

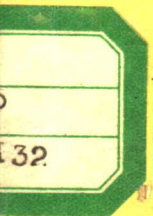
ENGLISH IN FOCUS

# English in Social Studies

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Acknowledgements

The authors and publishers are grateful to the owners of copyright material used in the preparation of this book.

The population diagrams in Unit 5 are based on those in Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich (1972) *Population, Resources, Environment: Issues in Human Ecology*, second edition, San Francisco, W. H. Freeman and Company, and the census diagrams in Unit 6 on figures in E. J. B. Rose and others (1969) *Colour and Citizenship*, London, Institute of Race Relations and Oxford University Press, by permission of the publishers. The material on the history of urban development in Unit 7 is derived from R. E. Dickinson (1962) *The West European City*, London, Routledge and Kegan Paul. The texts in Unit 8 and its sketchmaps are based on or directly quoted from Colin Buchanan (1963) *Traffic in Towns*, London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by permission of the Controller.

The authors would like to thank Rosemary Johnson of the Department of Sociology, University of Edinburgh, for her comments on an early draft of the manuscript.

# Introduction

The aim of this book is to develop a basic knowledge of how English is used for communication in dealing with topics in social studies. It is intended for students who already know how to handle the common English sentence patterns but who need to learn how these patterns are used to convey information and to conduct coherent discussion.

The exercises direct the student's attention to certain features of English which are commonly used in the social sciences. The aim is to provide the student with a strategy for reading more difficult texts in this subject area and to prepare him for making effective use of English in his own writing.

Although the emphasis is on English as a medium of expression for communicating ideas about the social sciences, the basic elements of the language have not been neglected. Pattern practice is provided, particularly in the use of language and guided writing sections of each unit, but this kind of work is always presented in relation to a communicative context and not simply as an exercise in making sentences for their own sake.

This book does not aim at teaching the subject-matter of the social sciences, and it does not aim at teaching grammatical structures and vocabulary as such. Its purpose is to show how language is used as a medium for social studies and so to give students a grounding in one particular set of communication skills in English.

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# 1 Kinship and the family

## I READING AND COMPREHENSION

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NOTE *The reading passage at the beginning of each unit will be interrupted by certain statements printed in italics. The learner is required to assess whether these are true or false in the light of his understanding of the passage up to this point.*

<sup>1</sup>Most social anthropologists recognize the family as a basic social unit. <sup>2</sup>In its most elementary form it may be defined as a group consisting of a man and a woman and their children living together in one home. <sup>3</sup>Such a domestic group is known as a nuclear family. <sup>4</sup>It is usually established by means of a formal contract of marriage, but a contract of this kind is not a necessary condition for a nuclear family to exist. <sup>5</sup>It can also be said to exist when a couple and their offspring share a common residence, whether the couple is married or not. <sup>6</sup>That is to say, a family may exist even when the relationship between the man and the woman is one of concubinage rather than one of marriage.

*Study the following statements carefully and write down whether they are true or not true according to the information expressed above. Then complete the solutions at the end of the passage by referring to the sentences indicated in brackets.\* When the solutions are complete, you will be able to check your answers to the comprehension questions.*

- (a) *A nuclear family is a couple and their offspring sharing a common residence.*  
(b) *A nuclear family is established by marriage.*

<sup>7</sup>Although we can, in general, define the nuclear family as a couple and their children living within the same residential boundary, we must recognize that such a definition is in fact a generalization which may not hold true in particular instances. <sup>8</sup>Sometimes a nuclear family is incomplete in that one

\* Note that the completion may sometimes require the insertion of one word and sometimes of more than one. The following symbols are used in the solutions:

i.e. that is to say

e.g. for example

= equals, means the same as

∴ therefore

## 2 English in Social Studies

spouse is absent from the household. <sup>9</sup>When a family is incomplete it is usually the man rather than the woman who is away from home. <sup>10</sup>Such a situation may be the result of social convention. <sup>11</sup>For example, among the Ashanti, a tribe living in Ghana, spouses continue to reside with their own kin after marriage and do not live together as husband and wife. <sup>12</sup>On the other hand, a nuclear family may be incomplete by reason of economic necessity. <sup>13</sup>Sometimes, for example, a man has to leave his family to work in another part of the country or in a different country altogether. <sup>14</sup>This is the case with many workers in South Africa and with foreign workers in France and Germany.

