

1 UNIT

Family Relationships



Learning Objectives

- To be able to describe your family
- To be able to understand the growing pains of both children and parents
- To be able to use cleft sentences
- To be able to write an invitation card
- To be able to help resolve the dilemma of choosing a career

WARMING UP

Family relationships are a timeless theme in literature. Look at the four famous works from different countries. Match each of them with the author's name and the type of family relationship it talks about.



We Three

Maxim Gorky

Sisters



Little Women

Yang Jiang

Father and child



Mother

Louisa May Alcott

Parents and child



Father and Son

Erich Ohser

Mother and child

LISTENING & SPEAKING

1 Listen to the dialogs and complete the sentences with the missing words.

1 A: Have you prepared any gifts for your parents' 30th wedding anniversary, Steve?
B: Sure. I'm making an album _____.

2 A: Who do you look like the most in your family, Sharon?
B: I'm not sure. Some say I look like my father but _____.

3 A: Hi, Mike. Where is your family moving to?
B: We are moving to Shenzhen _____.

4 A: What does your father do, Jack?
B: He is a surgeon and _____. I'm so proud of him.

5 A: Who do you talk with the most in your family, Judy?
B: My mom. She is a very good listener and _____.

2 Follow the instructions and complete the tasks.

STEP 1

Listen to the conversation and fill in the blanks.

Holly: Wow, Peter. You are back! So, how was the family trip?

Peter: Yeah, Holly. We had a very good time in Shanghai. See, I took tons of photos! Let me show you.

Holly: That's 1 _____! I like this family photo the most. Can you tell me more about your family members?

Peter: Sure.

Holly: So who is the 2 _____ person in your family?

Peter: I think my sister, Julie, is. She has a really good sense of humor and she can make everybody around her happy.

Holly: Oh, that's nice. Then who is the most 3 _____ one?

Peter: My mom, for sure. She looks after everyone in the family wholeheartedly. She cares about everyone's needs and feelings. I think she is the best mom in the world.

Holly: Oh, good. I guess the most 4 _____ person in your family is your dad, huh?

Peter: Yes. You know, he is a fashion designer. He goes on 5 _____ quite a bit, and he often brings us interesting presents from abroad.

Holly: That's fantastic! How lucky you are growing up in such a loving family!

Peter: Exactly.

STEP 2

Listen to the conversation again and check your answers. Role-play the conversation with your partner.

Words & Expressions

- * **ambitious** /æm'brɪʃəs/ *adj.* 有抱负的
* **anniversary** /ˌænə'vɜːrsəri/ *n.* 周年纪念 (日)
* **considerate** /kən'sɪdərət/ *adj.* 体贴的

- * **fantastic** /fæn'tæstɪk/ *adj.* 极好的
business trip 差旅
extended family 大家庭
nuclear family 核心家庭; 小家庭

take after 长得像 (某位长辈)

- ☆ 代表大学英语四级考试词汇
★ 代表大学英语六级考试词汇

3 Follow the instructions and complete the tasks.

STEP 1

Lucy is introducing her family to her classmates in class. Listen to the passage and complete the notes by filling in the blanks.

Lucy's family

Hometown (1) _____

Family type an (2) _____

Number of family members (3) _____

Benefits of living in a big family too many to (4) _____

Favorite family activity (5) _____ birthdays together

Listening strategy

Look at the title and the information provided first in order to understand what you should listen for. Then, try to guess what might fill in the blank. It could be a place, a number, etc.

STEP 2

Listen to the passage again. Try to retell it with the help of the notes in Step 1.

STEP 3

Work in pairs and interview your partner by asking questions about their family.

Suggested questions

1. Do you live in a nuclear family or an extended family?
2. How many people are there in your family?
3. Can you describe their occupations and characters?
4. What are the benefits of belonging to a nuclear family or an extended family?
5. What family activity do you enjoy the most?

Read the passage and pay attention to Notes ①-⑩.

