

# Chapter **3** Family Characteristics

## Contents

- **Section 3.1 Family Structures**
- **Section 3.2 Family Development**

### Key Concepts

- Describe various family structures
- Summarize the qualities that make up a family's personality
- Compare families in the media with those in real life

### Section 3.1 Family Structures

#### Main Idea

**Family structure is the form a family takes. Family personality is the traits that combine to make the family unique.**

# Chapter 3 Family Characteristics



## Vocabulary

### Content Vocabulary

- ▶ nuclear family
- ▶ single-parent family
- ▶ blended family
- ▶ extended family
- ▶ adoptive family
- ▶ legal guardian
- ▶ foster family
- ▶ interdependence
- ▶ dependent
- ▶ goal

### Academic Vocabulary

- ▶ minor
- ▶ autocratic

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Family Structures

A family's structure affects the way it functions. Its structure is defined by the number and types of family members. Structures change over time as people move in and out of the family group.

There are many kinds of family structures. Families can be as varied as the people in them.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Single People

Although a single person may maintain family bonds with his or her relatives, he or she lives apart from them, either alone or with roommates.

Single people typically have some freedoms that other people do not. They often do not have to worry about satisfying anyone else's needs and can devote more time to their own interests.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Couples

Couples in committed relationships rely on their partners for support. They often share interests and friends, but they can make time for their own pursuits.

Expenses can be easier to handle with two incomes.

Career Conflict may occur

Job offer in another town.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Pros and cons



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Nuclear Families

In a **nuclear family**, both parents can share child-raising duties.

Both parents provide love and support.

Children learn first hand what it means to be a mom and dad



#### Vocabulary

#### **nuclear family**

A family consisting of a mother, father, and their children.

### Single-Parent Families

In a **single-parent family**, one parent must perform the many duties of running a family. Relatives and friends often help out.

Enjoy one-on-one relationships with children.



#### Vocabulary

#### **single-parent family**

A family consisting of one parent and his or her children.

### Critical Thinking

- Children can have a happy, healthy home life regardless of family structure. Growing up in a nuclear family, however, may offer strong benefits.
  - What specific actions can single parent families make to obtain similar benefits?
  - Conversely, what can nuclear families do to enjoy some of the benefits that single parent families may have?

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### Blended Families

It can be difficult for both parents and children to adjust to being part of a **blended family**. Creating a new family bond requires extra understanding.

Make adjustments to new routines and relationships.  
Takes patience and insight



#### Vocabulary

#### **blended family**

A husband and wife, at least one of whom has children from a former relationship.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Extended Families

The many members of an **extended family** continue to help and support one another no matter where they live.

Some extended family lives together



#### Vocabulary

#### **extended family**

Relatives other than parents and their children, such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Extended Families

No matter how old you are, you will always be your parent's children. Once you turn 18, however, you are no longer their **minor** child, and they are not legally obligated to continue care.



#### Vocabulary

##### **minor**

A person under the legal age of full responsibility.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Adoptive Families

It takes a legal process to create an **adoptive family**. An adopted child is not born to his or her parents. He or she is still protected by law like any other son or daughter. Parents need to be patient and understanding to help make the adopted child feel safe and secure.



#### Vocabulary

#### **adoptive family**

A family with a child or children who are made part of the family through legal action.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Legal Guardians

Sometimes parents can no longer care for their children. A relative or close friend can act as the child's parent by becoming their **legal guardian**.

This person has financial and legal duties for the care of the child. The child's last name does not change.



#### Vocabulary

#### **legal guardian**

A person who has financial and legal duties relating to the care of a child.



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Foster Families

When a parent can no longer care for their children and no relative or friend can step in, the children may go to a **foster family**. Child may be waiting to be adopted. Family problems may need to be solved. Foster parents are screened, investigated and given special training.



#### Vocabulary

#### **foster family**

A family that takes care of children on a short-term basis.

### Foster Families

- It can be difficult to be a foster parent
- You could become attached to the child who will leave.
  - They must give love and be willing to let go when that time comes

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

# Graphic Organizer

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

**Draw a picture to represent one of the previous family structures**

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Family Personality

A family is made of very different individuals, and each person contributes something unique to the group. A family's personality is made up of all those traits.

