

The Big Family Reunion

Family Structures and Life Events

PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

- How often does your extended family get together?
- What is the biggest life event (wedding, graduation, etc.) you have attended recently?
- Who is the "leader" in your family who usually organizes events?

PART 02 The Scenario

You are organizing a massive 80th birthday party for the family patriarch, Great-Grandfather George. Because the family is large and includes many step-relatives, in-laws, and people at different life stages, you need to plan a seating arrangement and a 3-course celebration program.

The Guest List:

1. **George:** The birthday man (Senior citizen).
2. **Linda:** George's second wife (Stepmother to George's adult children).
3. **Mark:** George's son from his first marriage.
4. **Sarah:** Mark's ex-wife (they are still friends).
5. **Tom:** Mark's new partner.
6. **Elena:** Mark and Sarah's daughter (George's granddaughter). She just finished her **graduation**.
7. **David:** Elena's husband (**son-in-law**).
8. **Baby Leo:** Elena and David's son (**grandson**).
9. **Kevin:** Linda's son from a previous marriage (**stepbrother** to Mark).
10. **Clara:** Kevin's wife (**sister-in-law**).

THE TASK & GOAL

Create a final seating plan for two tables of five people and a schedule for three short speeches or activities.

1. Read the guest list and identify the relationships between the people.
2. Discuss who should sit together based on their relationships and life stages (e.g., where does the toddler go?).
3. Decide on three "Life Event" celebrations to include in the party (e.g., a toast for Elena's graduation).
4. Present your seating plan and schedule to the other group.

ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

A: THE MEDIATOR

You want to make sure the stepfamily and ex-relatives feel comfortable. You think Sarah (ex-wife) and Tom (new partner) should sit at different tables.

B: THE TRADITIONALIST

You want to keep "blood relatives" together. You think George should be surrounded only by his children and grandchildren.

REFERENCE Useful Language

DISCUSSING RELATIONSHIPS

He is his stepfather...

She is the daughter-in-law...

They are half-siblings...

MAKING SUGGESTIONS

Why don't we put...?

We should group the...

Let's celebrate the...

EXPRESSING OPINIONS

I'm not sure if...

In my view, it's better...

It's important that...

PLANNING & NOTES

Plan your dialogue here

PART 03 Reflection

1. Which relationship was the most difficult to place in the seating plan?
2. Do you think modern families are more difficult to organize than traditional ones?

The Big Family Reunion

Target language practice.



TIME

30-40 MINS

OBJECTIVE

To use complex family vocabulary and possessive structures to solve a logistical problem.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS AND GENITIVE 'S

- It's my stepmother's birthday
- The decision is ours
- Their daughter-in-law is coming.

KEY VOCABULARY

STEPFATHER

SISTER-IN-LAW

HALF-BROTHER

GRADUATION

RETIREMENT

Procedure

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Ask students to define the difference between a "brother" and a "half-brother" or "stepbrother" using the worksheet images as a reference.
2. **The Task (20 mins):** Monitor the groups. Ensure they are using the target vocabulary (e.g., instead of saying "the wife of the son," they should say "daughter-in-law"). If they get stuck, suggest a conflict (e.g., "What if the baby starts crying?").
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Have each group present their seating plan. Focus on "Language Feedback"—correcting any misuse of family terms or possessives heard during the task.