



11 - VOCABULARY: FAMILY



- 1 - Your parents and siblings (brothers and sisters) are your **immediate family** – and your **extended family** includes all your relatives – uncles, cousins, great-aunts, etc.
- 2 - You can use a **family tree** to diagram the relationships among your **family members**. A person who is related to you by a long series of connections can be called a **distant relative**.
- 3 - If you're lucky, you have a **loving family** or a **close-knit family**. In that case you probably had a **carefree childhood**.
- 4 - On the other hand, a family in which the relationships are bad or unhealthy can be called a **dysfunctional family**. If the children experience abuse, poverty, or problems with the law, we can say they had a **troubled childhood**.
- 5 - Perhaps the parents went through a **bitter divorce**. It's also possible to have a **messy divorce**, with a prolonged legal battle involving lots of conflicts about the separation of the former couple's assets.
- 6 - The decisions about the separation of assets are made in the **divorce settlement**. A family in which there are divorces or separations is sometimes called a **broken home**.
- 7 - Sometimes the mother and father fight over **custody of the children**. A judge can **grant joint custody** – that means the ex-husband and ex-wife share the responsibility – or **sole custody** to only one parent.
- 8 - For example, a judge might **award sole custody** to the mother, and the father has to **pay child support** – regular payments to help with expenses for the kids.
- 9 - If it was a **mutual divorce/separation** – then they will probably stay **on good terms with each other**.
- 10 - If a woman **gets pregnant** without being married or in a relationship, then she will become a **single mother**. Some women in this situation choose to **have an abortion**, and others prefer to **give the baby up for adoption**.