



Roles in the Family

Task: Traditional and Modern Day Families

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **traditional and modern day families**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

There have always been families, in all different shapes and sizes. However, the concept of what a family could be **has somewhat changed throughout** the decades. Why do you think that is?

Formally, the average family was considered to be formed of a father, mother and the more children, the merrier. It was **looked upon** badly to not be married and have children, so people would **typically** get married before having children. Furthermore, it was **absolutely** necessary that one parent stayed home to take care of the children and make sure they grew up right, with all the correct morals. So, it was understood that the man would be the **breadwinner** for the house and the woman would keep up the household and the family. It was at the time a silent understanding between spouses and it was just the way things were. **It might have been for this reason why families seem to be closer in the past than in the present.** The mother was able to keep an eye on everything and spend personal time with each family member, **basically making her the heart of the family.** It is **needless to say**, that gender roles had clear expectations, so it shouldn't be a surprise that boys and girls were often raised differently, with different physical and emotional expectations. A boy was expected to play rough and speak up, whilst a girl to have ladylike manners and do as she was told.

Now on the flipside, pushing forward into the future, we are able to see that things have changed in so many ways. **The contrast is unmistakable.** Unlike the past, where children were expected to be seen and not heard, now they are encouraged to express their opinion, **albeit it be about political views, what is seen on the news or about their own future.** **Another point of contrast** is that now there are many people that feel marriage is outdated and that you don't have to be married to live together or form a family. Hence, people are married due to their desire to and not simply because it is the next step that is expected of them. Something that has become a bit of a necessity is that in most cases both parents have to work. This is primarily for two reasons. **Firstly**, women have gained their independence, and can do just about most of the things a man can, which is true on the contrary as well. **Secondly**, the cost of living is more expensive now, especially to have children. **Therefore**, in most cases if the family wishes to maintain a particular lifestyle, they have no choice but to have both parents work. **This has brought on the given consequence of the fact that families now have less children, from one to two children being the rule of thumb.** Some countries have real concerns for the future, since they will find themselves with having more elderly

and less young adults in the near future. It is a real concern for those societies. One of the most interesting developments that past families would have been flabbergasted by is the variety of families that exist nowadays. Not only are there families of two parents in the household as there were in the past, but also there are families where the parents are divorced, single parents and same-sex parents. Even though some people are not so accepting of change even now, we are becoming a more tolerant society as time goes by.

Don't you think that it might be high time that we accepted the changes that have come with families of this day and age? It is easy to see that families have changed. In some ways for the better, while in other ways not so much. In any case of the matter, the majority of people always do the best they can for their family, especially when children are involved.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, aspects about traditional families and modern day families.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, aspects about traditional families and modern day families. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accept change and families have changed, some for the better and some not so much, but always try to do the best they can
Traditional Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People would get married before they had children ● One parent should stay at home and take care of the children, usually the woman ● Families were closer in the past than the present ● Boys and girls were raised differently
Modern Day Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children are encouraged to express their opinion: political opinions, what is seen on the news, their future goals ● Some think marriage is outdated ● Both parents often have to work ● Families are having less children

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More variety in types of families than in the past, divorced parents, single parents, same-sex parents
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Marks: +_ / +10

Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but.... / Don't you think it might be....?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off