

# FAMILY HARMONY

*Mae and her brother Chew are very close, and they usually agree on everything. However, they have a disagreement now. Read this conversation and find out: What do they disagree about?*

- Mae:** I just don't understand how you can think like that, Chew! It isn't like you at all.
- Chew:** My wife and I simply want to send our daughter to a private school. That's all. And you act like I've killed someone! What's the problem?
- Mae:** What about *my* daughter? You know **my husband and I don't have the money to send Wai to a private school.** She'll have to go to public school.
- Chew:** And why don't you have the money? Both you and Kuo have good jobs, just like my wife and I do.
- Mae:** You know why. We just bought a new house. **All of our money went to buy that new house.**
- Chew:** Fine. If buying a house is more important to you than education, that's your choice. We want our daughter to have the best education possible.
- Mae:** But think how Wai will feel when her cousin Shu-Ling goes to private school. **Those two girls are very close to one another.**
- Chew:** Yes, and I like that. But they'll still be close, even though they won't go to the same school.
- Mae:** It's not that simple. Your private school is much better than the public school Wai will go to.
- Chew:** That's the reason we saved our money—so **Shu-Ling can go to an excellent school.**
- Mae:** But think what will happen to the two girls. Now, because they're in the same class, they go to school together, take school trips



- together and do their homework together.
- Chew:** That's right. Why didn't you think of that before you bought your new house?
- Mae:** Chew, listen to me. **Don't send Shu-Ling to private school. Don't separate them. Wai will be crushed.**
- Chew:** Perhaps, but she'll get over it.

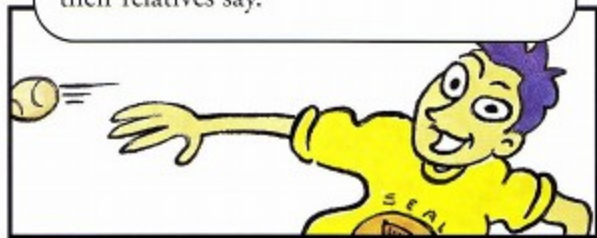
## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which opinions do you agree with?  
Check as many as you want.

I think family harmony is important. You should give equal treatment to your children and close relatives.



Each family should make its own decisions. They shouldn't worry about what their relatives say.



If you don't get along with your close relatives, you'll be sorry. They'll talk about you all the time.



Cousins don't need to be so close. They'll have different lives later, anyway.



Life is hard, and we need our relatives to help us. We should do everything we can to stay close to them.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

**TURN TO PAGE 82 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.**

## LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

Here are some cases in which people feel they are not treated fairly. What do you think?

Case 1: My older brother goes to a private university. My parents say I have to go to a public university because they don't have enough money for my education. But I want to go to a private university. It's not fair.

Case 2: My parents make me wash dishes, but my older sister gets out of it. Her job is taking out the trash, but that's much easier to do. My parents say she has more homework to do, so she shouldn't work too hard. I think it's unfair.

Case 3: My grandparents live with us. On New Year's, my cousins come to my house and at that time my grandparents give them more "gift money" than they give me. They say it's because they don't see my cousins very often. I think this is unfair.

Case 4: When my sister and her husband built their house, my parents gave them a lot of financial support. Now I want to buy a new condominium, but my parents say they can't help me financially. They say my sister has three children and needs more support, but I'm single and don't have a family. It's not fair.

It's fair.	It's not fair.
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Do you know any other examples like these?