
- 5 Sam fell in love with Maureen.  
.....
- 6 They had a baby a year after they got married.  
.....
- 7 Maureen is now expecting her third child.  
.....
- 8 Maureen left Sam.  
.....

## 47.3 Find the logical ending for each of the sentence beginnings on the left and construct Rebecca's life.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 Rebecca was born       | a was a boy at her secondary school.   |
| 2 She grew up            | b in her early thirties.               |
| 3 Her first boyfriend    | c on a farm with lots of animals.      |
| 4 She went out with him  | d when she was in her late twenties.   |
| 5 She went to university | e in a small local hospital in 1972.   |
| 6 She fell in love       | f for six months.                      |
| 7 They got married       | g just after the baby was born.        |
| 8 She had a baby         | h with another student doing medicine. |
| 9 Her father retired     | i when she left school.                |

How many of the sentence beginnings on the left can you answer about your own life?  
Answer the ones you can.

## 35 Relationships

### A Types of relationships

Here is a scale showing closeness and distance in relationships in different contexts.

	CLOSER ←	→	MORE DISTANT
<i>friendship:</i>	best friend	good friend	friend      acquaintance
<i>work:</i>	close colleague		colleague/workmate
<i>love/romance:</i>	lover	steady boy/girlfriend	ex-*
<i>marriage:</i>	wife/husband/partner		ex-*

\* ex- can be used with or without (informally) another word: She's my ex. (girlfriend, etc.)

**Mate** is a colloquial word for a good friend. It can also be used in compounds to describe a person you share something with, e.g. **classmate**, **shipmate**, **workmate**, **flatmate**.

**Workmate** is usual in non-professional contexts; **colleague** is more common among professional people.

**Fiancé/ée** can still be used for someone you are engaged to, but a lot of people feel it is dated nowadays. You will sometimes see **husband-/wife-to-be** in journalistic style.

English has no universally accepted word for 'person I live with but am not married to', but **partner** is probably the commonest.

### B Liking and not liking someone

<i>core verb</i>	<i>positive</i>	<i>negative</i>
like	love    adore worship    idolise	dislike    hate can't stand    loathe
respect	look up to    admire	look down on    despise
attract	turn s.b. on	repel    turn s.b. off
be attracted to	fancy	

She doesn't just like Bob she **idolises** him! I **can't stand** him.

I really **fancy** Lisa, but her friend just **turns me off**.

Fancy and turn off are informal. Repel is very strong and rather formal.

### C Phrases and idioms for relationships

Jo and I **get on well** with each other. [have a good relationship]

Adrian and Liz **don't see eye to eye**. [often argue/disagree]

I've **fallen out with** my parents again. [had arguments]

Tony and Jane have **broken up / split up**. [ended their relationship]

George is **having an affair** with his boss. [a sexual relationship, usually secret]

Children should **respect their elders**. [adults/parents, etc.]

Let's try and **make it up**. [be friends again after a row]

She's **my junior / I'm her senior / I'm senior to her**, so she does what she's told. [refers to position/length of service at work]

## Exercises

**35.1** Use words with the suffix *-mate* to resay or rewrite these sentences.

- 1 This is Jack. He and I share a flat.
- 2 My grandad still writes to his old friends he was at sea with.
- 3 We were in the same class together in 1978, weren't we?
- 4 She's not really a friend, she's just someone I work with.

**35.2** How many relationships can you find between the people in column A and column B, using words from the left-hand page?

*Example: John Silver and Lorna Fitt were once colleagues.*

A

**John Silver:** owns a language school for business people in Bath. Worked at the Sun School, Oxford, 1984–5.

**Josh Yates:** politician, was married to Eve Cobb 1973–1980. Met Bill Nash a couple of times.

**Ada Brigg:** was married to Bill Nash 1981–4. Swam for Britain in 1982 Olympics.

**Ana Wood:** has lived as a couple (unmarried) with Bill Nash for the last five years.

B

**Nora Costa:** was in UK Olympic swimming team in 1982. Was in same class at school as Ada Brigg.

**Bill Nash:** works every day with John Silver. Shared a flat years ago with Eve Cobb.

**Fred Parks:** politician. Knew Ada Brigg years ago, but not very well.

**Lorna Fitt:** taught at Sun School Oxford 1980–7. Lives with Josh Yates.

**35.3** Liking and disliking. Using the verbs, phrases and idioms opposite, what sort of relations do you think the people on the left might have with the people on the right?

1 teenage music fan

parents	pop star
strict teacher	mate

2 secretary

another secretary	boss
very attractive	workmate

3 45-year-old

teenagers	ex-husband/wife
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**35.4** The person who typed this book has got some of the phrases and idioms opposite mixed up with one another. Correct them.

