

IELTS ENGLISH PODCAST. FAMILY. TRANSCRIPT

Part 1. How much time do you spend with your family?

I spend a lot of time with my family, we eat dinner together. In fact, eating together is a really important part of our family. We always make sure we gather particularly for dinner and sometimes we cook the food or we choose which food we're going to eat together and then we sit down and we spend the time chatting. Enjoying the moment together we also like to hike. Sometimes, we hike around the local area or we go further, we go somewhere and we have hiking trips and I think hiking's a really important part of our family.

Part 1. How often do you have family get-togethers?

Well, I live in Korea so we have family get-togethers once every two years of course, this is not normal, but I go back every two years and I really like to go back around Christmas so that I can spend time with my family and do all of the kind of Christmas traditions. Of course, if I lived in England, I would prefer to meet my family and have get-togethers perhaps once a month. We'll see. I will move back one day.

Part 2. Describe a family member that you get on well with.

I would like to tell you about my uncle Chris. When was young, I spent a lot of time with my uncle Chris. I think he came to our house a few times a year, but when he came I really enjoyed spending time with him. One of the things that really sticks out to me that I remember is that he was very passionate about birds, birdwatching, identify birds and he bought me a bird-watching book. I believe he bought it for me and he would talk about birds and teach me about birds and teach me. Then when he was gone, I would read this book and I devoured this book. I really enjoyed reading it and learning more about birds.

So, let me tell you a little more about my uncle Chris. I think he's a really passionate person about the things he's interested in which is mostly nature-related. I don't particularly look like him. You know... certainly not a spitting image of him anyway. I think he... I take after him in in my personality. I think in some respects. I'm a little bit quiet and I think he is too. We both really like chatting and socialising so I would say I take after him. Of course, he's part of my extended family. He is my uncle on my mother's side. In my opinion, well, he's a very important family member to me and I still really enjoyed catching up with him every time I go back to England. In the future when I move back to England I hope to spend more time with him and of course, introduce my daughter Chloe to him.

Part 3. Is family important in your country?

Yeah, I think family is important. So of course, I'm from England, it's very important it depends on the family. Normally immediate family is very important and I know a lot of close-knit families so for these families it's really... family gatherings, special occasions, family traditions, this is so important, but I don't know, I think things change and perhaps for some families they're growing more distant. There are sibling rivalries which break up families and perhaps it's changing, perhaps friends are becoming as important or even more important. I know for me another very important thing is community, but, to answer your question, I would say families are important.

Part 3. Is it better to grow up in a small family or a large, extended family?

Oh, I don't know, I would say... my feeling is it's better to grow up in a large extended family. The reason I say this is because I think just having a... as I grow older, I feel like community is more and more important and perhaps having a large extended family provides you with more of a community, it allows you more people to talk to, to spend time with, to learn from. Perhaps we can learn more from our ancestors. Maybe more people in the extended family have knowledge about that. Of course, if a family is dysfunctional it doesn't matter whether you're small or large, but overall, I would say that large extended family is preferable.

VOCABULARY

ancestor (noun) - a person in your family who lived a long time ago

close-knit (adjective) - having strong relationships with each other and taking a close, friendly interest in each other's activities and problems

community (noun) - all the people who live in a particular area, country, etc. when talked about as a group

devour (verb) - to eat all of something quickly, especially because you are very hungry

dysfunctional (adjective) - not working well or normally

extend (verb) - to make something longer or larger

gather (verb) - to come together, or bring people together, in one place to form a group

identify (verb) - to recognize somebody/something and be able to say who or what they are

immediate (adjective) - happening or done without delay

introduce (verb) - tell two or more people who have not met before what each other's names are; to tell somebody what your name is

particular (adjective) - used to emphasize that you are referring to one individual person, thing or type of thing and not others

passionate (adjective) - having or showing strong feelings of sexual love or of anger, etc.

rivalry (noun) - a state in which two people, companies, etc. are competing for the same thing

sibling (noun) - a brother or sister