

The family

Basic – B1

Adam is going to be an exchange student in England for a month. He has just arrived at his host family's home.

Helen: Hello, Adam. Nice to meet you.

Adam: Hello. Nice to meet you, too.

H: Did you have a pleasant flight?

A: Yes, I did. But it was a bit long.

H: Come on then, take a seat. Would you like a glass of orange juice?

A: Yes, please.

H: Anything to eat?

A: No, thanks. I had a sandwich on the plane.

H: Right. Now, we know about you, but not very much about your family. Could you tell us a few words about them?

A: Yes, of course. My parents... my mum is forty years old, my dad is forty... forty-three. They are very nice.

H: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: Yes, I do. I have a brother.

H: What does he do?

A: He attends the same school as me. But he is in a lower class.

H: Does he do well at school?

A: Not as well as me. But he does all right.

H: Does he look like you?

A: I don't think so. But here is a photograph of my family. Here he is, on the left.

H: I see. He looks like his mother, I guess.

A: And I look like my father.

H: Yes, absolutely. That elderly couple in the background are your grandparents?

A: Yes, they are. On my mother's side. My father's parents are not alive.

H: And this dog in the foreground?

A: It is Nero. The family's favourite pet.

H: Do you Hungarians like pets?

A: Very much. All of my friends have dogs or cats.

James, a 14-year-old schoolboy, is talking about his nuclear family.

My family is not a big one. There are four of us: my mum, my dad, my elder sister and me. My parents are in their early 40s. They are quite young, I think. It's good because they understand our problems. My dad is a joiner. He loves his job. He's tall, a bit fat, and he has black hair. My mum teaches in a primary school. She teaches children between 6 and 10. She also likes her job. Sometimes she is tired but she is always very patient with us. She is of medium height and a bit overweight – just a bit. My sister is 16. We quite often quarrel over unimportant things. She thinks she is big enough to order me about, but I don't obey her. Anyway, she does well at school, better than me, is intelligent and interested in a lot of things. As for me, I'm not very hardworking. I only do what I'm interested in: ship-modelling or computers. I used to like reading but not anymore. Books bore me. I prefer movies. I don't know what I'd like to do with my life in the future.

A collection of words and phrases to the topic

family	család
member of the family	családtag
consist,-ed,-ed of sg	áll vmiből
belong,-ed,-ed to sy/sg	tartozik vkihez/vmihez
relative/relation	rokon
parents	szülők
grandparents	nagyszülők
father	apa
mother	anya
dad	apu
mum	anyu
grandfather	nagypapa
grandmother	nagymama
child, children	gyerek, gyerekek
was born	született
son	fia vkinek
daughter	lánya vkinek
brother	fiútestvér
sister	lánytestvér
brothers and sisters	testvér(ek)
sibling	testvér
uncle	nagybácsi
aunt	nagynéni
grandchildren	unokák

grandson	fiú unoka
grand-daughter	lány unoka
bring, brought, brought up	felnevel
raise,-d,-d	felnevel
love	szerelem, szeretet
love,-d,-d sy	szeret vkit
husband	férj
wife	feleség
first name/forename	keresztnév
surname/family name	vezetéknév
teenager	tizenéves
die,-d,-d	meghal
What does she look like?	Hogy néz ki?
Can you describe her appearance?	Le tudnád írni a külsejét?
take, took, taken after sy	hasonlít vkire
face	arc
rosy	pirosposzgás
pale	sápadt
round	kerek
long	hosszú
oval	ovális
square	szögletes
hair	haj
blond/fair	szőke
red/ginger	vörös
grey	ősz
get, got, got grey	őszül
dark	sötét
light	világos
thin	vékony
thick	vastag
nose	orr
small	kicsi
mouth	száj
fat	kövér
thin	sovány
slim	karcsú
tall	magas
look fine	jól néz ki
clothing	öltözet, öltözködés
fashionable	divatos
elegant	elegáns
good-looking	jóképű
What is she like?	Milyen ő?

Can you characterize her?	Tudnád jellemezni?
Do you find her nice?	Kedvesnek találod?
Do you consider her confident?	Magabiztosnak tartod?
hardworking	szorgalmas
lazy	lusta
sensitive	érzékeny
cheeky	szemtelen
lively	élénk
patient	türelmes
forgetful	feledékeny
silly	ostoba
stupid	buta
nervous	ideges
worried	aggódó, nyugtalan
careful	óvatos
clever	okos
cheerful	vidám
funny	mókás, vicces
Christmas/Xmas	Karácsony
Merry Christmas!	Boldog Karácsonyt!
Holy Night	Szenteste
Christmas tree	karácsonyfa
decoration	dísz
decorate,-d,-d	díszít
Happy New Year!	Boldog új évet!
New Year's evening	Szilveszter este
Easter	Húsvét
Easter bunny	húsvéti nyuszi
Easter egg	húsvéti tojás
Santa Claus	Mikulás
birthday	születésnap
Happy birthday to you.	Boldog születésnapot.

Give detailed answers to the following questions.

- How many members are there in your family?
- What does your father do?
- Could you say a few words about his personality?
- What's your mother's job?
- Could you characterize her?
- Can you talk about anything with your parents?
- Do you have any brothers and sisters?

Are any of your grandparents alive?

Do you have any relatives living in other parts of the country?

How could you introduce yourself in a couple of sentences?

Role plays. Act out the following situations with a partner.

1. Your host family in England asks you about your family (parents, brothers and sisters, relatives) in Hungary. Try to say a few words about everyone and describe their appearance.

2. You'd like to invite your Canadian friend to your 20th birthday party. Tell him about the date, location, and other guests and give him some more details of the event.

3. Tell your English friend how your last birthday was celebrated. Tell him about the guests, the presents you were given, and the food you ate.

Intermediate – B2

A dialogue between two girls in a language school in England.

Guliana: Hello. I am Guliana from Italy.

Anna: Hi. My name is Anna. I come from Hungary.

G: Nice to meet you.

A: Me too. Where are you from in Italy?

G: I come from Naples. It's in the south of Italy. Where does your family live in Hungary, by the way?

A: We live in the north-west of Hungary, in a small village close to a town called Sopron.

G: And how big is your nuclear family?

A: It's quite small actually, average sized for Hungary. There are four of us, my parents, my brother and me.

G: What do your parents do?

A: My father is retired, but my mum is still at work. She is a chemist.

G: And your brother?

A: He studies economics at Corvinus University in Budapest.

G: What does he look like? Is he good-looking?

A: Well, I don't know. I think he is.