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Family Vocabulary

Ground rules /graʊnd ru:lz/ (N) - Rules telling how people should behave.

Example: My parents had very strict ground rules about doing homework before dinner.

Sibling rivalry /'sɪblɪŋ 'raɪvəlri/ (N) - Competition between siblings.

Example: There was a lot of sibling rivalry in my family, especially when it came to who got the best exam results.

Nephew /'nɛvju(:)/ (N) - The son of your sister or brother.

Example: My nephew Jim is only 5 years younger than me.

Niece /ni:s/ (N) - The daughter of your brother or sister.

Example: My niece was the first in our family to graduate from college.

Cousin /'kʌzn/ (N) - The child of your aunt or uncle.

Example: Every summer, we spent our holidays with our cousins at the seaside.

Nuclear family /'nju:klɪə 'fæmɪli/ (N) - A family consisting of two parents and their children but not including other relatives.

Example: The average nuclear family today has two children.

Extended family /ɪks'tendɪd 'fæmɪli/ (N) - A family that includes relatives such as grandparents, uncles, aunts etc.

Example: We have so many relatives in our extended family that it is hard to remember all their names.

Immediate family /ɪ'mi:diət 'fæmɪli/ (N) - The closest family members such as your spouse, siblings, and children.

Example: We only buy birthday presents for our immediate family.

Bonding /'bɒndɪŋ/ (N) - Developing close personal relationships with someone.

Example: Going on holiday together is a good opportunity for family bonding.

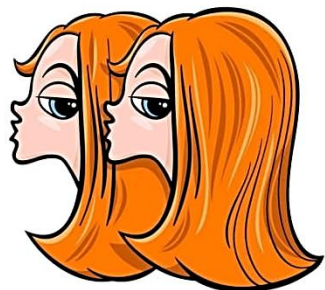
Spoiled child /spɔ:ɪld tʃaɪld/ (N) - A child who gets anything they want and is allowed to behave badly.

Example: My cousin is a spoiled boy. He gets whatever he wants for his birthday, no matter the price.

Family: Idioms

Helicopter parents - Over attentive parents.

Example: My aunt supervises everything her daughter does and never lets her make decisions. She's a real helicopter parent.



The apple of one's eye - Someone's favorite.

Example: Jenny is the apple of her grandparent's eye. They really adore her.



Breadwinner - The person who financially supports the family.

Example: My father is the breadwinner in our family. He works 6 days a week to provide for us.



Spitting image - To look very similar to one of your family members.

Example: She was the spitting image of her mother. Some people thought they were sisters.



Run in the family - Family members have the same personal or physical quality.

Example: Baldness runs in our family. All my brothers lost their hair before they were 30 years old.



A chip off the old block - To have a similar ability or personality to a parent.

Example: James is a professional footballer just like his father. He's a chip off the old block.