



Live Lesson Notes

Family

Learn vocabulary so that it sticks!

1. Warm up
2. Discover Language with a Story
3. Vocabulary about Family
4. Listening Bingo
5. Jokes
6. Make Vocabulary Stick



Warm up!

Fill in the gap with **ONE** word

Jane has no [1] _____.

She is an [2] _____ child.

She lives in a [3] _____ neighbourhood, far from the city.

Answers at bottom of PDF

IELTS Speaking Story: Family

Rags to Riches



Chapter 1: Roots



[Watch the story.](#)

👉 Decide if the following is **true** [T] or **false** [F]

1. This family has 4 people **T**
2. They live in the countryside **T**
3. They live on a rock **F**



[Watch the story again.](#)

👉 Notice any **FAMILY**-related words.

Full Script Below

In a small village in China, there was a boy named Li. Unlike many of his friends who were **only children**, he had one **sibling**, a **little sister**, Xiao.

They lived in a cosy **home** in a **rural neighbourhood**. In fact, their village was really **out in the sticks** (= *far away from the city*). The nearest shop was a 2-mile walk away.

Their house wasn't big, but **at the heart of it** (= *in the centre*) was the **dining room**. That's where the family **gathered around** the fireplace and shared meals, stories, and laughter.

Li's parents were amazing. They taught him so much, not just school stuff, but life lessons too. They **raised** and **educated** him with love. Whenever Li faced problems, they were there to **lend a helping hand** (= *to help*). Truly, his family was his rock.

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Family

1. A **sibling** (n.) /'sɪb.lɪŋ/

= a brother or sister

I have two siblings.

A **younger** sister / brother

A **little** sister / brother (col.)

An **older** sister / brother (col.)

A **big** sister / brother (col.)

An **elder** sister / brother

I have an elder brother and a younger sister.

My little sister is two years younger than me.

I'm the oldest of 3 children

My brother is the one in the middle.

To be an **only child**

= to have no brothers or sisters

I am an only child.

2. A neighbourhood (n.) /'neɪ.bə.hʊd/
= the area around your home.

In the **countryside** (collocations):

- A rural _____ (adj.)
- A remote _____ (adj.)
- A _____ out in the sticks

I live in a remote neighbourhood out in the sticks

In or near the **city** (collocations)::

- An urban _____ (adj.) = an area in the city
- A suburban _____ (adj.) = an area next to and around the city

I prefer to live in a suburban neighbourhood. It's quiet, but close to the city.

3. To gather (a)round (p.v.)

= to come together around a particular place.

They gathered around the fireplace and shared meals

The family gathered around the table and played card games

Similar words

- To huddle round
- To get together

*We **huddled round** the table and played cards.*

*We **got together** round the table and drank tea.*

Grammar Note: Past Activity

1. We **gathered** round the table.
2. We **used to** gather around the table.
3. We **got to** gather around the table.
4. We **would** gather round the table.

4. To raise someone (v.) /reɪz/

=To take care of someone/ something until they are an adult.

*They **raised** and **educated** him with love.*

My parents raised me to be honest.

Note: We often use these in the passive to talk about yourself

*I was **raised** in Manchester*

*I was **brought up** in Manchester by my grandmother*

Note: To grow up, is not used in the passive.

I grew up in Manchester

Collocations

To raise children

To raise a family

To raise chickens (normally in a farm context)

Similar words

- To bring up
- To educate
- To rear

Chapter 2: Beijing

Li moved to Beijing with his sister and set up a business that became very successful and famous. Finally, he felt he was a success!



IELTS Listening Bingo

1) Listen to this Interview with Mr. Li, now a famous and successful business man.



<https://on.soundcloud.com/zvFnQ>

What did his father like to do?

Answers at bottom of PDF

2) **Listen** again and **mark** the *exact words* mentioned and when you have a line of 3, **type** BINGO (and the words) in the chat.