- (c) *In an incomplete nuclear family it is the man who is absent from the household.*
- (d) *The man's absence is caused by economic necessity.*

<sup>15</sup>The nuclear family may be extended by the addition of other people living within the same residential boundary. <sup>16</sup>So far we have been assuming that the family is always based on monogamous marriage; that is to say, that it has only one man and one woman living together as husband and wife. <sup>17</sup>But monogamy is only one form of marriage. <sup>18</sup>In societies where polygamy is practised the family will, of course, include more than two spouses. <sup>19</sup>In the case of polygyny, it will include one husband and more than one wife, and in the case of polyandry it will include one wife and more than one husband. <sup>20</sup>In a polygynous society, therefore, the nuclear family will be extended by the addition of one or more wives and in polyandrous societies it will be extended by the addition of one or more husbands.

- (e) *In some families there are more than two spouses.*
- (f) *In polygynous societies, the nuclear families include more than one husband.*

<sup>21</sup>In both monogamous and polygamous societies, families may also be extended by the addition of related or non-related people. <sup>22</sup>In some, for example, people like servants and workmen live with the family as members of the household. <sup>23</sup>Again, one often finds that families are extended by the addition of consanguineal relatives, or kin, of one or more of the marriage partners, like brothers, sisters, fathers, grandfathers and so on. <sup>24</sup>Affinal relatives like brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and so on may also become members of the family and share a common residence with the brother or sister of their spouses.

## SOLUTIONS

Complete the following statements by referring to the sentences of the passage which are indicated in brackets. Note that sometimes more than one word is required.

- (a) People who live together in one home are people who . . . (5). A man and a woman and their children sharing a common residence is a . . . (3) which is known as a nuclear family.  
*i.e.* A . . . (5) and their . . . (5) sharing a common residence are known as a nuclear family.  
 = *A nuclear family is a couple and their offspring sharing a common residence.*
- (b) A nuclear family is . . . (4) established by marriage.  
*but* A family may exist even when . . . (5) is not married.  
 ∴ Although a nuclear family is *usually* established by marriage, it can also be established by concubinage.
- (c) In a nuclear family which is . . . (8), either the man or the woman is away from home.  
*i.e.* One of the . . . (8) is . . . (8).  
 The spouse who is absent from the household is . . . (9) the man.  
*i.e.* In an incomplete nuclear family it is the man who is *usually* absent from the household.
- (d) The man is . . . (8) away because of . . . (12).  
*i.e.* His absence *may* be caused by economic necessity.  
 The man is . . . (8) absent because of . . . (10).  
*i.e.* His absence may also be caused by social convention.  
 ∴ The man's absence may be caused by economic necessity *or* social convention.
- (e) In a . . . (16) marriage there are two people living together as husband and wife.  
*but* Not all marriages are . . . (16).  
*i.e.* Not all families have only two . . . (18).  
*i.e.* *In some families there are more than two spouses.*
- (f) In a society where polygyny is practised the nuclear family includes more than one . . . (19).  
 = In polygynous societies, the nuclear families include more than one wife.

#### EXERCISE A *Meaning assessment*

Refer to the passage and

- (a) decide whether the following statements are true or false according to the passage, and  
 (b) write out the true statement which expresses the most central idea.

##### *Paragraph 1*

1. A nuclear family is always established by marriage.

#### 4 *English in Social Studies*

2. A nuclear family is defined by common residence.
3. A nuclear family is a domestic group.

##### *Paragraph 2*

1. Ashanti husbands do not live with their wives.
2. Foreign workers in France are absent from their families because of social convention.
3. Sometimes a man has to leave his family to find work away from home.
4. Nuclear families are sometimes incomplete for one reason or another.