- ① “Do” here is used to stress a fact. Can you think of another way in English to emphasize something?
 - ② Why did the girl feel confused? What have you found confusing as you grow up? Give one example.
 - ③ When we were children, we hoped to stay with our parents all the time. When we grow up, many things will change. What does “growing away” mean here?
 - ④ Has a similar situation happened to you? Share your experience.
-
- ⑤ What does “a habit” refer to here? Did you and your parents have some special habits when you were little? What were they?
-
- ⑥ “Like” here means “as”, e.g. *Operate the computer like I told you.* Make two sentences with this meaning.
 - ⑦ The two underlined sentences use the structure of cleft sentences. Find out more in Grammar Focus.
-

- 1 I don't remember how old I was. I ^① do remember ^② feeling confused because I was a little girl who loved little girls' things, but I was growing up into a bigger girl and I knew inside myself that growing up also meant ^③ growing away. I battled with my decision for days. ^④ Part of me wanted to hold on. Part of me wanted to let go. None of me wanted to hurt my mom's feelings but I knew that this would.
- 2 We had ^⑤ a habit which had started when I was little and continued every night when I went to sleep.
- 3 “Hug me ^⑥ like I hug you,” we would say to each other. Sometimes the hug was normal, and sometimes it followed some strange arm movements that the other hugger had to copy correctly. “Kiss me like I kiss you.” And again, ^⑦ sometimes it was one quick kiss that we did on the cheek. Sometimes it was a number of kisses done in a particular way that had to be carefully repeated.
- 4 We'd done this for years. And then at some point I decided I didn't want to do it anymore. I was growing up.



Words & Expressions

* **battle** /'bætl/ v. 斗争

bittersweet /,bɪtər'swi:t/ adj. 苦乐参半的

* **cheek** /tʃi:k/ n. 脸颊

* **confession** /kən'feʃən/ n. 承认

cuddle /'kʌdl/ n. 拥抱

outgrow /aʊt'grəʊ/ v. 因长大而不再……

* **tease** /ti:z/ v. 取笑

can't help but do sth 忍不住做某事

hold on 坚持下去

let go 放手

slip away 悄悄离开

tuck sb in 给某人掖好被子

I was growing away. But how do you tell your mom that?

⑧ It ⑨ troubled me for days until finally one night as she tucked me in, I told her how I felt. It hurt, to make that confession, partly because it was the end of a part of my childhood, and partly because I knew it would hurt her. She took it well. She understood. I don't know if she cried later. I think she probably did.

5 Now that I am a mother myself, I finally understand how bittersweet watching my child come into his own can be. Last week my son told me that his friends teased him because of the notes I put in his lunch box. I said I would stop writing them if he wanted me to.

6 Though I had felt the same things my son was feeling in my life, I couldn't help but realize he was starting to slip away from me. He told me I could continue, but I could see the ⑩ struggle in his eyes, the struggle between not wanting to hurt my feelings and wanting to grow up. Maybe it'll be the lunch box notes, maybe it'll be our bedtime cuddles, and maybe it'll be something else which he outgrows entirely.

7 Anyway, I'll take it well and I'll understand.

⑧ Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

⑨ "Trouble" here is used as a verb, meaning "to make sb upset or worried". It can also be used as a noun. Make two sentences with the verb and the noun respectively.

⑩ What were the struggles for the son and the mother respectively? How will they deal with the struggles?



Word Study

- 1** Replace the underlined parts of the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

bittersweet confession cuddle outgrow tease

- 1 They used to laugh at me because I couldn't run fast.

- 2 She made the acknowledgement that she had lied to me in the past.

- 3 The little girl has grown old enough to overcome her fear of heights.

- 4 The author wrote about her happy and sad feelings on leaving home for the first time.

- 5 He gave her a big hug and told her not to worry.

- 2** Follow the example and make at least one sentence with each of the words.

Example bittersweet

The moment of parting was bittersweet, for I knew I would probably never see him again.

confession _____

cuddle _____

outgrow _____

tease _____

- 3** Find the following sentences in the passage. Then make two sentences with each of the underlined expressions.

