



UNIT 3A · GENERAL A1

This is my family

Class Book and Workbook · one complete unit

By the end you will...

- Name family members: mother, father, brother, sister, etc.
- Use possessive adjectives: my, your, his, her, our, their
- Talk about ages with 'How old...?' and numbers
- Describe your family in short sentences
- Ask simple questions about someone else's family

Warm-up · My family in one word

Say one word about your family.

- How many people are in your family?
- Who is the oldest person in your family?
- Do you have brothers or sisters? How many?

1. Lead-in · Two family groups

Look at the two groups. Say each word and add one more word to each group.

- mother
- father
- brother
- sister
- son
- daughter
- grandmother
- grandfather
- aunt
- uncle
- cousin
- nephew

How many people are in your close family? Tell your partner.

2. Reading · The Costa family

This is the Costa family. Ana is the mother. She is 38 years old. Her husband, Pedro, is 40. They have two children.

Their son is Luis. He is 12 years old, and their daughter is Sofia. She is 8. Luis likes football and Sofia likes drawing.

Ana's mother, Rosa, lives with them. She is Luis and Sofia's grandmother. 'My grandmother is very kind,' says Luis. 'She tells us funny stories every night.'

Comprehension

How old is Pedro?

Who likes drawing?

Who is Rosa in the family?

2b. Words in the text

Match the word with the meaning.

- husband
a woman's husband is her married partner
- son
a male child
- daughter
a female child
- kind
friendly and good to other people

2c. Talk about the text

Answer in one or two sentences.

- Is your family like the Costa family?
Answer key: Model: My family is a little different. I have one brother and no sisters.
- Who tells stories in your family?
Answer key: Model: My grandfather tells stories about his job.

Families Are Getting Smaller

Source: Apex English · graded news-style report · Original text written for Apex English (A1 graded reader)

A short report about the size of families today.

In the past, many families were big. Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and children often lived in one house together.

Today, families are smaller. In many countries, a family has only two or three people: a mother, a father and one child. Some people live alone, or with just their partner.

'My grandmother had six brothers and sisters,' says Elena, a teacher. 'I only have one sister. Our families are very different.' But she says one thing is the same: 'We still love our families very much, big or small.'

1. READ FOR GIST

- What is the text about?
Answer key: How the size of families has changed over time.
- What stays the same, big or small family?
Answer key: People still love their families very much.

2. READ FOR DETAIL

- How many brothers and sisters did Elena's grandmother have?
Answer key: Six.
- How many sisters does Elena have?
Answer key: One.
- What is Elena's job?
Answer key: She is a teacher.

3. GLOSSARY

in the past

a long time ago

partner

the person you live with, like a husband or wife

alone

without other people

still

even now, after a long time

4. DISCUSS IN PAIRS

- Is your family big or small?
- Do grandparents, aunts and uncles live near you?

3. Vocabulary · Family members**SET A**

mother / father

your parents

brother / sister

your siblings

son / daughter

your children

grandmother / grandfather

your grandparents

aunt / uncle

your parent's sister/brother

cousin

your aunt or uncle's child

SET B

How old is your brother?

ask about age

He's ten years old.

answer about age

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

ask about siblings

I'm an only child.

say you have no siblings

Practice

Complete with ONE word.

- My mother's mother is my grandmother.
- My father's brother is my uncle.
- My parents' daughter (not me) is my sister.
- How old is your sister? — She's fifteen.
- I have no brothers or sisters. I'm an only child.

3b. Family and age

Match the person with a typical age description.

- a baby
less than one year old
- a teenager
between 13 and 19 years old
- a grandparent
often over 60 years old
- an adult
18 years old or more

4. Grammar · Possessive adjectives

my / your

I my sister. You your brother.

his / her / its

He his mother. She her father. It its name (for animals/things).

our / their

We our family. They their house.

Possessive adjective + noun

A possessive adjective always comes before a noun: my sister, her brother, their parents.

his vs her

his = belongs to a man. her = belongs to a woman. Don't confuse them!

Common mistake

Do NOT say 'his' for a woman. 'Ana and his brother' is wrong 'Ana and her brother'.

Whose is it?

It's mine / yours / his / hers / ours / theirs. (We study this more in 3B.)

4a. Choose the correct word

Complete with my, your, his, her, our or their.

- I love ___ family. (I)
Answer key: my
- Ana loves ___ mother. (Ana = she)
Answer key: her

- Tom loves ___ father. (Tom = he)
Answer key: his
- We love ___ grandparents. (we)
Answer key: our
- They love ___ children. (they)
Answer key: their
- Is this ___ sister? (you)
Answer key: your

4b. Rewrite the sentence

Rewrite using the correct possessive adjective.

- Maria has a brother. (Maria) brother is ten.
Answer key: Her brother is ten.
- Carlos has a daughter. (Carlos) daughter is five.
Answer key: His daughter is five.
- We have a house. (we) house is small.
Answer key: Our house is small.
- They have a car. (they) car is red.
Answer key: Their car is red.