- 1 Jo and Phil don't get on eye to eye with each other.
- 2 I fell up with my parents last night. It wasn't my fault.
- 3 We had a quarrel but now we've made it well.
- 4 Do you think Jim and Nora are making an affair? I do.
- 5 I see very well with all my colleagues at work.
- 6 She should learn to respect her olders.
- 7 Jo's attractive, but her mate just turns me up completely.

## Text 1: The British Family

The British desire for privacy, together with the opportunity to live wherever is desired, means that family units are small and the very word "family" really means only a couple and their children if they have any. The term "extended family" is used to include close relatives, such as grandparents or brothers or sisters of the adults.

Once it was normal for Children to live with their parents until they married but now it is more likely that children will leave their parents' home to relocate where there is a higher education course they wish to take or where there is a job that they have obtained. For this mixture of reasons of job availability or the existence of a course at a University that has an attractive location, and the innate desire for independence of those brought up in Britain, children move away and perhaps today, further and further away. Until the Second World War (1939-1945) children often moved into the same street or very close to their parents. Today the tendency is not only to look at moving to a different town, but perhaps even a different country within the European Union.

As distances have increased, the interaction between, for example, grandchildren and their grandparents has reduced. Since it is very likely that both the mother and the father have jobs, babies and small children are likely to be looked after during the day by "childminders" who are registered, licensed and inspected by the local Council, If there is a grandmother nearby who if not working, then she may be asked to look after a youngster or toddler until pre-school education starts at an pre-school or "acorn" unit from about four years of age. Infant school is for five- to seven-year-olds and Primary school from eight to eleven-years-old. It is usual in Britain for one grandmother to be affectionately called "gran" (or "granny" or "grannie") and the other grandmother "nana". Although both grandfathers are always called "grandad". Only very close relatives are called 'family'

### Notes

1. **Privacy** – приватність, відокремленість, самотність, конфіденційність. To live in absolute privacy – жити у повній самотності. Private – приватний, особистий; конфіденційний. Private property – приватна власність; private conversation; in private – конфіденційно. With seven people squashed in one house, you don't get much privacy.

2. **Extended family** – велика родина; family man – сімейна людина, сім'янин; family tree – родовід, генеалогічне дерево; language family – мовна сім'я.

3. **Availability** – придатність, корисність; наявність; перспективність. Job availability – наявність робочих місць.

4. **Bring up** – виховувати; збільшувати; піднімати. Наприклад: He was brought up in a family of musicians.

5. **Interaction** – взаємодія, вплив один на одного; взаємозв'язок.

6. **Childminder** – вихователь, гувернантка, нянька; синонім: baby-sitter – нянька. To be in one's second childhood – впадати в дитинство; childish – дитячий, незрілий; childlike – невинний, чистий, щирий, довірливий;

7. **Youngster** – хлопчик, юнак; маля (про тварину).

8. **Toddler** – дитина, яка починає ходити.

9. **Pre-schooler "acorn" unit** – підготовча (до школи) група дитячого садочка. "Acorn" буквально означає "жолудь". **Nursery school** – дитячий садок.

## Text 2: A typical family man in Southern Britain

The most stereotypical family man in Southern Britain lives in either Greater London or the Home Counties in a detached house or a semi with a small garden. The more successful he is in his career, the more likely he is to live in a village rather than a town. He commutes into London where he can earn the best salary, his journey time up to three hours each way. His wife also works, but locally, where she may earn less, but not have to spend so much of the day travelling

to and from work. They have two children and always wonder why statistically they should have 1.9 children.

He has a job in an office where he spends much of his time planning and scheming to avoid the next round of downsizing. After a hard day at work, he joins his colleagues in a Wine Bar to gossip about their fellow workers who didn't go out for a drink after work. Once he's home and he's eaten, he sees his sleeping young children, thinking about how they were still asleep when he left for work early in the morning. After being on the Internet for a while and watching the television with his wife, he falls asleep.

His life comes into its own on Friday nights and on the weekends. After the working week ends, he meets his friends in the local pub where he talks about football, cars and computers. After the chores of shopping and gardening on Saturday, he has the chance to relax and spend what's left of his salary after more than half of it goes on the mortgage and much of the rest on basic living expenses. His wife loves to eat out, so on most Saturday nights they book a babysitter and go to one of the village's Chinese or Indian restaurants. On special occasions, they go to the nearest town to an upmarket French or Italian restaurant.

On Sundays he is learning to play golf, as many of the senior managers of his Company and many of his customers regularly play. One day, if his career develops, he'll be able to talk business on the golf course and escape from the office, if only for half a day a week.

### **Notes**

1. **Greater London** – Адміністративна одиниця Лондона з приміськими територіями.
2. **Home Counties** – Всі області, що межують з Лондоном.
3. **Downsizing** – Політично коректний термін зі значенням "звільнення, скорочення робочих місць". Синонім – redundancy.
4. **Wine Bar** – Престижний бар, в якому продається тільки вино.
5. **His life comes into its own.** – Він починає жити по-справжньому.
6. **Household chores** – домашні обов'язки.