Model 1 Part of me wanted to hold on. Part of me wanted to let go.

1 _____

2 _____

Model 2 Though I had felt the same things my son was feeling in my life, I couldn't help but realize he was starting to slip away from me.

1 _____

2 _____

Text Analysis

- 4 Read the Notes again and give your answers. Discuss your answers with your partner and share some of them in class.

① “Very” can be used to emphasize a particular thing, e.g. *Those were his very words.*

- 5 The main ideas of Parts 1, 2, and 3 have been given below. Match each of them with the corresponding part.

Part I (Para. 1)

My mom and I had kept a special habit for years, but I didn't want to continue our bedtime habit anymore and my mom understood.

Part II (Para. 2-Para. 4)

When I was a little girl, I had the struggle between not hurting my mom's feelings and growing up.

Part III (Para. 5-Para. 7)

My son had the same struggle as me.

- 6 Read the passage again and complete the summary.

When I was little, my mom and I had kept **1** _____ for years. We would **2** _____ each other when I went to sleep. But as I was growing up, I didn't want to continue this habit anymore. The struggle between not hurting her feelings and **3** _____ troubled me for days. My mom seemed to take it well when I **4** _____. The same thing happened to my son years later, and I finally understood the bittersweet feelings of watching your kid **5** _____.



Beyond the Text

1 Read the parent-child problems. Have a discussion with your partner and give suggestions to the children.



Last weekend, I told my dad that I wanted to travel with my friends this summer holiday. But my father said it was too dangerous and wouldn't allow me to travel without his company. We had a terrible quarrel and I felt so depressed.

Example

Well, how about making a travel plan with your father together to show him that you can make it on your own?



Your suggestion

How about...



I have loved arts since I was little. I want to major in digital arts in college. But my mom thinks it is not a practical major and insists that I should study computer science. I feel very upset when I can't make decisions on my own.

Example

If I were you, I would go and tell my mom that arts can motivate me, but a computer-related major can't.



Your suggestion

If I were you, I would...

Useful language

- I suggest that...
- I think you should...
- What about...
- Why not...
- It's a good idea to...
- Well, try to...
- My advice is to...
- You'd better not say things like...

2 Read the four types of parenting styles. What do you think of each style and which one do you like the most? Share your ideas with your partner.

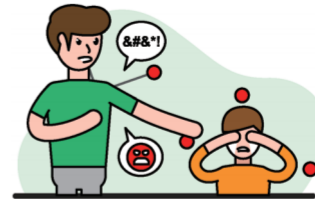
Authoritative parenting



Parents ask for your ideas on different matters and care about your feelings. They set rules out of good intentions.

I like this kind of relationship. Parents and children can understand each other...

Authoritarian parenting



You need to obey your parents without exception. They set rules with little regard for your opinions.

Permissive parenting



Parents love you and approve of everything you do. They seldom discourage bad behavior and only step in when there's a serious problem.

Uninvolved parenting



Parents don't care about your development and don't spend much time with you. They expect you to raise yourself on your own.

3 Share a story in class about how you overcame a conflict with your parents. Take notes while you are listening to others' stories, and then say which one impresses you the most and why.

语法要点	要点解析
<p>分裂句</p> <p>Cleft sentences</p>	<p>课文中使用了分裂句：</p> <p>Sometimes it was one quick kiss that we did on the cheek. 有时候，是在脸颊上轻点一下的一个吻。</p> <p>分裂句是指用 “It + be + 被强调部分 + who 或 that 引导的从句” 的结构，来达到强调句子某一成分目的的句子。</p> <p>(1) John kicked the ball into the goal. → It was John who kicked the ball into the goal. 是约翰将球踢进了球门。</p> <p>(2) We send our children to that primary school. → It is that primary school that we send our children to. 我们送孩子去的是那所小学。</p> <p>(3) We didn't get the first reports of trouble until afternoon. → It was not until afternoon that we got the first reports of trouble. 直到下午我们才听到关于骚乱的第一批报道。</p>

1 Turn the sentences into cleft sentences with the underlined parts emphasized.

1 The applicant failed the interview because he was too proud.

2 You are likely to win the contest.

3 I am going to visit my teacher.

4 He has waited for you for three hours.

5 I didn't realize she was a famous singer until she took off her dark glasses.

2 Read the conversation between a teenage girl and her mother, and complete the conversation with the bold parts emphasized. Do you find the scene more vivid, or more dramatic after you have completed it?



