

## 12

## Life stages

## 12.1 Nearest and dearest

GOALS ■ Talk about family and relationships ■ Talk about unreal situations

## Vocabulary &amp; Listening family and relationships

- 1a Work with a partner. Decide if the words in the box refer to a relative from an older generation, a younger generation or the same generation as you.

aunt godparent niece second cousin sister-in-law  
sibling stepfather twin

- b Are you any of these? Tell your partner.
- c Check you understand the words in bold in the sentences. Find the four sentences that cannot logically be true, and rewrite them so they might be true.
- 1 He is very **spoilt** by his parents.
  - 2 He **looks up to** his younger brother.
  - 3 I'm very **close to** my stepsister.
  - 4 She's totally **devoted to** her grandfather.
  - 5 She **cares for** her elderly parents.
  - 6 The baby has brought a lot of **joy** to the family.
  - 7 My mother **takes after** my sister.
  - 8 I often **turn to** my older sister for advice.
  - 9 I **brought up** my mother and grandmother.
  - 10 She **gets on** her brother's **nerves**.
  - 11 My little brother doesn't like being **left out**.
  - 12 Her mother **tells her off** when she's well behaved.

- 2a Write the name of the following.
- the person you most take after in your family
  - the person you most often turn to for advice
  - the relative you are closest to
  - a person you look up to
  - someone whose behaviour gets on your nerves sometimes
- b With a partner, take it in turns to describe each person, giving details.

- 3a Work with a partner. Look at the photos. What do you think it would be like to belong to a family like the one in each photo?



- b Write down five factors that people need to consider when deciding how many children to have, if any. Put them in order of importance.
- 4a 12.1 ))) Listen to three people talking about what they believe is the ideal family size. Write the number of children that each person thinks is ideal.  
Speaker 1: \_\_\_\_ Speaker 2: \_\_\_\_ Speaker 3: \_\_\_\_
- b 12.2 ))) Listen to three more people and do the same.  
Speaker 4: \_\_\_\_ Speaker 5: \_\_\_\_ Speaker 6: \_\_\_\_
- 5 12.3 ))) Listen again to all six speakers in exercises 4a and 4b. Which speaker mentions that ...?
- a having siblings can help you cope with life's difficulties \_\_\_\_\_
  - b they would have been a worse parent if they'd had more children \_\_\_\_\_
  - c the pleasures of parenthood outweigh the challenges \_\_\_\_\_
  - d they hope to be looked after by their children one day \_\_\_\_\_
  - e we should limit the number of children we have, for environmental reasons \_\_\_\_\_
  - f having children can affect where you choose to go on holiday \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Which of the opinions that you heard in exercise 5 do you most agree with? Which do you least agree with? Discuss with a partner.

## Grammar & Speaking unreal situations

- 7 Work with a partner. Look at the *if* sentences from the listening and answer the questions that follow.
- 'If I'd had more children, I'd have been less happy.'
  - 'If every couple in a rich country had one less child, they would save tonnes of carbon dioxide.'
  - 'If I'd had children ... my travels would be limited to school vacations and child-friendly destinations.'
- Do the sentences describe real or imaginary situations?
  - Does each sentence describe a possible situation in the past, the present/future or both?
- 8 Read the rules about conditional sentences in the Grammar focus box and match sentences 1–3 in exercise 7 to rules a–c.

### GRAMMAR FOCUS conditional sentences to talk about unreal situations

#### Unreal conditional (or 'second conditional')

- We use *if* + past, + *would/might/could* + infinitive to talk about an unreal or improbable situation in the present or future, and how things could be different.

*If our flat was bigger, the children would have a room each.*

a \_\_\_\_\_

#### Unreal past conditional (or 'third conditional')

- We use *if* + past perfect, + *would/might/could have* + participle to talk about an unreal situation in the past, to say how it could have been different.

*If we hadn't worked together, we might not have met.*

b \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mixed conditionals

- We can mix the second and third conditionals in two ways: to talk about an unreal situation in the past which has a present result, we use:

*if* + past perfect, + *would*

*If you'd listened properly, you'd know what to do.*

c \_\_\_\_\_

- to talk about the possible past result of an unreal situation in the present, we use:

*if* + past, + *would have*

*If he was more confident, he'd have asked her out.*

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### PRONUNCIATION sentence stress in conditional sentences

- 9a 12.4 ))) Listen to four clauses from conditional sentences and answer the questions.
- What do you notice about the stress on *would/might* and *couldn't/wouldn't* in each sentence?
  - How is *have* pronounced?
- b 12.4 ))) Listen again and repeat the sentences.
- 10 Complete the second sentence in each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first.
- My brother emigrated to New Zealand, so our kids don't see each other much.  
If my brother \_\_\_\_\_ closer now.
  - I had no idea how physically exhausting bringing up kids was, and I had them late.  
If I \_\_\_\_\_ had them earlier.
  - I didn't have children because I really value my independence.  
If \_\_\_\_\_ have children.
  - We need a big house because we're such a large family.  
If we \_\_\_\_\_ big house.
  - Maybe having no siblings has made me an independent person.  
If I'd \_\_\_\_\_ independent as I am.

- 11a **TASK** You are going to ask your partner the questions. Complete the questions with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.
- How \_\_\_\_\_ your life \_\_\_\_\_ (be) different if you \_\_\_\_\_ (have) ... [add number] siblings?
  - If you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) brought up in ... [add country] how \_\_\_\_\_ your life \_\_\_\_\_ (be) different when you were a child, and how \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) different now?
  - What \_\_\_\_\_ (do) in your free time if you \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in ... [add century]?
  - If you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a member of the opposite sex, \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_ (treat) you differently as a child? \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a different job/goals now?

- b Replace the square brackets in the questions with your own ideas.

*How would your life be different if you had five siblings?*

- c Now work with a partner and ask each other the questions.

### ▶ VOX POPS VIDEO 12