### **Text 3 Modern British Families**

Father leaves for work in the morning after breakfast. The two children take the bus to school, and mother stays at home cooking and cleaning until father and the kids return home in the evening. This is the traditional picture of a happy family living in Britain. But is it true today? The answer is - no! The past 20 years have seen enormous changes in the lives and structures of families in Britain, and the traditional model is no longer true in many cases.

The biggest change has been caused by **divorce**. As many as 2 out of 3 marriages now end in divorce, leading to a situation where many children live with one parent and only see the other at weekends or holidays.

There has also been a **huge rise** in the number of mothers who work. The large rise in divorces has meant many women need to work **to support** themselves and their children. Even when there is no divorce, many families need both parents to work in order to survive. This has caused an increase in **childcare facilities**, though they are very expensive and can be difficult to find in many areas. In addition, women are no longer happy to stay at home **raising** children, and many have careers earning as much as or even more than men, the traditional **breadwinners**.

There has also been a **sharp** increase in the number of **single mothers**, particularly among teenagers. Many of their children grow up never knowing their fathers, and some people feel the **lack** of a **male role model** has a damaging effect on their lives.

However, these changes have not had a totally negative effect. For women, it is now much easier to have a career and good salary. Although it is difficult to be a working mother, it has become normal and it's no longer seen as a bad thing for the children. As for children themselves, some argue that modern children grow up to be more independent and mature than in the past. From an early age they have to go to childminders or **nurseries**, and so they are used to **dealing with** strangers and **mixing with** other children.

So while the traditional model of a family may no longer be true in modern Britain, the modern family continues to raise happy, successful children.

## Vocabulary

**Divorce** - when a marriage ends and the former husband and wife separate from one another

**a huge rise** - a very big increase/growth (opposite to fall/decrease/decline)

**to support** - here, to provide with a home and the necessities of life

**childcare facilities** - special institutions whose job is to look after children while parents are working

**raising** - bringing up and educating

**breadwinners** - a breadwinner is the person who earns the most money in their family

**sharp** - here, big and happening over a short period of time

**single mothers** - women who raise their children by themselves because they live separately from the children's fathers

**lack** - if there is a lack of something, there is not enough of it

**male role model** - a man who thinks and acts in the way that is traditionally perceived as being typical of men

**nurseries** - places equipped for looking after very young children

**dealing with** - managing, doing what is necessary to achieve the result you want

**mixing with** - socialising, living together with, joining

Discuss the following questions in the context of the topic of the lesson in the groups of three or more, using as many of the expressions above as possible.

1. What is a typical Ukrainian family?
2. How does it compare to a typical British family?
3. What is meant by an extended family?
4. What relatives do you have?
5. What do you know about the Royal British family?
6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being married?
7. What is the difference between contemporary marriage and those of our ancestors?
8. What do you know about wedding traditions in Ukraine, Great Britain and the USA? Compare wedding traditions in different countries.

## DIALOGUES

### 1. *Husband: Happy Anniversary!*

Wife: Oh, thank you. They're beautiful. You shouldn't have . . . especially since our anniversary was last week.

Husband: What? Oh, I completely forgot . . .

Wife: Again?

Husband: No Way. I can't believe it.

Wife: Neither can I, but you did.

Husband: Ah, how can I make it up to you . . . again? Anything!

Wife: Okay, let's negotiate. [*Negotiate?*] First of all, I want to go on that dream vacation you've always promised me.

Husband: You mean, to Chicago?

Wife: No! To Europe. I want to fly first class and stay at 5-star hotels. And no more places with broken heaters, leaky showers, and dirty bedding.

Husband: Ah, were those places that bad?

Wife: Well, SOMETHING a little nicer, at least once in a blue moon, would be nice. [*Well . . .*] And, oh yeah. Next, I want to get a new kitchen stove. The old one took its last breath weeks ago.

Husband: But we . . .

Wife: No, we're NOT going to use the outdoor barbecue anymore. It isn't any fun at all cooking outside in the winter, with icicles hanging from your nose.

Husband: That bad?

Wife: Not for YOU since you're always watching from inside.

Husband: Oh, well.

Wife: And finally, I want a new wardrobe: some new dresses, shirts, pants, earrings . . .

Husband: But . . .

Wife: And, NO, I'm not going to wear your grandmother's old secondhand pants again.

Husband: Is that it?

Wife: Uh, hmm, for now. So, why don't we grab a bite to eat before we start planning the entire adventure.

Husband: But lunch wasn't on the list.

Wife: Let's see. Paris, Rome, London, then a short detour to Russia, China, [*What?!*] and, ooh, and Hawaii on the way home.

Husband: Wow. I'd better ask the boss for a huge raise.