Daughter

growing Pains



Mother



I'll be home late tonight, Mom. I'm going to the movies after class.

The movies? I see. Well, make sure that you don't stay out too late.



Mom, I think I'm old enough to decide when I come home now.

Come on, dear. Don't be unreasonable.



1 _____ (You're being unreasonable), Mom. I'm 18 years old, after all.

Yes, but 2 _____ (you live under **our roof**), and your father and I are responsible for you.



I won't live at home forever. You need to let me have some say in my life.

I think we do let you make your own decisions. But that doesn't mean letting you come and go at all hours of the night.



Mom, 3 _____ (I'm going to **a movie**). Not some wild, all-night party! I'll be home by 11 pm, OK?

I still think that's quite late for a school night.



Maybe it is. But when are you going to start letting me make my own decisions? I only want to take some responsibility for my life.

Fine. Go to the movies. And seeing as you're now a responsible adult, can you do the shopping tomorrow night, cook dinner, and do your own laundry?



What? That's not fair!

Ha! 4 _____ (You **didn't** mind being an adult **until** I asked you to help with the housework)!





Name of the event host or the sponsoring organization

Cause of the event, such as a birthday celebration or a business meeting

Time of the event, such as the date of the party, the start time, and the approximate or definite length of the party

Venue where the event will be held

Contact information for reply, such as the phone number or the email address

Useful language

- Please join us to celebrate...
 - You are cordially invited to...
 - ... request the honor of your presence at their...
 - ... would love for you to join them in...
 - With love and joy, ... invite you to attend...
 - Together with their families, ... request the pleasure of your company to...
- Kindly confirm before...
 - RSVP to...
 - Dinner and dancing to follow.
 - Reception to follow.
 - Black tie required.
 - Please select your choice of...

An invitation card

An invitation card is a document sent out either by the host or the organizer of an event. Invitation cards can be used in a lot of celebrations. The design and content of each invitation card may vary depending on the cause of the celebration and the details involved in the execution of the event. "RSVP" is often used at the end of an invitation card to request a response if needed, meaning "please reply".

1 Explain the function of each part of the cards.

NL

You are invited to the wedding of

NICK RISSER & LIZ FORTUNE

June 6, 2025 at 5 pm
Presidio Chapel
130 Fisher Loop
San Francisco, CA

Dinner And Dancing To Follow

2 Read the situation and write an invitation card.

Situation

Write an invitation card for Lucy and Joe's wedding party. You may write the venue, time, and other details by yourself. Ask the guest invited to reply by filling in a response card.

RSVP

Kindly reply by May 16

NAME _____

HAPPILY ACCEPTS

REGRETFULLY DECLINES

Please select your meal choice:

CHICKEN ADOBO AND RICE

BEEF SHORT RIB TACOS

SNAPPERS WITH AVOCADO SALSA

CHARRED STREET CORN RISOTTO

VIEWING

Before you watch

- 1** Work in groups and share the reasons why you chose your current major. Was it out of personal interest? Or did you just follow your parents' decision?

While you watch



- 2** Watch a video clip about Raj's dilemma and complete the sentences based on what you hear.

- 1 When I was still a baby, my favorite toy was a human _____ with all the internal organs.
- 2 _____ at school _____ I realized that I may have been cheated.
- 3 Right before high school, I got up the _____ and confronted them decisively.
- 4 I'd been sure I would be able to _____ them, but they were so angry that I was lost.
- 5 I asked them _____ times if they had changed their mind.

- 3** Watch the video clip again and choose the best answer.

