LET’S TALK ABOUT FAMILY

I believe that everything has its beginning in the family. Family is very important for every person, because it gives you a sense of stability and tradition, a feeling of having support and understanding. There is a wise saying “Blood is thicker than water”. From my point of view it means that your parents and other relatives will stick by you in times of need more than other people will.

Nothing else but family can be an emotional centre of people’s lives and a transmitter of culture. Understanding between all members of the family and consideration for others are very important in family relationships. Tenderness, warm-heartedness and respect must always be present in the family to make it friendly. In my opinion, when a child is brought up in a friendly family, he or she will become a reliable and responsible person with a strong character and mind.

My family consists of my father, my mother, my sister and me.

I think I’d better start my story with my dad. His name is Vladimir. He is in his late thirties. He’s tall with dark hair and hazel eyes and is of a strong built. He works as an electrician. My father is a very intelligent man and he is fond of reading and watching scientific programs. In some situations he is very serious but in general he is a cheerful person with a good sense of humour. He enjoys telling funny stories and taking photos. I think I take after my dad both in appearance and in character.

My mother’s name is Galina. She is a programmer. She is very interested in her work and she is a professional. It has always impressed me how she can find enough time for both family and work. I can’t say that my mother's life is easy as she has to keep the house and work but she manages to do everything in time. She is a strong and charming person and she does a good job of being a mother. In fact, she means a lot to me. She understands me in the way no other person would and she always finds proper words to comfort me.

My sister Kate is seven years old. She takes after our mother in her appearance. She is a nice girl with green eyes and long fair hair. She is a first-former. She likes music and dancing. She learns to play the piano. She likes playing with toys and watching cartoons in her free time. I love my sister but sometimes we quarrel about petty things. I think I must be more patient and tolerant with her.

We don’t live with our extended family but we have many relations: two grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts, uncles and cousins. All of them live in Belarus and we get together from time to time, mainly on our birthdays or other holidays. It’s also our family tradition to spend summer holidays together either at the seaside or in the country, which I enjoy very much.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

A lot of activities can help members of a family to be on friendly terms: discussing all the family plans, going on trips together, visiting museums, theatres, exhibitions and exchanging opinions about them, sharing joys and sorrows.

The family is a crucial instrument for the development of a child’s personality. In united families parents are honest with their children without moralizing and bossing them around, and children in their turn learn how to get on with other people. Members of such families treat one another with understanding and compassion. They always share domestic chores. Children living in such families feel safe at home. They trust parents, share their secrets and problems with them, ask parents for useful advice and rely on them. They don’t run away from home as they feel happy living there.

At the same time there are different problems which can badly influence family relationship. One of them is generation gap. These days many adults describe their children as “difficult”, “rude”, “wild” and “irresponsible’. Modern teenagers are said to be a generation in a fearful hurry to grow up. Adolescents are overconscious of their appearance and the impression they make on others. They may rebel violently against parental authority, but this causes them great unhappiness as well. And they are not always helped to get through a confusion of life in a productive way. Even teenagers with sympathetic and supportive parents can fall in with a bad company. Being raised by single-parent families as well as watching TV, which takes most of their free time, can also accelerate the desire of children for being independent and causes behaviour problems.

At the same time a lot of parents think that their main duty is to earn money for their family. They are lenient with their children and let them find out about life for themselves. They leave their children to develop their own idea of right and wrong. But it’s a mistake. In my view, parents should try to protect their children from possible bad influences and give them clear guidance about right and wrong.

I do think both parents and children are responsible for good and friendly relationship in the family. Every member of the family must support and respect one another.

**FAMILY TRADITIONS**

As you can see, consideration for others is very important in our family relationships. We have our family traditions which make our life more exciting and interesting, help to understand one another better, to express our emotions and feelings.

Everybody in our family likes having tea when we can speak about our working day, share impressions and good news, discuss our challenges and make plans for the coming day. It’s one of our family traditions. To my mind, it helps us learn more about one another and makes our family united.

Every member of our family looks forward to the weekend. We enjoy going to the cinema and cafes together. In winter we often ski and skate. In other seasons we enjoy riding bikes, going to theme parks or visiting famous sights of our country. We visit our extended family and often help them in the garden. It’s also our family tradition to spend summer holidays together either at the seaside or in the country, which I enjoy very much.

We have other family traditions. Our family see the New Year at home. We cook a lot of delicious food for the night meal which usually starts at 10 p.m. A goose or chicken stuffed with apples is our traditional New Year dish. We sing songs, play games and give presents to one another.

We have a family tradition to celebrate birthdays of each member of the family. On these days we usually have parties. Friends and relatives come with presents and flowers. Our last family birthday was mother's birthday. We wanted to make it a special day since it was her 38th birthday. We had selected a nice present for her and my father and I had done all the cooking. The table was nicely laid up. The party was fantastic. And the guests seemed to enjoy themselves a lot.

In conclusion I’d like to say that if to speak about my family, I do appreciate it that my parents trust and respect me, rely on me. In my turn, I try to help them with household chores. I share my joys and sorrows with them. I’m happy to say that my home is the place where everybody understands, respects and loves me. To my mind, this is the way things should be in any family.

**QUESTIONS**

**№1**

**Let`s talk about family.**

1. What role does family play in each person`s life?
2. Do you have your own family traditions?
3. Are there any things that you do with your parents together?
4. What is your parents` attitude to your friends?
5. Who takes responsible decisions in your family?

**№2**

**Let`s talk about family traditions.**

1. Do you know your family history?
2. What close and distant relatives do you have?
3. When and in what way do you celebrate your birthday?
4. What is your favourite family tradition?
5. Are there any things that you do with your parents together?

**№3**

**Let`s talk about family relationship.**

1. Are you on good terms with your parents and grandparents?
2. What do your parents praise you for?
3. Would you like to spend your weekend with your family or with your friends?
4. Is there a generation gap in your family?
5. What does family happiness depend on in your opinion?