


1 STARTING POINT

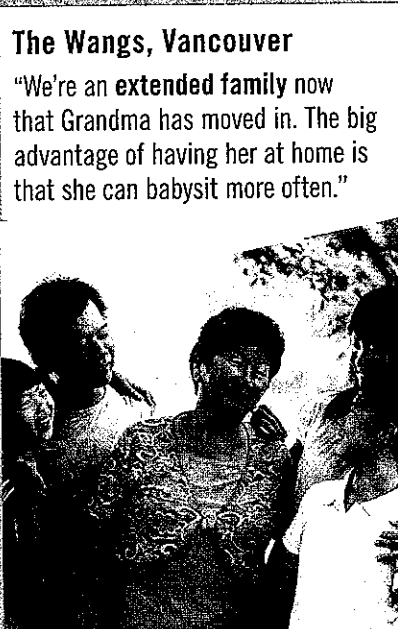
Different types of families

A Look at the families in the pictures. What's different about each type of family?


What's Your Family Like?



The Watsons, Sydney
 "My wife and I both work now, and the extra money is great. The only trouble with being a **two-income family** is we don't spend as much time together."



The Wangs, Vancouver
 "We're an **extended family** now that Grandma has moved in. The big advantage of having her at home is that she can babysit more often."



The Patels, London
 "We're a typical **nuclear family** – it's just my sister, my parents, and me. The only bad thing about living in our house is there's only one bathroom!"

B Pair work What are some more advantages and disadvantages of each type of family in part A? Compare ideas.

"In a nuclear family, you might not see your grandparents every day. That's a disadvantage."

2 LISTENING & SPEAKING

How are their families different?

A Listen to Paul and Andrea talk about their families. What kind of family did each person grow up in? How have their families changed?

B Listen again. Match the people on the left with the phrases on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Andrea <u>b</u> | a. has two daughters. |
| 2. Andrea's husband ____ | b. doesn't know her in-laws very well. |
| 3. Andrea's sister-in-law ____ | c. has three brothers. |
| 4. Paul's sister ____ | d. is looking forward to seeing the family. |
| 5. Paul ____ | e. will be cooking for 12 people. |
| 6. Paul's mother ____ | f. is a law student. |

C Pair work Is your family similar to Paul's or Andrea's? How is it similar? How is it different?

3 GRAMMAR

Noun clauses after *be*

A noun clause is a part of a sentence with a subject and a predicate that functions as a noun. *That* is optional in noun clauses after *be*. Also notice the prepositions followed by gerunds in the first part of the sentences.

The only trouble **with** being a two-income family is **(that) we don't spend as much time together**.
The big advantage **of** having Grandma at home is **(that) she can babysit more often**.

GRAMMAR PLUS see page 107

A Look at the Starting Point on page 6 again. Can you find the noun clause in the last paragraph? Which preposition is used in the first part of the sentence?

B Combine the sentences. Then compare answers with a partner.

1. I'm the youngest in the family. The nice thing is I get a lot of attention.
The nice thing about being the youngest in the family is that I get a lot of attention.
2. I have a younger sister. The trouble is she always wants to borrow my clothes.
3. I'm away at college. The bad part is that I miss my family.
4. I work at night. The worst thing is I can't have dinner with my family.
5. I'm the oldest in the family. One bad thing is that I always have to babysit.

C Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Then compare answers with a partner.

1. An advantage of being a twin is . . .
that you always have someone to hang out with.
2. A problem with being an only child is . . .
3. One benefit of being the oldest is . . .
4. A big disadvantage of having an older sibling is . . .
5. The best thing about having a big family is . . .



4 DISCUSSION

Family matters

A Choose at least three questions you'd like to talk about with your group.

- What's the best thing about spending time with your family? What's the worst thing?
- What's one advantage of having a close family?
- What are some rules that people have to follow in your family?
- What's a benefit of having strict parents?
- Are you most likely to confide in a parent, a sibling, or a friend?
- Do you believe mothers and fathers should do the same chores?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a two-income family?

B Group work Discuss the questions you chose in part A. Ask follow-up questions and make sure everyone in your group participates.

