

Unit 4 Taste the sweets and bitters of family life.

I. Lead-in

Key

3-Extended family 2-nuclear family 3-DINK family 1-Single-parent family

II. Basic Listening Practice

1. Script

M: Amy, sit down, we need to talk. Your mother and I are going to separate.

W: What? Are you crazy? You can't do that! What will my friends say? I just want to have a normal family.

Q: What does the girl say?

2. Script

M: Good evening, Mrs. Jones. The manager sends you these roses and his best wishes. Happy anniversary!

W: Thank you. We like the room and service here, and we especially appreciate the manager's consideration.

Q: What can we learn from the dialog?

3. Script

W: While I'm scrambling the eggs, could you put the flour into the bowl?

M: You bet, darling. I'll also turn the oven on so that it can preheat.

Q: Where does this dialog take place?

4. Script

W: I have a very important meeting tonight, and I'm afraid I can't miss it.

M: But this evening is the parents-teacher conference at school, and I am expecting you'd come. OK, I'll phone Dad, maybe he and his girlfriend will come.

Q: What can be inferred from the dialog?

5. Script

W1: So you're still single? If you'd listened to me and used the Internet, you'd have a husband by now.

W2: I did use the Internet. I posted an ad that read, "Husband Wanted". There were dozens of e-mail responses. But they all said pretty much the same thing: You can have mine.

Q: What can we infer from the dialog?

Key: 1.C 2.A 3.B 4.C 5.D

III. Listening In

Task1: Nuclear Family Living Patterns

Script

A nuclear family is **typical** in highly-industrialized societies. Beginning in the early 20th century, the two-parent family **known** as the nuclear family was the predominant American family type. **Generally** children live with their parents until they go away to a college or university, or until they **find** jobs and acquire an **apartment** or home of their own.

In the early mid-20th century, the father was typically the sole wage-earner, and the mother was the children's principal caregiver. Today, often both parents hold jobs. Dual-earner families are the predominant type for families with children in the United States. Increasingly, one of the parents has a non-standard shift, that is, a shift that does not start in the morning and end in the late afternoon. In these families, one of the parents manages the children while the other works.

Prior to school, adequate day care of children is necessary for dual-earner families. In recent years, many private companies and home-based day care centers have sprung up to fulfill this need. Increasingly, companies are getting involved in the arrangement of day care. Governments are providing assistance to parents that require day care as well.

Task 2 Fatherhood in Australia

Script

Can it be true that Australian men spend more time during the week brushing their teeth than they do alone with their children? A new study from the University of New South Wales has discovered that during the working week, Australian fathers only spend an average of just over a minute each day alone with their children. Australian mothers, on the other hand, spend three hours a week purely looking after their children—a much greater disparity than in other countries like America, Denmark, Italy, and France, where couples divide the childcare more evenly. These findings will probably infuriate those who want to shake off the perhaps unfair image of Australia as a land of old-fashioned male chauvinism.

According to the study, Australian fathers appear to like the fun aspects of parenthood, but shy away from the boring housework. So while they tend to be happy taking the kids to the park or to sporting events, they are unlikely to participate regularly in feeding, bathing, or taking the kids to school. In short, Australian parenting is seen as a woman's job and a man's hobby.

Many people believe that the last 20 years have seen the arrival of the so-called "new man"—the man who is willing to share the housework and childcare. The new man has a picture of his children on his computer desktop at work; he never misses the kids' school plays, and he skips a drink at the bar after work so that he can get home in time to read bedtime story to their kids.

This study suggests that the new man feels a little more at home in Europe than in Australia. Indeed, a poll conducted in the U. K. for the think tank the Fatherhood Institute in January indicates that almost 70 percent of British women think that men are as good at raising children as women.

That's something for Australian men to ponder while they brush their teeth!

Key

1. F 2.T 3.T 4.F 5.T

Task 3: Views on filial piety see change

Script

With fast economic development in Hong Kong, young people are less likely to cherish the traditional notion of filial piety. Instead, they are gradually taking a new approach

to a welfare society, according to a three-year survey conducted by the City University of Hong Kong.

As many as 85 percent of the respondents expect the government to take up the responsibility for supporting the elderly, and 77 percent agree with the idea that burden should fall on society as a whole rather than on individual families.

Researcher Richard Wong, who took charge of the study, is sad about the eroding of traditional family bonds. He said that while most people still respect their parents and grandparents, they tend to equate economic assistance with love. When asked about how they would show their love for their old parents, many simply said they would send them to old people's homes. Others said they would give money, and only two percent of the respondents said they would be ready to take care of the psychological health of their parents.

According to the study, middle-aged people who have children of their own take their filial duties more seriously. Also, married women know better than men the need for this kind of loving care.