The personality of family is very complex. Different parts of it may be reflected in the family's values, spending, or activities.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Family Legacies, Traditions, and Rituals

Families use various methods to cement the ties among their members:

**Legacy:** Something handed down, such as a money, jewelry, or other personal property.

**Tradition:** Something always done in certain situations or at certain times of the year, such as always going out to dinner to celebrate a birthday.

**Rituals:** Something done consistently, such as always saying grace at dinner.

### Journal Entry

- Write about a family tradition.
  - Give specific details about the tradition, why is it unique to your family?

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### How Personality Affects Family Values

A family's personality affects its values and influences how it spends its time.

The members of a competitive family may play on school sports teams and enjoy family bowling nights. The parents of an intellectual family, however, may forbid sports in order to allow for more study time. Another type of intellectual family may prefer seeing documentaries and museums to studying. Every family is different.



### Family Atmosphere

The personality of a family creates its atmosphere. Here are some examples of family atmosphere:

- Chaotic
- Loud
- Laid-back
- Friendly
- Formal
- Distant
- Quiet

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Family Atmosphere

Each family personality also addresses the border between members and outsiders in a different way.

Some family borders are very strict, and outsiders are not often invited as guests. Other families have loose boundaries that easily welcome outsiders to have dinner or just drop in.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Family Decision Making

Family personality influences family decisions.

**One Person Decides** In an **autocratic** system, a single person makes the family's key choices about money, chores, and vacation.

**Shared Decision Making** Democratic decision making allows children to express their opinions. One or both parents may still use adult judgment.



#### Vocabulary

**autocratic**

Having absolute power.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Interdependence

Families strengthen their bond when they share time and activities together. They build a feeling of interdependence.



#### Vocabulary

#### **interdependence**

A feeling among people, including family members, that they can rely on each other.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Interdependence

A family can be relied on if you know it will always be there for you when you need it. If you rely on the family so much that you cannot make a decision without them, however, you are too **dependent**.



#### Vocabulary

#### **dependent**

Relying on something or someone else for aid and support.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Family Goals

Many families have a special **goal** for the near or distant future. Goals are another reflection of the family personality.



#### Vocabulary

#### **goal**

Something one plans to achieve.

# Family Personality Puzzle

- 9/16/15

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Folders

- Bell work
  - Week of Aug. 31
    - Starts with Family Bond
  - Week of Sept. 14
    - Starts with Nuclear Family
- Journal-Trustworthy (pg. 41)
- Family Personality Puzzle



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Goals

10 points

- HW: Bring a self addressed, stamped envelope
  - Due: September 24
  - You can bring it before then



Your Name

Street Address

City, State Zip

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Families and the Media

The families you see in the movies and on TV may seem different from yours. A family in a movie may celebrate Thanksgiving with a giant banquet. A sitcom family seems to solve every problem in a quick scene or two.

Real life, however, does not have screenwriters or perfect endings. Real families are different than the ones in the media, so do not expect your family to solve problems in the same way as media families.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Create Family Bonds

Creating a bond is not the same thing as keeping it. It is easy to fall out of touch or get involved in other activities, even in a close-knit family.

Members need to be proactive participants in the support system. Sometimes you have to make a special effort to maintain your family bond.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### After You Read

### Review Key Concepts

**Give five examples of different family structures.**

**Answers should include five of the following: single people, couples, nuclear families, single-parent families, blended families, extended families, adoptive families, legal guardians, foster families.**

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### After You Read

### Review Key Concepts

**Identify at least three factors that make up a family's personality.**

**Answers should include at least three of the following: personality of family members, customs and rituals of family, family atmosphere and boundaries, how decisions are made, the amount of interdependence, family goals.**

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### After You Read

### Review Key Concepts

**Explain if images of families in the media represent all families. Why or why not?**

**They are not real. They are created for entertainment.**

### Tic-Tac-Toe

- Assigned: 9/17/15
- Due: 9/18/15

### Section 3.2 Development

- Key Concepts
  - Describe the stages of family development common to many families
  - Identify expectations to the typical pattern of family development



### Section 3.2 Development

#### Main Idea

**Families go through common stages of development. These include starting as a couple, the parenting years, the middle years, and the retirement years. There are other patterns and variations to these stages.**

# Chapter 3 Family Characteristics



## Vocabulary

### Content Vocabulary

- ▶ development
- ▶ empty nest
- ▶ launching

### Academic Vocabulary

- ▶ cycle
- ▶ circumstance

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Stages of Family Development

Social scientists describe a basic pattern of **development** in families. The family structure progresses through various shifts.



