Family Structure

Exercise 1. Study the definitions of different types of families. Translate the names into Russian. Which family do you live in?

**Nuclear family** — two biological parents and their children

**Single-parent family** — only mother or father

**Cross-generational family** — living with grandparents

**Extended family** — living with aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents

**Adoptive/foster family** — a child lives with people who are not his parents

**Childless family** — a husband and a wife live together

**Stepfamily (blended family)** — two separate families where a new husband or wife lives with children from previous marriages and relationships

**Grandparent family** — grandparents raise their grandchildren

**Only child family** — a family with one child who has no siblings

**Large family** — a child has many siblings

**Symmetrical family** — a male and a female share the household tasks

Exercise 2. Read the text and the words in the box. Say what families have the

problems described in the text.

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| --- |
| nuclear family; adoptive family; extended family; single-parent family |

The most recognized family is … a family where a father, a mother and children all reside together. It is an ideal family. A father or sometimes a mother is a breadwinner and one of them stays at home to care for children. Both parents ensure that children have a stable atmosphere in which to live. Another type of family is … which includes members like grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, and cousins who help parents to provide for the family and raise children. There are also … in which kids do not have two people to call parents. Kids in these families view their life and the world from a more realistic perspective. In … families children who don’t live with their birth parents feel “abandonable” or “not good enough”. Kids have hurtful feelings over their birthmother’s decision to “reject” them or “give them away”.