

## American Family

### 1. Read the text and fill in the gaps with the suitable prepositions

The traditional **family structure in the United States** is considered a family support system involving two married individuals, 1 male 1 female, providing care and stability 1. \_\_\_\_ their biological offspring. However, this two-parent nuclear family has become less prevalent, and alternative family forms have become more common. The family is created 2. \_\_\_\_\_ birth and establishes ties across generations. Those generations, the extended family 3. \_\_\_\_\_ aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins, can hold significant emotional and economic roles 4. \_\_\_\_\_ the nuclear family.

Over time, the structure has had to adapt 5. \_\_\_\_\_ very influential changes, including divorce and the introduction 6. \_\_\_\_\_ single-parent families, teenage pregnancy and unwed mothers, and same-sex marriage, and increased interest 7. \_\_\_\_\_ adoption. Social movements such as the feminist movement and the stay-at-home father have contributed 8. \_\_\_\_\_ the creation 9. \_\_\_\_\_ alternative family forms, generating new versions 10. \_\_\_\_\_ the American family.

### 2. Read the text and mark True/False

#### Nuclear family

The nuclear family has been considered the "traditional" family structure since the Soviet Union scare in the cold war of the 1950s. The nuclear family consists of a mother, father, and the children. The two-parent nuclear family has become less prevalent, and pre-American and European family forms have become more common. Beginning in the 1970s in the United States, the structure of the "traditional" nuclear American family began to change. It was the women in the households that began to make this change. They decided to begin careers outside of the home and not live according to the male figures in their lives.

These include same-sex relationships, single-parent households, adopting individuals, and extended family systems living together. The nuclear family is also having fewer children than in the past. The percentage of nuclear-family households is approximately half what it was at its peak in the middle of the 20th century. The percentage of married-couple households with children under 18, but without other family members (such as grandparents), has declined to 23.5% of all households in 2000 from 25.6% in 1990, and from 45% in 1960.

1. The nuclear family got the term "traditional" family after the second world war.

2. The two-parent nuclear family has stopped to be widespread lately.
3. It was the policy of the United States that changed the structure of the "traditional" nuclear American family.
4. Nowadays the number of kids in a nuclear family is the same as it was in the past.
5. The percentage of nuclear-family doubled comparatively to the period of the 1950s.

### **3. Read the texts and answer the questions.**

#### **Single parent**

A single parent (also termed lone parent or sole parent) is a parent who cares for one or more children without the assistance of the other biological parent. Historically, single-parent families often resulted from death of a spouse, for instance in childbirth. Single-parent homes are increasing as married couples divorce, or as unmarried couples have children. Although widely believed to be detrimental to the mental and physical well being of a child, this type of household is tolerated.

The percentage of single-parent households has doubled in the last three decades, but that percentage tripled between 1900 and 1950. The sense of marriage as a "permanent" institution has been weakened, allowing individuals to consider leaving marriages more readily than they may have in the past.

#### **Stepfamilies**

Stepfamilies are becoming more familiar in America. Divorce rates are rising and the remarriage rate is rising as well, therefore, bringing two families together making stepfamilies. Statistics show that there are 1,300 new stepfamilies forming every day. Over half of American families are remarried, that is 75% of marriages ending in divorce, remarry.

#### **Extended family**

The **extended family** consists of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. In some circumstances, the extended family comes to live either with or in place of a member of the nuclear family. An example includes elderly parents who move in with their children due to old age. This places large demands on the caregivers, particularly the female relatives who choose to perform these duties for their extended family.

Historically, among certain Asian and Native American cultures, the family structure consisted of a grandmother and her children, especially daughters, who raised their own children together and shared child care responsibilities. Uncles, brothers, and other male relatives sometimes helped out. Romantic relationships between men and women were formed and dissolved with little impact on the children who remained in the mother's extended family.

1. Who is considered a single parent?
2. When was the percentage of single-parent households higher?
3. How do stepfamilies appear?
4. What is an extended family?
5. What problems do the members of the extended family face?