#### Vocabulary

#### **development**

The process of growth and change over the course of life.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Stages of Family Development

The family group moves through several stages of the family life **cycle**: first as a couple, then as a parent, and finally into the later years.



#### Vocabulary

#### **cycle**

Any long period of years.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Start as a Couple

As a couple, two people learn to think and act as a team. They must rely on each other and remain individuals. People need time to adjust to having a partner, and it depends on the couple how long this stage lasts.

Many couples enjoy getting to know each better before having children. Some couples never have children at all.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Start as a Couple

Couples must make decisions about one another throughout their relationship based on their current **circumstance**.

- Money
- Education
- Careers
- Housing
- Children



#### Vocabulary

#### **circumstance**

An incident, event, situation, or occurrence.



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### The Parenting Stage

Families move into the parenting stage as soon as children join the couple, whether by birth, adoption, foster care, or guardianship.

These are the **expanding years**. Often, new family members continue to be added. Families tend to become very focused on home life as small children demand their time and attention.



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### The Parenting Stage

Families move into the developmental years as the children grow older and enter school. Many of the children's activities are now out of the home.



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics



- **Families with School-Age Children:** Children can communicate fluidly, and family unity peaks as they assume an active place in the family.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics



- **Families with Teenagers:** Teens become increasingly independent as they prepare to leave the home.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### The Parenting Stage

The parenting stage ends as children exit the home during the **launching** process. The launching process has recently started to take longer and longer, especially if children cannot earn enough money to live on their own.



#### Vocabulary

#### **launching**

The process in families during which children are sent away from the family home to live on their own, physically and financially.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### The Middle Years

After the children grow up and launch, the family becomes a couple once more and enters the middle years. An empty nest raises mixed feelings. Some parents feel purposeless without their children, while some parents take the chance to explore new hobbies or even a new career.



#### Vocabulary

##### **empty nest**

A situation experienced by a couple whose children have become adults and moved out of the family home.



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### The Retirement Years

Retirement also raises mixed feelings. As the work of raising children and developing careers ends, some people wonder what to do with themselves. Others have been looking forward to traveling, relaxing, or other pursuits.

People tend to feel more ready for retirement if they have planned for it. People who feel fulfilled with the life they have led are usually prepared for their later years.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Length of Time in Each Stage Varies

The stages of development may be different lengths for different families. One family can have another child 15 years after its first, creating a very long parenting stage. A young pair of parents with one child may have an unusually long middle years stage.

Regardless, the stages themselves describe basic patterns in family development. The way each family experiences them only contributes more to each family's uniqueness.

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Other Patterns of Family Development

Not every family fits into this general pattern.

Couple → Expanding Years → Developmental Years →

Launching → Middle Years → Retirement Years

Some people may not marry.

Some choose not to have children

Some marriages end in divorce.

Some people remarry.



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### After You Read

#### Review Key Concepts

**Describe why it is helpful to break the family life cycle into stages of development.**

It provides a stable pattern that explains how families form and develop.



