



Family and Relationships

Vocabulary Long List

Topic vocabulary, useful phrases, phrasal verbs and idioms | Cambridge IGCSE ESL

<p>1 Learn by theme Study one table at a time.</p>	<p>2 Notice combinations Learn complete phrases, not isolated words.</p>	<p>3 Use the examples Adapt each sentence for speaking or writing.</p>
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Family life

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
family routine	the activities a family regularly does	A shared family routine can make mornings calmer.
household chores	regular jobs needed to maintain a home	Children can help with suitable household chores.
spend quality time	give full attention to people you care about	We spend quality time together at weekends.
family gathering	an occasion when relatives meet	The celebration became a large family gathering.
close relative	a family member with a strong or direct relationship	She asked a close relative for advice.
generation	people born during a similar period	Different generations may have different experiences.

Communication at home

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
communicate clearly	express information in an understandable way	Family members should communicate clearly about responsibilities.
listen carefully	give full attention to what someone says	Listening carefully can prevent misunderstandings.
express feelings	communicate emotions through words or actions	Young people need safe ways to express feelings.
resolve a disagreement	find a solution to an argument	Calm discussion helped them resolve the disagreement.
honest conversation	open and truthful discussion	An honest conversation rebuilt trust.
keep in touch	continue communicating with someone	Video calls help relatives keep in touch.



FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS | CORE VOCABULARY

Support and responsibility

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
support each other	give one another practical or emotional help	Strong families support each other during difficulties.
share responsibility	divide duties fairly among people	Parents and children can share responsibility for chores.
depend on someone	need or trust someone for help	Young children depend on adults for care.
offer advice	give a helpful opinion about what someone should do	My sister offered useful advice about university.
provide encouragement	give someone confidence or hope	Parents can provide encouragement without creating pressure.
be there for someone	be available to support someone	Good friends are there for one another.

Friendship

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
close friend	a friend with whom someone has a strong relationship	A close friend listens without judging.
make friends	begin friendly relationships with people	Clubs make it easier to make friends.
have something in common	share an interest or characteristic	We became friends because we had music in common.
trust someone	believe that someone is honest and reliable	It takes time to trust someone fully.
loyal	continuing to support a person or group	A loyal friend does not share private information.
mutual respect	respect felt and shown by both people	Healthy friendships are based on mutual respect.



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Conflict and reconciliation

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
fall out with	have an argument and stop being friendly	He fell out with a friend over a rumour.
misunderstanding	a failure to understand someone correctly	A short message caused a misunderstanding.
apologise sincerely	say sorry in an honest and genuine way	She apologised sincerely for the hurtful comment.
make peace	end a disagreement and become friendly again	The classmates eventually made peace.
compromise	an agreement in which each side accepts less than it wanted	A fair compromise solved the problem.
forgive someone	stop feeling angry about a person's mistake	Forgiving someone can take time.

Peer pressure and choices

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
peer pressure	influence from people of a similar age	Peer pressure can affect teenagers' decisions.
fit in	feel accepted as part of a group	Some students change their behaviour to fit in.
make a sensible choice	choose carefully and responsibly	A supportive friend encourages you to make a sensible choice.
stand up for yourself	defend your rights or opinions confidently	Young people should learn to stand up for themselves respectfully.
negative influence	a person or force that encourages harmful behaviour	Online groups can sometimes become a negative influence.
personal values	principles that guide someone's behaviour	Strong personal values can help people resist pressure.



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Role models and influence

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
role model	a person whose behaviour is admired and copied	Coaches can become positive role models.
set a good example	behave in a way others should copy	Older siblings can set a good example.
inspire someone	make someone want to act or achieve something	Her determination inspired younger students.
look up to	admire and respect someone	Many children look up to a family member.
positive influence	an effect that encourages helpful behaviour	A patient teacher can be a positive influence.
earn respect	gain admiration through actions	People earn respect by behaving fairly.

Healthy relationships

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
personal boundary	a limit that protects someone's comfort or wellbeing	Friends should respect each other's personal boundaries.
respect privacy	avoid interfering with private information or space	Family members need to respect privacy.
build trust	develop confidence in someone's honesty and reliability	Keeping promises helps build trust.
healthy relationship	a relationship based on respect, safety and support	Honest communication is part of a healthy relationship.
emotional support	help given through listening and understanding	Close friends can provide emotional support.
feel valued	feel appreciated and considered important	People feel valued when their ideas are heard.



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Phrasal verbs

Use these natural verb combinations when speaking or writing about this topic.

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
get along with	have a friendly relationship with	I get along well with my cousins.
look after	take care of someone	Older relatives sometimes help look after children.
grow up	develop from a child into an adult	The friends grew up in the same neighbourhood.
fall out	argue and stop being friendly	They fell out over a misunderstanding.
make up	become friendly again after an argument	The sisters talked and made up.
open up	talk honestly about thoughts or feelings	He opened up to a trusted friend.
stand by	continue supporting someone	Good friends stand by each other.
take after	resemble an older family member	She takes after her mother in personality.
bring up	care for and educate a child	They brought up their children to respect others.
drift apart	gradually become less close	Friends may drift apart when their lives change.
let down	disappoint someone	Breaking a promise can let someone down.
turn to	ask someone for help or advice	She turned to her aunt for support.

High-value collocations

share household chores	spend quality time	communicate clearly
support each other	share responsibility	keep in touch
make close friends	build mutual respect	resolve a disagreement
offer a sincere apology	resist peer pressure	make sensible choices
set a good example	earn someone's trust	respect personal boundaries
provide emotional support	feel valued	maintain a healthy relationship



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Idioms and figurative expressions

Use these selectively. One natural expression is more effective than several forced into the same answer.

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
see eye to eye	agree about something	Parents and teenagers do not always see eye to eye.
be on the same wavelength	think or communicate similarly	The friends are on the same wavelength.
through thick and thin	during both good and difficult times	Loyal friends support each other through thick and thin.
clear the air	discuss a problem to reduce tension	They met to clear the air after the argument.
build bridges	improve relationships between people or groups	Community events can build bridges between generations.
the apple of someone's eye	a person who is deeply loved	Her youngest grandson is the apple of her eye.
get on like a house on fire	become friendly very quickly	The new classmates got on like a house on fire.
blood is thicker than water	family relationships can be especially strong	For him, blood is thicker than water during a crisis.

Exam-ready language

Purpose	Useful sentence frame
Introducing a benefit	<i>One significant benefit is that...</i>
Introducing a drawback	<i>A possible drawback is that...</i>
Balancing an argument	<i>Although this offers clear advantages, it may also...</i>
Explaining a result	<i>As a result, people may...</i>
Giving an example	<i>A clear example of this can be seen when...</i>
Making a comparison	<i>Compared with..., this option is...</i>
Giving advice	<i>People can improve the situation by...</i>
Suggesting action	<i>One practical solution would be to...</i>
Expressing caution	<i>It is important to consider whether...</i>
Giving an opinion	<i>In my view, the most sensible approach is to...</i>