

A2.9 Family

Useful Language:

- Tom is Eddie's uncle and Tina's partner.
- He is romantic, considerate and tolerant.
- Our mother lives next door to her.

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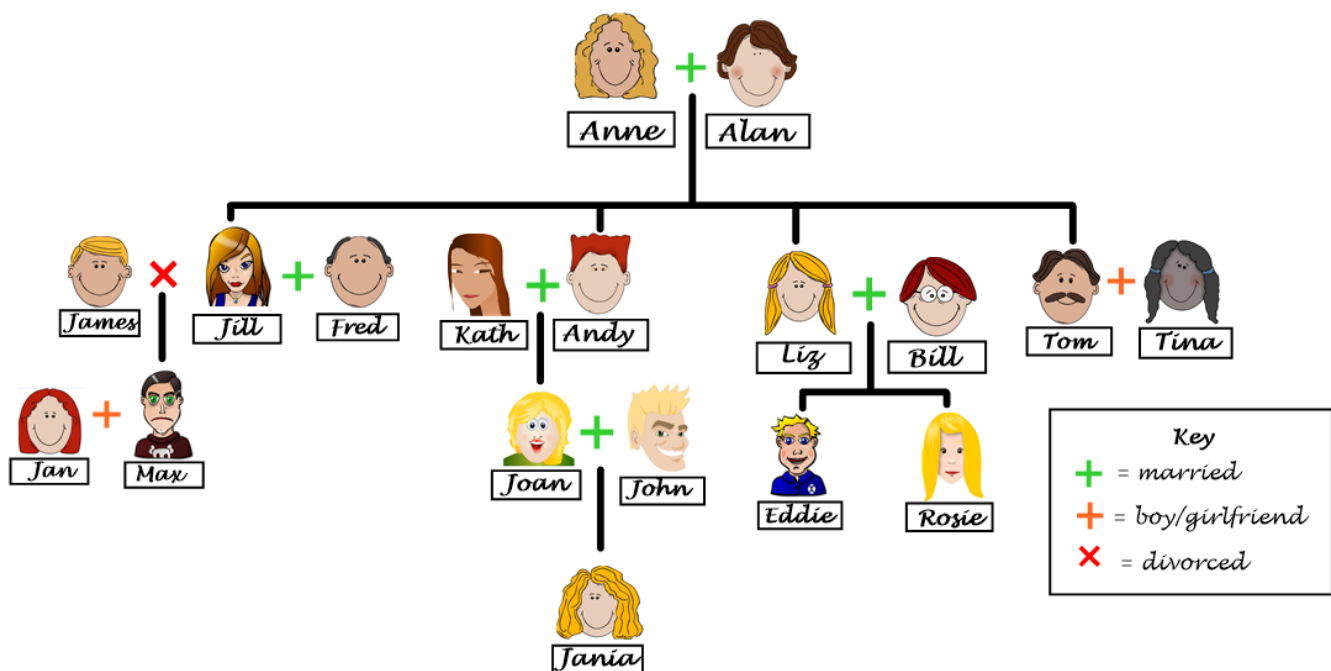


Using the family tree below, ask and answer questions with your partner about who the various people in it are in relation to each other. For example:

A. Who is Andy?

B. He is Kath's husband and Joan's father.

Family Tree



1

Family Vocabulary: (ex-)husband (ex-)wife mother father
 daughter son brother sister niece nephew grandfather
 grandmother cousin uncle aunt boyfriend girlfriend partner

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2



Read about the people below talking about their relatives.



Image Attribution to Matt.Simpson

This is my grandmother, Molly. She is nearly 80, but she is still active both mentally and physically. She has always been healthy and she says that the secret to a long life is eating anything you want to! She is so kind to all the family. **Carol**



Image Attribution to sunsurfr

You can see my baby Bob in this photo. He is older now. In fact, he is nearly three. At this stage, he was waking us up in the middle of the night all the time. You must agree he looks very cute in this picture. Now, he has a sister and she is waking us up in the middle of the night. **Kath**

2



Image Attribution to 427

This is my husband Chris ready for his first day at work in a new job. So, he felt very nervous in this picture. But everybody likes him in his new office. He is always popular because he has a great sense of humour, and he is a great husband too. He can be very romantic, considerate and tolerant of my faults. I love him so much!

Fiona

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Talk to your partner about the 'significant others' (important people) in your life. You may be able to show each other pictures, but do not worry if this is not possible. You should ask questions when your partner finishes to find out more information.

I'll talk about my sister Sarah. She lives in Bristol with her second husband and two children from her first marriage. Our mother lives next door to her, which is good because she is now ninety years old.

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Put the possible qualities of a marriage partner in order (1, 2, 3, 4) for you where: 1 = most important and 11 = least important. Then discuss your order with your partner.

3

Wife or husband: tolerant, considerate, faithful, affectionate to husband/wife, affectionate to children, hard-working, tidy, home-loving, good-looking, rich, good at managing money, quiet, well-educated

Adapted from an idea on "Discussions that Work" by Penny Ur, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1992

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5 Discuss the questions in the box about the family with your partner.

- *Can you describe the perfect family?*
- *Why do people get married?*
- *Which are more important: friends or family?*
- *Are you more similar to your mother, or your father? In what ways?*
- *Who are you closest to in your family? Why?*
- *Is the family changing in your country? If it is, in what ways?*
- *Should parents be strict, or more relaxed with their children?*
- *Were your parents strict with you when you were growing up?*

4

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Choose one or two members of your family and write a description of them and their positive qualities.

My brother and I have always been very close...

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Notes:

*"Family is the
most important
thing in the
world."
Princess Diana*