



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

The Modern Family



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The Modern Family 现代家庭

British Families Today 今日英国家庭

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Father leaves for work in the morning after breakfast. The two children take the bus to school, and mother stays home cooking and cleaning until father and the kids return home in the evening. This is the traditional picture of a happy family living in Britain. But is it true today?

The answer is no! The past 20 years have seen enormous changes in the lives and structure of families in Britain.

The biggest change has been caused by **divorce**. As many as 2 out of 3 marriages now end in divorce, leading to a situation where many children live with one parent and only see the other at weekends or holidays.

There has also been a **huge** rise in the number of women with children who work. The large rise in divorces has meant many women need to work to **support** themselves and their children. Even where there is no divorce, many families need both parents to work in order to survive. This has caused an increase in **childcare facilities**, though it is very expensive and can be difficult to find in many areas.

In addition, women are no longer happy to stay at home raising children, and many have careers earning as much or even more than men, the traditional **breadwinner**.

There has also been a **sharp** increase in the number of **single mothers**, particularly among teenagers. Some people have **blamed** this increase for the rise in crime. They feel the **lack of a male role model** has damaged these children in society.

However, these changes have not had a totally negative effect. For women, it is now much easier to have a career and good salary. Although it is difficult to be a working mother, it has become normal and is no longer seen as a bad thing for the children.

As for children themselves, some argue that modern children grow up more independent and mature than in the past. From an early age they have to go to childminders or nurseries, and so are used to **dealing with** strangers and **mixing with** other children.

Glossary 词汇表

divorce - 离婚	single mothers - 单身母亲
huge - 巨大的	blamed - 谴责; 归咎
support - 支持; 援助	lack - 缺乏
childcare facilities - 儿童福利机构, 设施	male role model - 男性角色模范
raising - 养育; 抚养	nurseries - 托儿所
breadwinner - 养家糊口的人	dealing with - 与...相处
sharp - 急剧的; 明显的	mixing with - 与...融合

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

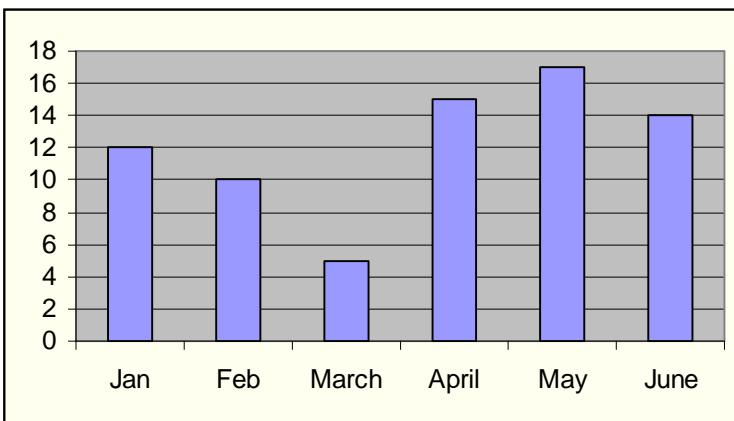
1. Divorce is not common in Britain. True / False
2. Childcare is not cheap in Britain. True / False
3. Women can now earn as much as men. True / False
4. Many mothers nowadays are not married. True / False
5. Some people think there is more crime because of the modern family. True / False

2. Vocabulary 词汇

Do the following verbs mean GO UP or GO DOWN?

下列动词的意思是“向上”还是“向下”？请在右边的横线上标出。

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. Increase | _____ | 4. Rise | _____ |
| 2. Decrease | _____ | 5. Grow | _____ |
| 3. Fall | _____ | 6. Decline | _____ |



The graph shows sales for the first half of the year. Use the verbs from above to complete the sentences. There may be more than one possible answer.

下图显示的是上半年的销售情况。用以上动词完成句子。有可能会不止一个答案。

1. Sales _____ in February.
2. Sales _____ again in March.
3. However, sales _____ in April.
4. Sales continued to _____ in May.
5. In June, sales _____.

3. Phrasal Verbs 动词短语

Look at the phrasal verbs below. Can you match them to their definitions?

请为下列动词短语从a-e中选出正确答案.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bring up | a. care for |
| 2. Grow up | b. educate, give food, clothes etc |
| 3. Look after | c. become older and mature |
| 4. Deal with | d. socialise |
| 5. Mix with | e. manage |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs.

用以上动词短语完成下列句子.

1. Actually, girls usually _____ faster than boys.
2. He's not very friendly. He doesn't _____ other people very well.
3. I was _____ by my grandmother. She taught me everything I know.
4. It's a very stressful job. I have to _____ lots of problems.
5. When my parents went out at night I had to _____ my younger brother.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with FAMILY in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与家庭有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

z	x	c	v	m	o	t	h	e	r	n	m
l	k	c	j	h	g	f	d	s	a	q	w
f	e	r	o	t	s	y	a	u	i	o	p
a	a	s	d	u	i	f	g	u	h	j	b
t	k	s	l	m	s	n	b	v	n	c	r
h	x	o	z	a	t	i	s	d	f	t	o
e	g	n	h	j	e	k	n	l	p	o	t
r	i	u	y	t	r	r	e	w	q	a	h
s	d	f	g	h	j	k	k	l	m	n	e
b	u	n	c	l	e	c	v	i	a	x	r
d	f	v	r	t	h	m	y	g	d	z	c
p	a	r	e	n	t	s	j	y	b	s	n

father mother cousin brother sister aunt uncle parents son kids
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Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假?请圈出正确答案。

1. Divorce is not common in Britain. **False**
2. Childcare is not cheap in Britain. **True**
3. Women can now earn as much as men. **True**
4. Many mothers nowadays are not married. **True**
5. Some people think there is more crime because of the modern family. **True**

3. Phrasal Verbs 动词短语

Look at the phrasal verbs below. Can you match them to their definitions?

请为下列动词短语从a-e中选出正确答案。

1. b 4. e
2. c 5. d
3. a

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs.

用以上动词短语完成下列句子。

1. Actually, girls usually **grow up** faster than boys.
2. He's not very friendly. He doesn't **mix with** other people very well.
3. I was **brought up** by my grandmother. She taught me everything I know.
4. It's a very stressful job. I have to **deal with** lots of problems.
5. When my parents went out at night I had to **look after** my younger brother.

2. Vocabulary 词汇

Do the following verbs mean GO UP or GO DOWN?

下列动词的意思是“向上”还是“向下”?请在右边的横线上标出。

1. Increase **Go up**
2. Decrease **Go down**
3. Fall **Go down**
4. Rise **Go up**
5. Grow **Go up**
6. Decline **Go down**

The graph shows sales for the first half of the year. Use the verbs from above to complete the sentences. There may be more than one possible answer.

下图显示的是上半年的销售情况。用以上动词完成句子。有可能会不止一个答案。

1. Sales **fell/decreased/declined** in February.
2. Sales **fell/decreased/declined** again in March.
3. However, sales **increased/rose/grew** in April.
4. Sales continued to **increase/rise/grow** in May.
5. In June, sales **fell/decreased/declined**.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

				m	o	t	h	e	r		
		c									
f			o		s		a				
a				u	i			u			b
t		s			s				n		r
h		o			t	i				t	o
e		n			e		n				t
r					r						h
							k				e
	u	n	c	l	e			i			r
									d		
p	a	r	e	n	t	s				s	