



## ***Live Lesson Notes***

# **Family**

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## 1. Useful Links

My **GOLD** online course for **IELTS Speaking**

<https://courses.keithspeakingacademy.com/p/ielts-speaking-get-band-7-gold>

Follow me on **social media**

<https://www.facebook.com/keithspeakingacademy>

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<https://www.youtube.com/@EnglishSpeakingSuccess>

## Warm up!

### Fill in the gap with ONE word

1. Jane has no \_\_\_\_\_. She is an \_\_\_\_\_ child.
2. I live in a \_\_\_\_\_ neighbourhood, far from the city.

### Answers at bottom of PDF

# IELTS Speaking Story: Family

## Rags to Riches



### Chapter 1: Roots

In a small village in China, there was a boy named Li. Unlike many of his friends who were **only children**, he had one **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** (= *come together 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

## Siblings

Younger sister / brother

Little sister / brother

Older sister / brother

Elder sister / brother

To be an only child

= to have no brothers or sisters

*I am an only child*

Half sister / brother

= a parent remarries and has children with new spouse - related by blood.

Step sister / brother

= a parent remarries someone who already has children - not related by blood

## Neighbourhoods

- Rural
- Remote

*I live in a remote neighbourhood out in the sticks*

- Urban = an area in the city
- Suburban = an area next and around the city

*I prefer to live in a suburban neighbourhood as it is quiet but close to the city*

- Residential = mainly a living area
- Commercial = an area mainly with shops and offices
- Bustling = busy, lively
- Respectable = has a good reputation

*This is a respectable, residential neighbourhood in a smart part of town*

- Run-down = old and dirty
- Nondescript = plain, simple, run-of-the-mill, nothing special

*I live in a quiet, nondescript neighbourhood in the suburbs.*

**My neck of the woods** = my neighbourhood, the place where I live

*How is the weather in your neck of the woods?*

## **Family activities**

The following all mean ‘to come together’ around a particular place.

- To gather round
- To huddle round
- To get together

*We used to gather round the table and play cards*

*We used to huddle round the table and drink tea*

*We would gather round the table and tell jokes*

*We would get together around the fire and tell stories*

## **My family is my rock**

= my family is my strength, stability, foundation

## Parents and children

The following are ways to say your parents looked after you, gave you food and clothes and helped you grow into an adult.

To \_\_\_\_\_ a child

- Raise
- Bring up
- Educate

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

I was **born and bred** in Manchester

I had a **strict upbringing**

I had a **traditional upbringing**

I was **well educated**

## Chapter 2: Beijing

After finishing school, Li moved to **Beijing** to attend **college**. Those years **flew by**, and soon he **graduated** (= *to leave school*) with big dreams.

With the help of his uncle and his sister Xiao, they **set up** (= *to create / start a new business*) a **family business** in the bustling city. They set up an e-commerce platform for locally-sourced organic foods.

It wasn't easy at first. They **faced challenges** (= *to find and handle a difficult situation*) long hours, and many **sleepless nights**. But with teamwork and dedication, their hard work **paid off** (= *to be successful*).

After a few years, their business wasn't just doing okay—it was a **huge success**. Li and Xiao had become famous business people and they **felt proud of** their family's shared achievement.



## Family Jokes! 😄

Jokes for children:

**When is it time to go to the dentist?**

**Why didn't the teddy bear eat dessert?**

**Answers at bottom of PDF**

# IELTS Listening Bingo



1) Listen to this Interview with Mr. Li, 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**

## Chapter 3: Change

Li's family business **hit a rough patch** (= *to hit difficult times*).

**Tough competition** (= *a lot of competition / cut-throat competition*) was everywhere, and the pressure was mounting. Li and his sister Xiao **were** sometimes **at each other's throats** (= *to be arguing very strongly*) and even thought about selling. But a trip back to their village changed everything.

Walking into their old dining room, memories **flooded back**—lessons of perseverance and values their parents had **instilled**. An idea struck Li!

Why not introduce products inspired by the village's **traditional crafts**? This innovation was **a game-changer**. Not only did it boost their business, but it also created jobs for many villagers. Li had found a way to blend the past with the present.

## Chapter 4: Love

On one of his visits to the village, Li **bumped into** (= *to meet by chance*) his childhood friend, Mei, an only child. It had been years, and they had **lost touch**. As they chatted, old memories resurfaced, and their **bond** (= *relationship*) grew stronger. Over time, their **friendship blossomed** into love.

A few months later, the village was **buzzing with excitement**. Li and Mei were getting married!

They had a big wedding in the village, with families and friends coming **from near and far**. Everyone said it was such a beautiful ceremony that not only celebrated their union but also the deep **family ties** (= *family bonds*) and traditions that brought them together.

# IELTS Speaking Model Answer

**Describe a traditional celebration in your country.**

1) Watch the model answer (with subtitles) and tell me what was *the funniest part of the celebration?*

**Answers at bottom of PDF**

2) Watch again and note any useful phrases

**Full script below**

## Full Script

I'd like to tell you about a **wedding ceremony** I recently attended. It was in a small village, out in the sticks, where my friend Li grew up. Li was the groom and he married his **childhood sweetheart** from the same village.

The wedding took place in their village and the whole place was decorated with red lanterns and flowers, which symbolise love and prosperity.

One of the highlights was the **tea ceremony**. So the **bride** (=woman getting married) and **groom** (=man getting married) dressed up in traditional outfits, and served tea to their parents and grandparents. Basically, it's a way of showing respect and gratitude to their elders.

The funniest part was the games that are **a traditional part of** Chinese weddings. We call them 'chuangmen' which I guess in English you could say 'door games'!

So traditionally, the groom has to kind of fight for or maybe earn his bride by doing some difficult tasks. So the **bridesmaids** made Li sing a love song **at the top of his lungs** (=loudly) before letting him in and he also had to wear silly pink slippers as well!

It was all in good fun, of course. The day was a nice mix of laughter, **tradition**, and **family values**.

# ANSWERS

## IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Family

### Fill in the gap with one word

1. Jane has no **\_siblings, brothers, sisters\_\_\_\_\_**. She is an **\_only\_\_\_\_\_** child.
2. I live in a **\_rural, remote, friendly, small \_\_\_\_\_** neighbourhood, far from the city.

## Family Jokes! 😄

Jokes for children:

**When is it time to go to the dentist?**

Tooth hurty (2:30)

**Why didn't the teddy bear eat dessert?**

Because he was stuffed.

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?

**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.

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

## 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. I was never sure if he made up the stories or 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.

# IELTS Speaking Model Answer

**Describe a traditional celebration in your country.**

1) Watch the model answer (with subtitles) and tell me what was the funniest part of the celebration?

**The funniest part of the celebration was the door games!**

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