

Subject: Roles in the family

Function: Generalising

Language: Conditionals

The BIG question: WHAT'S A NORMAL FAMILY?

VIEWPOINT



? Would you like to be in a bigger or smaller family?

1 WORD POWER

- A 1 Which of these terms could fit the people in the photos above?
- single-parent family
 - nuclear family
 - cousin
 - step-children
 - extended family
 - in-laws
 - divorced / separated
 - uncle / aunt
 - adopted child
 - newlyweds
- 2 Do any of these relationships apply to your family?
- B How common are these relationships? Use the generalising phrases from **Language Bank 15** to help you.
- C 1 Is there social pressure from people in your family to get married and have children?
2 Are families matriarchal, patriarchal or something else?
3 Are blood ties more important than marriage ties?

SEE PAGE 108 FOR MORE ACTIVITIES.

Average number of children per family around the world

Germany	1.3
Japan	1.4
Canada	1.6
France	1.7
South Korea	1.7
United Kingdom	1.7
India	3.1
Philippines	3.6
Paraguay	4.2
Somalia	7.3

Your basic extended family today includes your ex-husband or wife, your ex's new mate, your new mate, possibly your new mate's ex and any new mate that your new mate's ex has acquired.

Delia Ephron

2 READING

- A 1 Skim through the first article to find out how today's women try to balance education, work / career and family.
2 Describe how younger women might want to do things differently, and how their mothers might react to this. Use words or phrases from the article and conditionals from **Language Bank 15**.
Example: *If I have children, I will...*
If they had families and careers, they would...
If I was an older woman, I would...
- B Compare the ways Australia's working mothers and Britain's divorced fathers try to solve their problems about spending more time with their children. Think about the effect of different gender roles, differences between generations and social values.
- C 1 How different from their parents' lives do young people today expect their lives to be?
2 Is it fair to say that either mothers or fathers would generally make better single parents?

3 SPEAK YOUR MIND

- A Who do you consider to be family? Are friends part of your family?
B If both parents work, how can they balance work, family and personal time?
C What are the childcare options? Why would women today want to stay at home with their children?
D Should fathers have the same rights as mothers concerning children? Should they get paternity leave?