4c. his or her?

Complete with his or her.

- Sofia loves ___ grandmother.
Answer key: her
- Luis plays with ___ cousin.
Answer key: his
- Pedro visits ___ parents every Sunday.
Answer key: his
- Ana calls ___ sister every week.
Answer key: her

Look at the picture and use the grammar you just studied

Look at the picture. Write 4–5 sentences about the family. Use possessive adjectives (his/her/their).

5. Listening · Show me a photo

Julia shows David a photo of her family. Listen for the family words and the ages.

Two voices — no narrator introduction.

Before you listen

- Do you have a family photo on your phone?
- Who is in your favourite family photo?

First listen — gist

- What does Julia show David?
Answer key: A photo of her family.

- How many people are in the photo?

Answer key: Five people.

Second listen — detail

- Who is the man next to Julia?

Answer key: Her husband, Tom.

- How old is Julia's son?

Answer key: He is seven.

- How old is her daughter?

Answer key: She is four.

- Who is the older woman in the photo?

Answer key: Julia's mother, the children's grandmother.

5b. Useful language

Match the phrase with the use.

- Who is this?
ask about a person in a photo
- This is my husband.
introduce a family member
- How old is he/she?
ask about someone's age
- They look happy!
give an opinion about a photo

6. Speaking · My family

Work in pairs. Show a real or imaginary family photo. Ask and answer questions about the family.

- Show a family photo
A: Introduce three people in your family. Say their names and ages.
B: Ask 'Who is this?' and 'How old is he/she?'.
- New neighbours meet
A: Talk about your family: 'I have... His/Her name is...'.
B: Ask about the other person's family.

6b. Talk together

Ask and answer in pairs.

- How many people are in your family?
- Who is the youngest person in your family?
- Do you see your grandparents often?
- Who do you look like in your family?

6c. Mini presentation · My family tree

Draw or describe your family tree. Say 4–5 sentences.

- Parents: 'My mother's name is... My father's name is...'
- Siblings: 'I have... brother(s)/sister(s).'
- Ages: 'He/She is... years old.'
- Grandparents: 'My grandmother/grandfather...'

- Finish: 'My favourite family member is... because...'

7. Writing · My family

Write 40–50 words about your family. Say who is in your family, their names and ages, and use possessive adjectives (my, his, her, our). Finish with one sentence about your favourite family member.

WORKBOOK · HOME PRACTICE

Unit 3A Workbook

Do this after class. Answers are marked for your teacher.

1. Vocabulary gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box.

- My father's mother is my grandmother.
- My mother's brother is my uncle.
- My parents' other daughter is my sister.
- My aunt's son is my cousin.
- I have no brothers or sisters. I'm an only child.
- Ana's husband is called Pedro. They are married.
- Their daughter is eight years old.

2. my, your, his, her, our or their?

Complete with the correct possessive adjective.

- I love ___ family. (I)
Answer key: my
- Tom loves ___ brother. (Tom = he)
Answer key: his
- Ana loves ___ sister. (Ana = she)
Answer key: her
- We love ___ parents. (we)
Answer key: our
- They love ___ grandmother. (they)
Answer key: their
- Is this ___ cousin? (you)
Answer key: your
- Rosa is happy — ___ children visit every Sunday. (Rosa = she)
Answer key: her

3. his or her?

Choose the correct word.

Marco calls ___ mother every day.

Elena visits ___ grandfather on Sundays.

Luis plays with ___ sister.

Sofia loves ___ uncle.

Pedro and his brother love ___ parents.

David talks about ___ family every day.

4. Find and fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Write it correctly.

- Ana loves his mother.
Answer key: Ana loves her mother.
- Tom loves her father.
Answer key: Tom loves his father.

- This is we family.
Answer key: This is our family.
- How old are your sister?
Answer key: How old is your sister?
- They love they children.
Answer key: They love their children.
- She is a only child.
Answer key: She is an only child.

5. Listening · Family photos

Three people talk about a family photo. Listen for the family words and the ages.

- Speaker 1: who is in the photo?
Answer key: His wife and their two sons, aged six and nine.
- Speaker 2: who is the older woman?
Answer key: Her grandmother, who is eighty years old.
- Speaker 3: how many cousins does she have?
Answer key: She has five cousins.

6. Writing · A family member I love

Write 40–50 words about one family member. Say who they are, their age, and one thing you do together. Use possessive adjectives.

7. Reflection

Answer in one or two sentences.

- Which possessive adjective is difficult for you: his or her? Write two examples.
Answer key: Model: I sometimes say 'his' for a woman. 'Ana loves his mother' is wrong; it's 'her mother'.
- Write four family words with your own family's names.
Answer key: Model: my mother — Laura, my father — Diego, my sister — Vera, my grandmother — Elsa.