##### *Paragraph 3*

1. Nuclear families are monogamous.
2. There are two wives in polygamous homes.
3. In polygamous societies there are more than two spouses in the family.
4. In a polyandrous society a man may be married to more than one wife.

##### *Paragraph 4*

1. Kin are consanguineal relatives.
2. Sisters-in-law are kin.
3. In some societies relatives of the spouses may become members of the family.
4. Workmen sometimes become members of the household.

#### EXERCISE B *Contextual reference*

Refer to the relevant contexts in the reading passage and replace or expand the expressions printed in italics with expressions which make the meaning clear. For example:

*It* can also be said to exist when a couple and their offspring share a common residence, whether the couple is married or not. (5)

A NUCLEAR FAMILY can also be said to exist when a man and a woman and their offspring share a common residence, whether the couple is married or not.

1. In its most elementary form *it* may be defined as a group consisting of a man and woman and their children living together in one home. (2)
2. *Such a domestic group* is known as a nuclear family. (3)
3. *A contract of this kind* is not a necessary condition for a nuclear family to exist. (4)
4. *Such a definition* is a generalization which may not always hold true in particular instances. (7)
5. *Such a situation* may be the result of social convention. (10)
6. In the case of polygyny, *it* will include one husband and more than one wife and in the case of polyandry *it* will include one wife and more than one husband. (19)

7. In polyandrous societies, *it* will be extended by the addition of one or more husbands. (20)
8. In *some*, people like servants live with the family as members of the household. (22)

### EXERCISE C *Summary*

Arrange the final statements in the Solutions and put them together with the following statements to make a summary of the reading passage. Note: the statements are not in the right order.

1. Again, in some societies the family will be extended to include kin relatives and relatives by marriage.
2. A nuclear family is not always complete.
3. In the case of a polyandrous society, on the other hand, the nuclear family is extended by the addition of one or more husband.
4. In such societies, therefore, both consanguineal and affinal relatives may become members of the family.

## II USE OF LANGUAGE

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### EXERCISE D *Definitions*

Write out definitions by combining expressions in Column I with appropriate expressions in Column II. For example:

I(a) + II(d)

A nuclear family is a group consisting of a man and a woman and their offspring sharing a common residence.

I	II
(a) a nuclear family	the relationship of a man and woman living together outside marriage
(b) monogamy	a nuclear family in which one spouse is absent from the household
(c) polygamy	the marriage of one man with more than one wife
(d) polygyny	a group consisting of a man and woman and their offspring sharing a common residence
(e) polyandry	people who are related by marriage

I	II
(f) consanguineal relatives	the marriage of one woman with more than one husband
(g) affinal relatives	the marriage of one man with one woman
(h) a spouse	people who are related by birth
(i) concubinage	the marriage of more than two spouses
(j) an incomplete nuclear family	a partner in marriage

### EXERCISE E *Generalizations and qualifications*

The following statements are *generalizations*:

- (i) Social anthropologists recognize the family as a basic social unit.
- (ii) A nuclear family is established by means of a formal contract of marriage.

Statement (i) means that *all* social anthropologists recognize . . .

OR Social anthropologists *always* recognize . . .

Statement (ii) means that *all* nuclear families are established . . .

OR Nuclear families are *always* established . . .

Generalizations can be qualified. For example:

- (iii) *Some/many/most* social anthropologists recognize the family as a basic family unit.
- (iv) A nuclear family is *sometimes/often/usually* established by means of a formal contract of marriage.

Statement (iii) is a qualification of (i).

Statement (iv) is a qualification of (ii).

Study the following table:

<i>Degrees of generalization</i>		
I	all	always
II	most	usually generally
III	many	often frequently
IV	some	sometimes
V	few	seldom rarely

Qualify the following generalizations where necessary by using the appropriate expressions from each column. For example:

A nuclear family is established by means of a formal contract of marriage.  
*Most* nuclear families are established by a formal contract of marriage.  
 A nuclear family is *usually* established by means of a formal contract of marriage.

