Family and Friends

The people in your life, how to talk about them, and the words of kinship, law and loyalty, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 14

my dad's sister · get on with · a chip off the old block

Family *A1–A2*

mother (mum)	father (dad)
parents	grandparents
brother	sister
son	daughter
husband	wife
twins	an only child
stepmother	half-brother

parents = mother and father only · relatives = all your family

More family, and friends *A1–A2*

aunt	uncle
cousin	nephew
niece	grandchildren
best friend	friend
classmate	neighbour
stepfather	half-sister
family	a family party

my dad's sister · my parents' house · I've got / she's got

Relationships and life events *B1–B2*

Phrasal verbs: get on with, fall out with, look up to, take after, bring up, grow up

Life events: get engaged, get married, get divorced · single, engaged, married, widowed

Families: nuclear family, extended family, single-parent family, stepfamily, in-laws, a household

Friends: acquaintance, close friend, colleague, flatmate · make friends, keep in touch, lose touch

Names: first name, surname, maiden name, double-barrelled, two surnames in Spain

*I **take after** my mum, and I **get on** really well **with** her. We've **kept in touch** since school.*

marry someone, get married to someone (never marry with)

Kinship, law and idiom *C1–C2*

Kinship: kin, kinship, lineage, ancestry, ancestor, descendant, sibling, second cousin, once removed

Law and role: next of kin, guardian, godparent, heir, inherit · estranged, nepotism

Family idioms: blood is thicker than water, run in the family, a chip off the old block, the black sheep, like two peas in a pod

Friendship idioms: a friend in need is a friend indeed, birds of a feather, a fair-weather friend, as thick as thieves

*She's **a chip off the old block**: music has always **run in the family**.*

next of kin ≠ guardian ≠ godparent

Introducing your family

- *This is my mum. These are my grandparents.*
- *How many brothers and sisters have you got?*
- *I've got one sister and two cousins.*
- *Nice to meet you.*

Common mistakes

- ~~I have twelve years.~~ → I'm **twelve**.
- ~~the sister of my father~~ → my **father's sister**
- ~~my parents~~ (for all the family) → my **relatives**
- ~~She married with him.~~ → She **married** him.

Words with a past

- **surname**: French *sur*, over: an extra name
- **acquaintance**: Latin *cognitus*, known
- **ancestor**: Latin *antecessor*, one who goes before
- **kith**: Old English, the people you know

My new words

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