Researcher Wong questioned the wisdom of adopting the new concept of government welfare. He said, "A welfare society is founded on high tax rates, but here in Hong Kong the personal tax rate is only 15 percent. How can you expect the government to take care of all the elderly?"

He further pointed out that even when a social security network can support all senior citizens, it cannot replace the love that only family members can give.

Questions and key

1. According to most of the respondents, who should take up the responsibility for supporting the elderly?
2. Which of the following is a way for most respondents to show respect and love for their old parents?
3. Which of the following types of people have more loving care for their old parents?
4. According to Researcher Wong, why is a welfare society not realistic in Hong Kong?
5. What is the passage mainly about?

1. A 2. A 3. A 4. D 5. C

V. Let's talk When I knew my parents split up

Script and key

When I, when I knew that my parents split up, it felt like a piece of my heart or something was gone. Like, at first, I didn't know what it was, but I could already feel it and it was really weird. And when I (1)cry, I usually go to my mum about it and just talk to her. So in some ways it's very traumatizing, but in other ways it's a (2)relief to just talk about it. I don't really share this stuff with my dad 'cause he's the very (3)strong type of person who doesn't cry a lot.

I wish that they would have just been more (4)understanding about how I would feel, 'cause I think I don't know what happened, but I think they might have just gone straight into it and just decided on it without thinking about what it would be like for me. And in that way I'm really (5)angry with them and stuff.

I didn't really see my dad much 'cause he worked, and so I didn't, I wasn't really aware

that he'd actually(6)left. When I was about three or four, I just started(7)wondering where he was and what he was doing. And my mum told me when I was about(8)five or six.

When I do my drawings when I feel (9)sad or anything, it's like a wave of calmness just washed over me. It relieves a lot of (10)stress and it just feels fine after. Or if it doesn't, I go talk to my (11)friends or invite them for a sleepover. We do lots of silly and fun things, 'cause that's another way it (12)helps.

The happy time is (13) Christmas. Um, I remember when I went around to my nan and granddads. And it was all my (14)cousins there, all my family, and we were in the dining room. And I was just staring at them, gobsmacked about how many (15)presents there were: big, gigantic, small, really small. And I was just so excited and I got my first pair of high heels then and I was really, I was over the moon.

VI. Further Listening and Speaking

Task 1 Reasons for a divorce

Script

W: I'm divorcing my husband.

M: How long have you been married?

W: Thirteen years.

M: Do you have children?

W: Yes. And I have to protect them from any more harm from my husband's irresponsibility.

M: So, what are your grounds for divorce?

W: Well, first of all, he keeps changing jobs. We've had to move four times in 13 years.

M: You believe that will be good grounds for divorce?

W: I do have a right to stability for my children and myself. don't I?

M: They are his children too, aren't they?

W: But my husband isn't fulfilling his duties!

M: Is he paying the bills?

W: Well, yes, but we just live around the poverty line. Our kids are being teased by other kids at school because we can't dress them in good clothes! We have to live in a small apartment and drive an old car!

M: Does the car run?

W: Yes. but, it looks OLD!

M: Do you yell at him and call him names?

W: Well, he yells at me more!

M: So, those are the reasons to not honor your husband. Are you going to give him joint custody in this divorce?

W: No, just visitation rights.

M: Why?

W: Because the law permits me it.

M: And what about the financial demands of this divorce?

W: I'm demanding half of all we have, which isn't much, and large support payments.

Key

(1) divorce her husband (2) irresponsible (3) changing jobs (4) stability
(5) bills (6) poverty line (7) apartment (8) yells at (9) calls him names
(10) half

Task 2: Single-parent problems

Script

Question:

Hi, I have been divorced for eight years. My ex sees our child Maria on a regular basis. She is eight and in the second grade. My ex has a wife that is 20. My ex and his wife go to the school almost every day to see our daughter. Our daughter has failed the second grade and now has to repeat it. I have seen her grades plummet since those two started showing up at school. They are both very controlling and verbally abusive to me and to our daughter. I'm concerned about this. He forced my daughter to call his wife mommy. I am really tired of their unkind visits. I don't know what to do. If you have any advice to give me, I would be grateful. Thanks.

Answer (by a woman psychiatrist):

Hi, Diana. It's obvious to me that your daughter is having problems with the visits. I would suggest having a frank conversation with your daughter to see what she feels the problems are. If she says it is all these problems as you have stated above, I would try to talk to your ex about her problems. I'll try to stick to what your daughter feels to be the problems and hope he will help your daughter do better at school.

If he is not responsive, then I'll take your daughter for counseling to help her.

You can't make others do things that are right for your child, not even the father, so spend your energy on things you can control like counseling for your daughter. Also, you should spend quality time with her and allow her to vent her feelings on you, and let her know you are always there for her no matter what happens. Try to keep her self-esteem high. When a child fails a grade, they will feel bad. Good Luck!