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

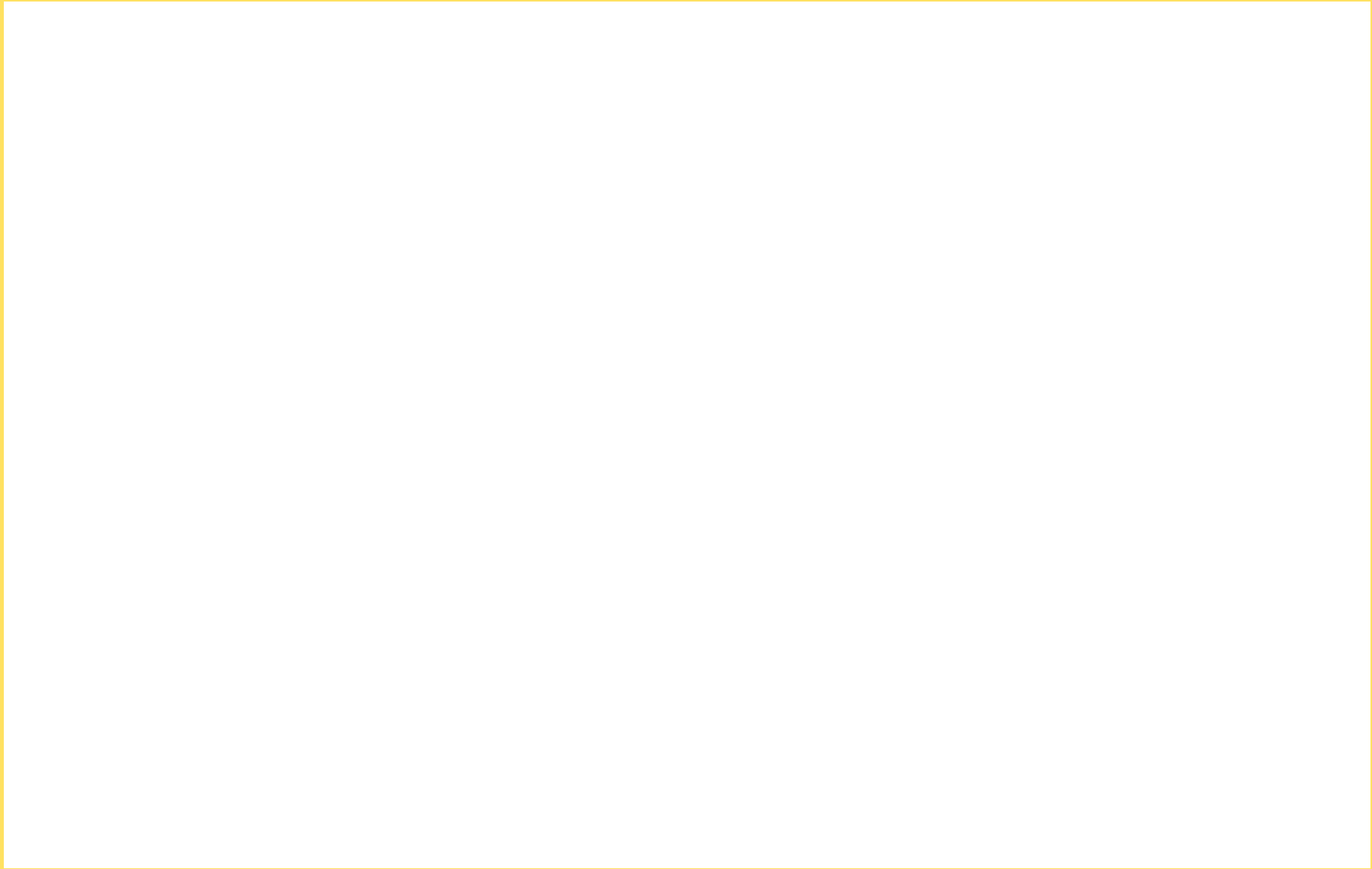
### After You Read

#### Review Key Concepts

**Explain why the family life cycle does not describe every family's development.**

There are many variations of the general pattern such as single people, divorce, not having children, older parenthood, and grandparents raising children. Some stages may be longer or shorter in different families.

# Chapter 3 Family Characteristics



## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Page 59 # 1, 2 and 3 or 4

- Assigned 9/21
- Due 9/22

## Chapter 3 Family Characteristics

### Review

- Article: Grandparents care for grandkids
  - Assigned 9/22
  - Due 9/23
- Page 61 (1-9)
  - Answer in complete sentences
  - Assigned 9/22
  - Due 9/23

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End of

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