

# Unit 4 - MY QUIRKY FAMILY



## CONVERSATION STARTERS

### FAMILY DESCRIPTIONS



Track 23



1



Tracks 24-28

**FIRST LISTENING.** Listen. Who are they talking about?  
Circle a, b, or c.



1. Inna is complaining about her

- a) father
- b) mother
- c) sister

because he/she

- a) always wants to drive.
- b) tells her dad what to do in the car.
- c) never wants to drive.



2. Soon is joking about her

- a) father
- b) mother
- c) brother

because he/she

- a) makes jokes all the time.
- b) works too much.
- c) doesn't clean up.



3. TJ is embarrassed by his

- a) mother
- b) sister
- c) grandmother

because she

- a) tries to look sexy.
- b) talks too much.
- c) is always in a bad mood.



4. Scott is annoyed with his

- a) mother
- b) sister
- c) brother

because he/she

- a) doesn't eat meat.
- b) eats meat.
- c) has a lot of parties.



5. Blaire is complaining about her

- a) mother and father
- b) sister and her boyfriend
- c) brother and his girlfriend

because they

- a) kiss in public.
- b) kiss each other too much.
- c) never show affection.

2

### SECOND LISTENING.

Listen again. Why are they complaining?  
Circle a, b, or c.

**BONUS:**



Discuss with a partner.

1. Which family situation is the strangest or the funniest?
2. Which family reminds you of *your* family?

Check the script and try the **LANGUAGE AWARENESS** activity on page 84.

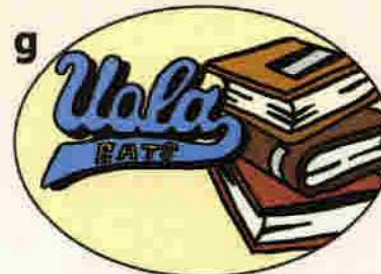
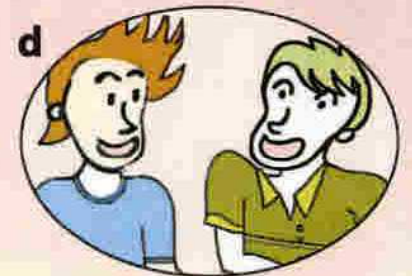


### 1 EXPRESSIONS. Here are some useful questions about family members. Match the questions with the best answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ___ 1. What's your dad like?                         | a) He's really into cars.                                |
| ___ 2. Tell me about your sister.                    | b) No, she always embarrasses me in front of my friends. |
| ___ 3. What does your mom do?                        | c) Well...he's a bit of a workaholic.                    |
| ___ 4. What does your brother like to do?            | d) Well...she's really smart.                            |
| ___ 5. Do you get along well with your older sister? | e) She's a dentist.                                      |

### 2 VOCABULARY. Match these phrases with the best pictures.

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ___ 1. is studying at university | ___ 5. loves shopping    |
| ___ 2. is easy to talk to        | ___ 6. is a couch potato |
| ___ 3. has a short temper        | ___ 7. works overseas    |
| ___ 4. works long hours          | ___ 8. is kind of stingy |



#### HOW THE GRAMMAR WORKS:

##### Like = an adverb

**What is your dad like?**

*He is funny.  
He is very kind.*

This question is asking about personality.

**What does your dad look like?**

*He is tall.  
He has short hair.*

This question is asking about appearance and looks.

##### Like = a verb

**What does he like?**

*He likes to play golf.  
He loves tennis.*

This question is asking about hobbies and preferences.

### 3 LET'S PRACTICE.

**Work with a partner.**

**Ask about family members (mom, dad, sister, brother, grandfather, grandmother). Use the expressions in step 1 and the vocabulary in step 2.**

**Example:**

**A: Tell me about your sister.**

**B: Well, she's studying at Boston University.**



# CONVERSATION MODEL

## WHAT'S SHE LIKE?

1



**SITUATION.** Listen to the conversation.



2

**SUBSTITUTION.** Connect the information in the columns.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3	mom, my dad and my older brother	sister	He works long hours.
5	mom, my dad, my older sister and my younger brother	grandpa	She has a really short temper.
4	mom and my grandfather	dad	He's not so easy to talk to.



**HOW THE PRONUNCIATION WORKS:**  
 Blend sounds:  
 How many people are in your family? → a: rin  
 There are six of us. → the: ra

3

**PRACTICE.** Work with a partner. Practice the conversation. Use the substitutions. Then use your own ideas.



# LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

## WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY LIKE?

**1 GET READY.** What's your family like? Choose a different family member for 8 phrases.

Chats on the phone a lot _____	Works long hours _____	Watches sports _____	Loves music _____
Has a cool job _____	Is easy to talk to _____	Doesn't work _____	Loves shopping _____
Tells stupid jokes _____	Plays video games _____	Lives alone _____	Laughs a lot _____
Travels a lot _____	Is into cars _____	Is a computer nerd _____	Can speak English _____
Is embarrassing _____	Sleeps the most _____	Lives or works overseas _____	Is a good cook _____

**2 LET'S TALK.** Ask each other about your family members. Partner: choose a square. Ask about the person. Do you and your partner have similar family members?

Example:

A: Who in your family loves shopping?

B: My dad...he always buys new clothes.

A: Does anyone in your family live overseas?

B: Yes, my brother lives in Shanghai.



**3 FOLLOW UP.** Compare your answers with another pair. Do you think most families are similar or different?



### BONUS: Speaking Activity

- Which is better: having many siblings or being the only child?
- Which would you prefer to be: the youngest child, the middle child or the eldest child? Or would you prefer to be a twin?



### ERIK'S CULTURE TIP

#### Talking about family.

In spoken English we often use *dad* and *mom* instead of *father* and *mother*.

There are many other ways to say *grandfather* and *grandmother*, including *granddad*, *grandpa*, *grandma* and *granny* (common in UK and Australia). We can say *big sister* and *little brother* instead of *older sister* and *younger brother*.

**Note:** In British and Australian English "mom" is "mum."