

Transcript: Talking about Families

Sarah: Hello and welcome to Everyday English. I'm Sarah.

Jack: And I'm Jack.

Sarah: Today we're going to be talking a bit more about **families** and how to describe our family members.

Jack: Sarah, you've got two siblings. Is that right?

Sarah: I do! I've got two younger brothers, Daniel and Luke. I'm the oldest and then there's Daniel. He's the middle child. And Luke is the youngest.

Sarah: Now when you have a number of siblings like me, you often list them in order of birth. You can use the superlative adjective **oldest** to describe the firstborn child. And **youngest** to refer to the child that was born last. The youngest in your family can be also be called your **baby brother** or your **baby sister**. Or **little brother** or **little sister**.

Jack: **Older** and **younger** are **comparative adjectives**. When we're making comparisons, we usually use the word **than**. For example, I'm younger than Sarah.

Sarah: Shh, don't tell them that!

Sarah: We often use **comparative and superlative adjectives** to talk about our family members and compare them to others. For example:

My brothers are **taller** than me.

Grandpa thinks he is **more intelligent** than his kids.

Dad likes ice cream **better** than chocolate.

My stepbrother is the **shortest** in the family.

Uncle James is the **most patient** of all my uncles.

Sarah: Make sure you use the right plural form when you're talking about more than one family member. Examples:

Uncle becomes **uncles**

Sister becomes **sisters**

Brother becomes brothers

Jack: If a word ends in 'y', you add "ies". For example, '**baby**' becomes '**babies**'.

Sarah: If you wanted to **provide more information** about your family members, then you could talk about where they grew up, their schooling, careers, relationship status or hobbies. You could also mention **how they're related to you**.

Jack: Let's listen to some people talk about their family members.

Nic: Is this your family?

Charlotte: Yeah so this was taken at my cousin's wedding. That's my cousin there, the bride, and then here's my dad.

Nic: Is he the tall one?

Charlotte: No, no that's my uncle. My dad's the shortest one of the family. He's here. And then oh, my two sisters.

Nic: Oh! I didn't realise you had sisters. Are they younger or older?

Charlotte: They're both younger so I'm the oldest of the family and then there's Teagan who's the middle child and then Sophie who is the youngest but she's the tallest of the family too so she's amazing at sport.

Nic: I bet you're the loudest though.

Charlotte: Yeah I am.

Nic: Um who's that?

Charlotte: That's my cousin, Emma. So she was born in Darwin and grew up on a property in the Northern Territory with my aunty and uncle and her brother, Joe. Joe's actually a mining engineer so he works on a mine near Alice Springs and Emma moved to Canberra to study at ANU and she studied a Masters in Archaeology.

Nic: Oh wow, that's interesting.

Charlotte: She actually married an anthropologist and they love history and they actually went to Egypt in March last year.

Nic: Are you catching up with them soon?

Charlotte: Yeah I'm actually seeing them this weekend on Sunday at lunchtime.

Nic: Oh awesome!

Sarah: Now when we're talking about the lives of our family members we often use **prepositions**.

Jack: **In, on** and **at** are **prepositions of time and place**. You can use them to talk about places. For example:

She was born **in** Darwin.

She grew up **on** a property.

She studies **at** the Australian National University.

Sarah: And you can also use them for talking about time.

They went to Egypt **in** March.

I'll see them **on** Sunday.

We'll meet **at** lunchtime.

Sarah: Here's an easy way to remember when to use each preposition. We use **in** for something general and **at** for something very specific.

Sarah: Now you might also want to talk about your family, or other families, in a more general way. For example, is your family big or small? Are you closer to your immediate family or your extended family? Or, is there any such thing as a normal family? What do you think, Jack?

Jack: There's definitely no such thing as a normal family! Families come in all shapes and sizes but they're always interesting to talk about.

Sarah: Well that's it from us for now. We'll see you later!