

# Family and friends

## Topic

Family and friends, describing people

## Aims

- To give learners an opportunity to talk about family and friends
- To help learners understand the questions 'What's he/she like?' and 'What does he/she like?'
- To encourage learners to think about how they can help their friends
- To develop learners' listening, speaking and writing skills

## Age

Primary (7–11 years)

## Time

90 minutes approximately

## Materials

1. Word game: 'Family'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/family>
2. Song, activity sheet, answers and lyrics: 'Tooth family'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/tooth-family>
3. Story, activity sheet, answers and transcript: 'My dad'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/my-dad>
4. Story, activity sheet, answers and transcript: 'The lion and the mouse'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/the-lion-and-the-mouse>
5. Flashcards  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/flashcards/family-flashcards>
6. Your turns: 'Family' and 'Best friends'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/your-turn/family>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/your-turn/best-friends>
7. Worksheets: 'Family' and 'Friends'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/worksheets/family>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/worksheets/friends>
8. Large pieces of paper for posters (stage 5)
9. Sets of the Family flashcards (stage 6) – optional

For a complete list of all 'Family' and 'Friends' content on LearnEnglish Kids, click here:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/category/topics/family>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/category/topics/friends>

## Introduction

In this lesson, children practise language to talk about their family and friends with a song, stories and games. They write and speak about a family member, role-play meeting a friend and make a poster about helping friends.

## Procedure

<b>1. Family vocabulary (5 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play the 'Family' word game. Divide the class into teams to play. Did they get them all right?</li> <li>• Now ask learners to listen and repeat as you say the words.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Family song (10 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display the initial 'Tooth family' song image and ask the children to identify the family members that they can see. Play the song and ask the learners to stand up each time they hear a family member word.</li> <li>• Play the song again and encourage children to sing along. You could also make up actions for the song as you sing – ask the children for suggestions.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Family story (15–20 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the children to look at the title of the 'My dad' story and the initial image. Can they guess what the story is about?</li> <li>• Play the story and ask the learners to tell you if their guesses were correct. What else can they remember about the story?</li> <li>• Hand out the worksheet. Can the learners do exercise 2? Play the story again for learners to check answers.</li> <li>• Ask learners to do exercise 3. Then ask them to write the same headings in their notebooks. Then they choose someone in their family and write sentences about them.</li> <li>• Learners now mingle and say their sentences to each other. Can they guess which person in the other learner's family it is?</li> </ul>
<b>4. Friends vocabulary (15–20 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask learners if they have a best friend. Write 'What's he/she like? He's .../She's ...' and 'What does he/she like? He/She likes ...' on the board. Elicit some answers (e.g. kind, funny, riding a bike, books) and write them under the corresponding question. See if learners can tell you what the difference is between the questions.</li> <li>• Play a game of <i>action if</i>. Give the class instructions with actions, such as 'Jump if your best friend is funny' or 'Turn around if your best friend likes reading' and so on. Learners can take turns to give the class their own instructions.</li> <li>• Learners think about their best friend and write their own answers to the questions in their notebooks.</li> <li>• Finally, brainstorm some questions you ask someone when you meet them for the first time, for example <i>What's your name? How old are you? What do you like doing at the weekend? Do you like school?</i> Learners work in pairs and role play being their best friend and meeting their partner.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Friends story (20–30 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw a picture of a lion and a mouse on the board. Could these animals be friends? Why or why not?</li> <li>• Play 'The lion and the mouse' story and ask learners to watch and say how the mouse helps the lion.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand out the worksheet. Can the learners do exercise 2? Play the story again for learners to check answers.</li> <li>• Talk about the story. You can use the questions in exercise 3 as a guide. Ask learners to think of a time when they helped a friend. Who did they help and how?</li> <li>• In groups, ask learners to make a poster showing different ways they can help a friend. They can include the examples they gave the class as well as other ideas they can think of.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Round off activity (5–10 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sing along and do the actions to the song again.</li> <li>• Alternatively, learners can play a game of Pelmanism with a set of the 'Family' flashcards in pairs or small groups.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Homework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children can write about either their family or a friend with the 'Family' or 'Best friends' Your turns and post a comment on the site.</li> <li>• Alternatively you could give them either the 'Family' or 'Friends' worksheet to complete.</li> </ul>

**Contributed by**

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