Questions and key

1. What does Diana think about the visits by her ex and his wife to her daughter?
2. What has happened to the daughter's studies?
3. What does the psychiatrist advise the woman to do first?
4. What will the psychiatrist do to Diana's ex-husband?
5. What is NOT advised by the psychiatrist for Diana to do?

1. B 2. C 3. A 4. D 5. C

Task3: A man who remarried

Script

If you want me to tell you why I remarried, here's my story.

Remarriage was the last word I'd consider for two years after my divorce. I had heard about the high rate of remarriage failures. More importantly, I wondered how remarriage would affect my 10-year-old son, John. My heart ached when I saw my son draw a picture of himself, my ex-wife and me holding hands, with sadness on our faces. Since my parents have married and divorced eight times altogether, I hoped my son

would not have to go through the same pain I experienced. As a result, my primary focus after the divorce was my relationship with John, not finding a wife.

As time went by, my son gradually grew up, and he became of my loneliness and anxiety. One day he asked me to consider dating. The first time he said this, I ignored him. The second time he brought it up, I reconsidered my reservations about dating. I began to date Maria. As our relationship developed over the following year, I was concerned about how my son would actually respond to her. At first, John's affection for Maria was lukewarm. For instance, he would hug her, but the act seemed mechanical. But after several months, he warmed up to her. Seeing the time was ripe, I asked Maria to marry me. She accepted. So the two of us blended smoothly into the three of us. Thinking back, I believe my remarriage was the right choice.

Some single-parents are still hesitating about remarriage. Now that you've heard my story, I hope you won't hesitate and let golden opportunities slip through your fingers.

Changes in the Speaker's Attitude to Remarriage	Reasons or Detailed Description
For two years after my divorce, remarriage <u>was the last word</u> I'd consider.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High rate of <u>remarriage failures</u>. 2. It would affect my son. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① He drew a(n) <u>picture</u> of the three of us. ② My parents married and divorced <u>eight times</u> and I hope my son would not go through the pain I experienced. ③ My primary focus was my son, not finding a(n) <u>wife</u>.
I ignored my son's suggestion of <u>dating</u> .	He grew up and became conscious of my <u>loneliness and anxiety</u> .
I reconsidered my reservation about dating and dated Maria.	He brought the issue up for a(n) <u>second</u> time.
I was concerned about <u>my son's response to her</u> .	At first his affection for her was <u>lukewarm</u> : e.g. his hug was mechanical. Several months later he <u>warmed up</u> to her.
I asked Maria to marry me and she <u>accepted</u> .	Seeing the time was <u>ripe</u> .
The two of us <u>blended into</u> the three of us.	My remarriage was the <u>right</u> choice.

Viewing and speaking Mother-daughter relationship

Script and key

I love all the children, they've all got fantastic personalities. (1) Lovely children, but the one that's the most like me is Sarah Lucy. I can, I can... she does things like I do, she says things I say. Um, and I think that's why sometimes we have our clashes because we are so (2) similar. She's very, very much like me.

Me and Sarah Lucy have very... both have very strong personalities, so we clash quite a bit. When Sarah Lucy can't have her own way, she struts off, slams the door, stamps

up the stairs. Favorite expression for me is, very quietly she'll say, "Mum's like a witch!" And then, um, I'll say to her, "Stay in your(3)room till you feel better. When you feel better, you come and talk to me about it." Um, so she'll stay in her room for a few minutes and then she'll come back down and she's all, "I'm sorry mum. "And then if I've upset Sarah Lucy, I'll(4)apologize if I think I'm in the wrong. And then we'll have a discussion or a debate about it.

There's certain aspects about Sarah Lucy's behavior, um, it's learned behavior because (5)children live what they learn, and so there're some traits that she's got and I think, "Oh they're beautiful, they're lovely, I love them. " And there're other ones and I think, "Oh they're not so good." For example, her strutting off and slamming the door. But, um, confession: She gets it off me. She gets it off mum. Um, and she'll say to me, " You haven't got a lot of(6)patience. "and she's telling the truth. And so I have to say to her, What do you think I could do to make that better? ""And then she'll sit me down and she'll say, "You have to (7)listen more, you have to learn to listen. " So, I try. I do. When we have this conversation, I do listen more, and I do try. Don't always get it right, but I do try.

When I'm feeling (8) angry, um, if the other children are around, when one of them sees me upset, they don't like to see me upset, so one of them will come to me and say, "Is it time for some(9)medicine?" And their medicine is they give me a big cuddle. So we have a cuddle, a hug, and that is(10)fantastic medicine because it does make you feel better. And that's what works for us.