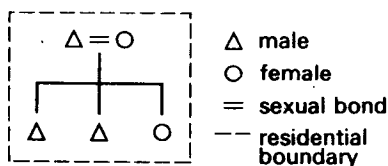
OR

Nuclear families are *usually* established by a formal contract of marriage.

1. Ashanti husbands live apart from their wives.
2. Families are incomplete because the husband has to leave his family to work in another part of the country.
3. A nuclear family is established by concubinage.
4. A polygynous family consists of one husband and more than one wife.
5. Families are extended by the addition of consanguineal relatives.
6. Families are incomplete because the wife is absent from home.
7. In other societies distinctions are made between relatives which in English-speaking societies are grouped together under the same term.
8. In other societies, people like servants and workmen live with the family as members of the household.
9. Other societies recognize ties of kinship and affinity with people whom we in Western Europe would not regard as relatives at all.

#### EXERCISE F *Information transfer: definitions and descriptions*

The following diagram conveys the same information as the statement below it.

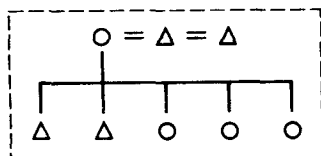


- (a) **Definition** A nuclear family is a group consisting of a man and a woman and their offspring sharing a common residence.
  - (b) **Description** This is a nuclear family consisting of a man and a woman, their two sons and one daughter.
1. Draw a diagram to correspond with the following definition and description:
    - (a) **Definition** A polygynous family is a group consisting of one man and more than one woman and their offspring sharing a common residence.

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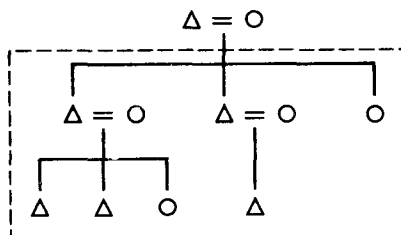
- (b) **Description** This is a polygynous family consisting of one man and two women, two sons of the man and one woman and one son and two daughters of the second woman.

2. Write a definition and a description based on the following diagram:



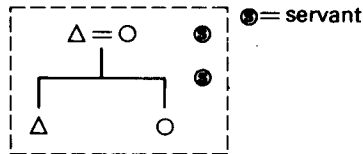
### EXERCISE G Information transfer: generalizations and descriptions

The following diagram can serve as a basis for the generalization and the description which appear below it:



- (a) **Generalization** A nuclear family may be extended by the addition of consanguineal and affinal relatives.
- (b) **Description** This family consists of a husband and wife, their two sons and one daughter, the husband's brother and sister and the brother's wife and son.
1. Draw a diagram to correspond with the following generalization and description:
- (a) **Generalization** A nuclear family may be extended by the addition of both consanguineal and affinal relatives.
- (b) **Description** This nuclear family consists of a husband and wife, the husband's sister and her husband and their son and the son's wife.
2. Write a generalization and a description to correspond with the following diagram:





### EXERCISE H *Information transfer: identifying kin*

1. Complete the following table by filling in the terms used in your own language (called here 'L1') for the relatives shown in Column I.

I <i>Kin formula</i>	II <i>English term</i>	III <i>Term in L1</i>
Fa	father	
Mo	mother	
FaFa	grandfather	
MoFa	grandfather	
FaMo	grandmother	
MoMo	grandmother	
FaBr	uncle	
MoBr	uncle	
FaSi	aunt	
MoSi	aunt	
FaBrWi	aunt	
FaSiHu	uncle	

(FaFa = Father's father, MoFa = Mother's father, FaSi = Father's sister, FaBrWi = Father's brother's wife, etc.)

2. Indicate the relationship between ego (⊙ in the diagram overleaf) and the other people who are shown. Use a kin formula and make a statement both in English and in your own language. For example:

*Kin formula*  
C = FaFa

*English*  
C is ego's grandfather

*L1*  
.....