- No way: unbelievable
  - He really got married? No way! I thought he'd take that step.
- negotiate(*verb*): talk about the terms of an agreement
  - The couple is trying to negotiate a divorce settlement.
- once in a blue moon: very rarely
  - We go out to a nice restaurant once in a blue moon.
- wardrobe(*noun*): the clothing someone has
  - His girlfriend buys a new wardrobe every few months.
- secondhand(*adjective*): not new, used by someone else
  - The family bought secondhand clothing at a discount shop so they could save money.
- grab a bite (to eat): have a light meal
  - Would you like to grab a bite this evening after work?

**Ed:** Hey Rocky! You've been **holding this wall up** all night. Get out and dance with someone like that **babe** over there.

**Rocky:** No way! She's more the **intellectual** type. My **pickup line** just won't work. I like them more like sponges, soaking up every **line I dish out**.

**Ed:** Oh come on man! What kind of woman do you like?

**Rocky:** I want a woman that fulfills my every need, and that babe is not the right type.

**Ed:** Hey. Where have you been? Times are changing, and you're never going to find a woman that will shine your shoes and fill your beer **mug** all the time. Wake up.



**Rocky:** Oh really? I met a lot of woman like that, just not at this party. [*Oh.*] I prefer woman that stay home, cook, clean, and watch the kids.

**Ed:** Okay, but where do you fit into this wonder plan? I mean what are your household responsibilities once you get home from work?

**Rocky:** Hmm. Eat, watch TV, and throw out the trash.

**Ed:** Wait, wait, wait. I can't believe I'm hearing this. You're never going to get married. I recently read a news report that said that 40 percent of women don't think their husbands do their share around the house, and you seem to fit into that mold.

**Rocky:** That's interesting, but that doesn't change my point of view. I guess I'll have to settle for TV dinners and my dog, Rusty.

**Ed:** I think so. Well, hey, I could use a little intellectual pickup at this point. I like women who are open-minded and have something interesting to say. Hey, and if I **stick** with you here, this is going to be a long, lonely night. SayhellotoRustyforme.

- **holding the wall up**(*verb*): standing and leaning against a wall (*informal, slang*)
  - Are going to hold that wall up all night, or are you going to help us move this furniture?
- **babe**(*noun*): woman (*informal, slang*)
  - Who was that babe I saw you with last night?
- **pickup line**(*noun*): something said, often by men, to attract women
  - He tried every pickup line he knew, but he didn't succeed in finding a date.
- **mug**(*noun*): a cup often used for hot drinks like coffee or cold beer
  - Please fill my mug with some of that hot chocolate. Itsmellsgood.
- **stick with**(*verb*): remain with someone or something, continue to do
  - Stick with me, and you won't get lost.
  - You need to stick with your studies to get good grades.

## DIACUSSION

### FAMILY

#### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What comes to mind when you hear the word 'family'?
- 2) How important is your family to you?
- 3) How important are you to your family?
- 4) Would you like / Do you have your own family?
- 5) Do you prefer spending time with your family or friends?
- 6) Are there any strange people in your family?
- 7) Are you jealous of any of your family members?
- 8) Do you get on well with all of your family members?
- 9) How often do you have big family get-togethers?
- 10) How much of a family person are you?

#### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1) Do you have the ideal family?

- 2) Is there a black sheep in your family?
- 3) Is “blood thicker than water” regarding your family?
- 4) Do you prefer the idea of extended or nuclear families?
- 5) There is much talk recently of increased social problems due to family breakdown. Is this true in your country?
- 6) When do you need your family most?
- 7) What would the world be like without families?
- 8) Are we all in one big happy family?
- 9) Do you ever get tired of family duties?
- 10) How far back do you know your family tree?

## **PARENTING**

### STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What springs to mind when you hear the word ‘parenting’?
- 2) What do you think is the most important thing to remember about parenting?
- 3) Do you think you’d be / you are a good parent?
- 4) What did you learn from your parents about parenting?
- 5) Do you think parenting is easy?
- 6) Why do things go wrong with some parents?
- 7) Did your parents excel in parenting skills?
- 8) Do you think parenting has changed throughout the ages?
- 9) What would you do differently from your parents?
- 10) Would you buy a parenting book and video?

### STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1) Do you think parenting is the same all over the world?
- 2) How long does parenting last?
- 3) What do you think of the word ‘parenting’? Is there a better word?
- 4) Do you think children should learn parenting skills at school?
- 5) What makes a good parent?
- 6) Are parenting skills different for women and men?
- 7) What do you think children think of their parents’ parenting skills?
- 8) Would you tell your friend if you thought s/he was being a bad parent?
- 9) Do you think kids should be able to fill in surveys and rank their parents on their parenting skills?
- 10) What do you think of the parenting skills of Michael Jackson and Britney Spears?