

## The "Perfect" Family

### Is there such a thing as a "perfect" family?

The American family is a rapidly changing institution. You may have grown up in the stereotypical American family - two parents and one or more children, with a father who worked outside the home and a mother who stayed home and cared for the children and the household. Today, with the entry of so many more women into the workforce, with the increasing divorce rate, and with the growing number of single-parent households, other family structures have become more common.

If your own family is not like the one you grew up in, your situation is certainly not unusual. Currently, 30 percent of American families are now headed by single parents, either divorced, widowed, or never married. Some children live in foster families; others live in step-families or in gay and lesbian families. In more than two thirds of families, both parents work outside the home.

Even if your own family fits the more traditional mold, your children will almost certainly have some friends who live in households with different structures. From time to time you can expect your youngsters to ask questions like "Why do people get divorced?" "How come Jimmy's mother and father don't live together?" "Why does Annette's father live with another lady?" Because families are so important to children, parents need to be able to answer such questions with more than mere slogans or quick replies. By asking these questions, children are trying to understand two things about families: the different structures that families can take and the changes in structure, lifestyles and relationships that can occur.

(...)

### **MYTH: Family Harmony Is The Rule, Not The Exception**

Although family life is often romanticized, it has always been filled with [conflicts](#) and tension. Difficulties between spouses are commonplace, with disagreements arising over issues ranging from how the children should be raised to how the family finances should be budgeted. Husbands and wives also often struggle with their inability to sustain romantic infatuation beyond the first few years of their marriage, thus having to learn to maintain a relationship in which partnership and companionship may become more important than passionate love.

Parent-children conflicts are commonplace too. As parents assert their authority, and children try to assert their autonomy appropriately, strife is inevitable.

While we often expect families to be above the chaos that exists in the rest of society, that outlook places unrealistic expectations upon the family. In the real world, families are not always a haven, since they, too, can be filled with conflict. Although stress and disagreements are common, they can be destructive to families, especially when conflict gets out of hand. Families are under constant stress, being pushed and pulled from many

directions, often without the support systems of extended families that may have existed in the past.

### **MYTH: The Stability of A Family Is A Measure of Its Success**

Change is a part of life. [Death](#), illness, physical separation, financial strains, [divorce](#) . . . these are some of the events families have to adjust to. Consequently, stability shouldn't be the only measure of a family's success. Many families function quite well, despite frequent disruptions. In fact, one important measure of a family's success is its ability to adjust to change. Daily life is full of stresses that constantly demand accommodation from family members.

(...)

### **VAJE**

#### **1. DAN**

##### a) PREBERI.

Besedilo preberi večkrat in glasno. Za pomoč pri izgovorjavi si lahko pomagaš s slovarjem na spodnji povezavi. Vtipkaj besedo v iskalnik slovarja. Ko prikaže razlago, klikni na znak za zvočnik. Izgovorjavo si lahko tudi zapišeš.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/learner-english/>

##### b) PODČRTAJ NEZNANE BESEDE IN POIŠČI RAZLAGO ZANJE.

Prevod neznanih besed poišči v angleško-slovenskem slovarju.

Vsako besedo posebej izpiši in ji pripiši slovenski prevod. Če ti črkovanje dela težave, besedo večkrat prepisi in si glasno ponavljaj zaporedje črk, ko prepisuješ.

Da besede utrdiš, jih uporabi v povedih.

##### c) UTRJUJ BESEDE.

Pripravi si kartončke in besede prepisi nanje, vsako besedo na svojega. Na eno stran napiši slovensko besedo, na drugo angleško. Ponavljaj s pomočjo kartončkov. Ponavljaj danes in v naslednjih dneh.

#### **2. DAN**

a) PREBERI BESEDILO IN PONOVI BESEDE NA KARTONČKIH.

b) NAREDI SPODNJE NALOGE V ALINEJAH.

- Napiši 15 vprašanj in odgovorov na temo besedila.
- Napiši povzetek vsakega odstavka posebej.
- Napiši, kaj si se novega naučil, kaj ti je bilo v besedilu najbolj zanimivo, ipd.
- Napiši besedilo o svoji družini in uporabi v njem čim več besed iz besedila.

c) PRIPOVEDUJ DRUGIM.

Napiši povzetek besedila in se ga nauči. Pripoveduj ga drugim.