- 1 Where did Raj's parents meet?
A At work. B At school. C At the hospital. D At the airport.
- 2 Why was Raj comfortable with the idea of becoming a doctor before he went to school?
A Because he liked medicine.
B Because he was highly talented in medical subjects.
C Because he was immersed in the medical world and had little chance to learn about other things.
D Because his favorite toy was a small, cute skeleton.
- 3 Which subject did Raj like the most?
A Social science. B Health science. C Fine arts. D Business.
- 4 How did Raj feel when he realized that his favorite subject was not chemistry or biology?
A Happy. B Surprised. C Frightened. D Calm.
- 5 What was Raj's reaction when his parents dismissed his own ambitions?
A He felt disappointed and angry.
B He thought they were just kidding and laughed.
C He was indifferent to what his parents thought and just held on to his own aspirations.
D He obeyed his parents' decision even though he disagreed with them.

Words & Expressions

belittle /brɪ'lɪtl/ v. 轻视

* drama /'drɑ:mə/ n. 戏剧性事件

* exotic /ɪg'zɑ:tɪk/ adj. 奇异的

* nerve /nɜ:rɪv/ n. 勇气

* organ /'ɔ:rgən/ n. 器官

predestined /prɪ'destɪnd/ adj. 注定的

* rebellion /rɪ'beljən/ n. 反抗

* skeleton /'skelətən/ n. 骨骼模型

snort /snɔ:rt/ v. 发哼声

thrilling /'θrɪlɪŋ/ adj. 激动人心的

anatomic chart 解剖示意图

reason with sb 与某人讲道理



After you watch

- 4 At the end of the video clip, Raj said he elaborated a strategy. Work in groups and evaluate the strategies. Pick the one that you think is the most workable.

Strategy A

Raj tells his parents that if they continue to belittle his dream, he will fail all his classes to show how determined he is to follow his own path.



Example

I understand Raj's strong wish to pursue his dream, but this kind of action would only hurt both himself and his parents.

I totally agree with you. I think this strategy might only worsen the situation and trigger more serious confrontations between them.

Strategy B

Raj tells his parents that he will follow their path to become a doctor. However, in reality, he will develop his interest in journalism in his spare time and take classes in journalism at the university.



Strategy C

Raj agrees to become a doctor ultimately, but he decides that when he has a child one day, he will encourage his child to become an investigative journalist.



THE PRIDE OF CHINA

Yue Fei's tattoo by his mother

Yue Fei, a very famous general in the Southern Song Dynasty, was born into a poor farmer's family. Since childhood, his mother had been very strict with him. Under his mother's education, Yue Fei grew up to be an honest man. When the Jin forces invaded, the Song royal court was so corrupt and incompetent that the country was in danger. One day, Yue Fei's mother asked him, "Now the country is in danger, what plans do you have?" "Go to the battlefield to defeat the enemies and protect our country with faithfulness!" His mother was much satisfied with her son's answer. In order to remind him of his promise, she decided to tattoo on Yue Fei's back the four Chinese characters "尽忠报国", which means "to be as loyal as one can be and serve one's own country". It was said that she first wrote the characters on his back, tattooed them with an embroidery needle, and finally painted them with vinegar ink. Since then, the four characters remained on Yue Fei's back. With the characters as his motto, Yue Fei fought bravely in the war. He became a well-known anti-Jin hero later on.

Questions

- 1 Why did Yue Fei's mother tattoo the four characters instead of writing them down?
- 2 Can you name other ancient Chinese heroes who served the country with total loyalty?



My Learning Log

U1 U2 U3 U4 U5 U6

I can use new words and expressions to form sentences.

Tomorrow we shall battle with our old enemies and defeat them.

Example

I can use the grammar I have learned to form sentences.

It is your family that will always back you up.

I can write an invitation card to...

invite my friends to my birthday party.

I can better understand my parents so...

I will have more patience when there is a problem between us.

I'm still confused about...

whether being independent means being alienated from parents.

Example

I'd like to know more about...

how to defend myself without hurting my parents' feelings.

Example