7 READING

A family of friends

A Group work Do you tend to rely more on friends or family for help and advice? Why? Discuss with your group.

From Circle of Friends to Modern Tribe

Who celebrates birthdays and holidays with you? Who do you call when a crisis hits or when good luck strikes? If your answer is "my friends," you may have a "tribe."

When Ethan Watters took stock of his life a few years ago, the San Francisco writer realized that he was more dependent on friends than family, who lived hundreds of miles away.

"My friends were the centerpiece of my social life," he says. "They had taken on all the responsibilities that family members typically tackle – connecting me to the city, being a matchmaker, and helping me find jobs and places to live."

This circle of friends had become a tribe, which started when a group of artists, writers, and photographers began meeting for dinner every Tuesday night. Before long, they had begun functioning as a family of choice.

Watters grew to believe that non-family members forming close-knit social networks was a growing trend in the United States, and he wrote a book about it called *Urban Tribes: Are Friends the New Family?*

Modern tribes like Watters's often grow out of a shared interest or experience, but not every group of friends becomes a tribe.

The shift from "circle of friends" to tribe happens when members begin to treat each other like

family – offering support without expectation of repayment; sheltering each other from gossip, stress, and attack; and looking out for everyone's overall well-being in life, work, and relationships.

Modern tribes often have a regular meeting place, annual parties, and group trips. Shared rites and rituals create a tribal story. "The members of the group may change," Watters says, "but the story of that group has central elements that remain. It gives the group a history."

Every tribe usually has an individual or core group that tends to its growth and survival. These tribal leaders are the ones who get everyone together on a regular basis and make the phone calls that get members excited about upcoming events.

Like families, tribes have a way of shaping their members: Individuals feel more confident, secure, loved, and stable. Even if your own family is close-knit, you may benefit from cultivating a family-like circle of friends. "The love and support we get from one," Watters says, "does not take away from the love and support we get from another."

Source: "My Tribe," by Erin Peterson, *Experience Life*



B Read the article and answer the questions. Then compare answers with a partner.

1. In what ways does Watters's circle of friends function as a family?
2. According to the article, what are some differences between a tribe and a family?
3. How does a group of friends become a tribe?

C Group work Discuss these questions. Then share your answers with the class.

1. What are some advantages and disadvantages of relying on friends for family-like support?
2. Do you consider yourself a member of a modern tribe? Why or why not?

GRAMMAR PLUS

1A Verbs followed by gerunds

These verbs are followed by a gerund.

deny discuss finish mention practice quit resist suggest

These verbs are followed by an infinitive.

arrange claim decide demand deserve expect pretend refuse volunteer

Some common expressions are always followed by gerunds.

She **had fun / a good time** arranging the party.

He **has trouble / a tough time** getting his assignments in on time.

He's **busy** cooking dinner right now.

She never **worries about** cleaning up after herself.

Some verbs take either a gerund or an infinitive, but the meaning of the sentence will be different.

I **stopped to drink** some coffee. (*I ended one activity and began another.*)

I **stopped drinking** coffee. (*I don't do that activity anymore.*)

I **stopped running** when I got tired. (*I temporarily ended the activity.*)

1 Complete these sentences with the gerund or infinitive form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I practiced speaking (speak) English with an American friend last night.
2. He volunteered _____ (help) at the hospital fund-raiser.
3. They discussed _____ (go) somewhere exotic on their vacation this year.
4. She's stopped _____ (talk) to him because they had a big argument.
5. My great-grandmother has trouble _____ (get) to our family reunions.
6. Laura always denies _____ (be) wild and crazy, but she really is.

2 Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

My friend Shanda is pretty cool and very outgoing. She's usually busy (1) *to do / doing* a million things at once. Last week, I suggested (2) *to go / going* out for dinner and (3) *to see / seeing* a movie. We arranged (4) *to meet / meeting* at 7:00. Well, I know she doesn't worry about (5) *to be / being* on time, but she didn't show up until 7:30. At first, she said it took her a long time to finish (6) *to get / getting* ready. Then, after the movie, she couldn't resist (7) *to tell / telling* me what really happened. She was having such a good time (8) *to play / playing* video games with her brother that she forgot about our plans. It's a good thing I'm the laid-back type!