

Unit 1 – Happy Families

VOCABULARY

Family

mother	nephew
father	husband
sister	wife
brother	father-in-law
daughter	sister-in-law
son	
grandmother	family reunion
grandfather	family tree
granddaughter	relations
grandson	
aunt	
uncle	
niece	

Life events

Verb

be born
be/get engaged
be adopted
be/get married
be/get pregnant
be/get divorced
emigrate

Noun

birth
engagement
adoption
marriage
pregnancy
divorce
emigration

Be vs. get

Be is used with states. For example:
Gloria **is** married. Her parents **are** divorced.

Get is used with actions. For example:
My sister **got** engaged last week. She **is getting** married in the spring.

Speak, talk and say

Speak vs. *talk*: often these verbs mean the same thing.

I **talked** to Gloria on the phone.

I **spoke** to Gloria on the phone.

Special uses of *Speak*:

Language: I **speak** Spanish. NOT: I ~~talk~~ Spanish.

Describing the physical action: He **speaks** very quickly.

Formal talk: The president **spoke** to the journalists about climate change.

Talk: this verb suggests that people are having a conversation.

He loves **talking** to his friends about football.

Uses of *say*:

To introduce a quote: She **said** she can't come.

Before the words *word*, *sentence*, *name*, *something*, *nothing*, etc.:

Can you **say** that **word** again, please?

GRAMMAR

Tense review

Present simple

General states or habits: She **lives** in Bath.

Present continuous

An action in progress in the present:

Now she **is talking** to her sister on the phone.

Future arrangements between people:

She **is planning** a trip to Majorca with her sister.

Past simple

A finished action in the past:

She **went** to Majorca last year.

Present perfect

An action which began in the past and continues now:

How long **has** she **worked** here?

She **has worked** here for five years.

The present perfect is formed using the auxiliary verb *have* + a past participle.

I **have been** here for an hour.

Janet **has worked** here since January.

For and since

She has lived in Bath **for** more than **six years**. (*for* + a period of time)

She has lived in Bath **since 2003**. (*since* + a point in time in the past)

How long

Use *How long* to ask about duration.

Question: **How long** have you lived here?

Answer: For about three years. / Not long. I moved here last summer.

Past participles of irregular verbs

Verb	Past tense	Past participle
go	went	gone
get	got	got
have	had	had
know	knew	known
meet	met	met
say	said	said
speak	spoke	spoken
tell	told	told

USEFUL PHRASES

Asking about recent news

So, how's things?

How are you doing?

What about you? What have you been up to?

Questions to arrange to meet

Are you doing anything next weekend?

Why don't we get together sometime?

Why don't you give me a ring tomorrow?

Note: The question *How's things?* is an informal colloquial expression. The word *things* refers to *everything, your aspects of your life*.

How's things? = How are you doing? = How are you?