Family home	Small and cosy	Living room
Gather around	Without a doubt	Incredible tales
Dark autumn nights	A special upbringing	Build our business

Answers at bottom of PDF

Full Script Below

Full Script

So tell us about your family home and your favourite room!

Li: Oh, my **family home** back in the village was really special. It was a simple, traditional house, but really warm and cosy. **Without a doubt**, my favourite room was the dining room.

There was a massive fireplace, and we'd **huddle around** the fire on dark winter nights. I remember my Dad was one for storytelling and he used to tell us **incredible tales** of our **ancestors** (=grandparents and their parents etc...)

I was never sure if he made up the stories or if they were true, but that upbringing and the love of telling a good story is something that actually helped me **build our business** to the success it is today.

Language Note

To **be one for doing** something = To like doing it and do it regularly.

My dad was one for telling jokes.

I am one for listening to music when I read books.

Family Joke! 😄

Joke for children:

Why didn't the teddy bear eat dessert?



Answer at bottom of PDF

Making Vocabulary Stick

"I love the live lessons, but I forget a lot of the new words"

How most people learn vocabulary.

1. See a new word
2. Make a note
3. Forget about it

A simple system to **learn** words and **make them stick**

1. Discover new words
2. Repeat and pronounce them correctly
3. Make a note and say aloud some phrases
4. Hear them in different contexts (stories)
5. Test yourself
6. Review (stories, songs, visualisations, podcasts)

You can get this ready-made **system** for **22 topics** in

[The Vocabulary Vault!](#)



Chapter 3: Change

Li's family business in Beijing hit difficult times.

Tough competition was everywhere, and the pressure was **mounting** (=increasing).

Li and his sister Xiao were sometimes **at each other's throats** and even thought about selling. But a trip back to their village changed everything....

Language Note

To be **at each other's throats**

=to be *arguing very strongly*

👉 Find out how the story ends in the [Vocabulary Vault!](#) 😊

Song

Family Bonds

<https://suno.com/s/Rkv5ny9JABYAKsRj>

Verse 1

Out in the sticks, far from the town,
A small old house with fields all around.
Li had a sibling, a sister so kind,
They shared their dreams and spoke their mind.

Each evening they would gather round,
The fireplace warm, safe and sound.
Their parents worked to bring them up well,
To raise them strong, as you can tell.

They walked two miles to buy some bread,
Simple lives the family led.
But in that home, love was strong,
It helped them grow their whole life long.

Chorus

From a small village far away,
To a city bright one day.
With hope inside and dreams so wide,
Brother and sister side by side.

Verse 2

After school, Li moved away,
To Beijing city, busy and grey.
College life and future plans,
Building dreams with his own two hands.

With his sister and their uncle too,
They knew exactly what to do.
They set up a business in the town,
Working hard, not backing down.

Long, long days and sleepless nights,
Learning how to win their fights.
Slowly, slowly, they could see,
Their hard work brought success to be.

ANSWERS

Warm Up

Fill in the gap with one word

Jane has no [1] **siblings** _____.

She is an [2] **only** child.

She lives in a [3] **remote / quiet / secluded / peaceful / rural** neighbourhood, far from the city.

OR

Jane has no [1] **parents** _____. She is an [2] **orphaned** child.

Language Note

Isolated (adj.) = too far away (*slightly negative*)

She is an **orphan** (n.)

She is **orphaned** (adj.)

IELTS Speaking Story - Rags to Riches

Decide if the following is **true** [T] or **false** [F]

1. This family has 4 people **T**
2. They live in the countryside **T**
3. They live on a rock **F**

Family Joke! 😄

Joke for children:

Why didn't the teddy bear eat dessert?

Because he was stuffed.

Language Note

To be stuffed

= [1] to be filled with foam/cloth/sponge

[2] To be full (from too much food)

IELTS Listening Bingo



1) Watch this Interview with Mr. Li a famous and successful business man.

What did his father like to do?

Answer

He liked to tell stories

2) **Listen** again and **mark** the *exact words* mentioned and when you have a line of 3, **type** BINGO (and the words) in the chat.

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