

# Unit Eight: Relationships

## Lesson 1

### Family Relationship

**A. Discuss the following questions in pairs.**

1. What do you see in the picture? Can you guess the relationship among the people you see?
2. What type of relationship do you have in your family?
3. Who do you have the closest relationship within the family?

**B. Read the following text and then discuss the questions that follow.**

The famous Greek philosopher Aristotle said, 'Humans are by nature social animals.' What he meant was that human beings, by instinct, seek company of others and establish relationships, much like most animals of the wild, for companionship and for physical and emotional support. Unlike animals, however, human relationships give meaning to their existence and inspire them to do well in education, in workplace or in a profession.

Relationships are of different kinds. Some are familial and intimate, formed by blood and by marriage; some are social like the ones we have with friends and some are made in schools where we form close bonds with classmates and teachers. Relationships can also be fostered in workplaces, which may quickly change from professional to social. There are relationships also between human beings and animals, between children and their toys that they cannot part with.



All these relationships keep us close to each other and provide us all kinds of support, love and affection. A person who has no family feels the pain of loneliness and isolation. There is no one to laugh or cry with him/her. When we share our joy with someone, it simply redoubles, and when we suffer a loss and someone shares our sorrow, it lessens. Relationships are thus needed for our emotional health.

To build relationships, we need to have trust and respect for each other, and love where this is needed. We cannot be selfish and possessive if we want to establish an effective relationship. But quite often we see people quarrelling and fighting with each other which only brings misery and loss to all.

Now discuss the following questions in pairs.

1. Why is relationship so important?
2. What different types of relationships are there?
3. What happens to a person who has no family?
4. What are some of the preconditions of good relationship?

**C. Think of a member of your family who is kind and caring. Write a paragraph in no more than 150 words about him/her. In your paragraph you should include the following:**

- Who is the person?
- What does he/she do for you?
- What do you do to return his/her acts of kindness?
- Give one example of his/her caring attitude.

### **My family**

Members in my family who live with me:

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Things my family likes to do for fun:

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My family is different from other families because  
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What I really like about my family is  
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My favourite memory of my family is when  
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Something I would change about my family is  
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