

Finding Out: Words in Context

Step 1: Look at the words in bold below. Can you guess what they mean? Write a short definition in English. (Don't use your dictionary yet. You will be able to check their meanings in the next section: Definitions.)

We used to be good friends at school but have since **grown apart**.

After only a few years of marriage, Tom and Mary began to **grow apart**.

What do you think 'grow apart' means? _____

Grandparents are often tempted to **spoil** their grandchildren whenever they come to visit.

They really **spoil** their son by giving him anything he wants.

What do you think 'spoil' means? _____

It is important that we **look after** the homeless, especially in winter.

I sometimes have to **look after** my brother and sister because my parents work in the evening.

What do you think 'look after' means? _____

In some counties, you have to provide a meal and a bed for any **relative** who comes to visit.

Caring for a sick **relative** is a task that brings both pleasure and pain.

What do you think 'relative' means? _____

My boss always **criticises** everything I do; nothing is good enough for him.

The government is being widely **criticised** in the media for failing to limit air pollution.

What do you think 'criticise' means? _____

In her last difficult years, she **depended on** her husband to look after her.

A friend is someone you can **depend on** in difficult times.

What do you think 'depend on' means? _____

He was remembering a story heard in **childhood**.

We did not have the toys that children have today but we had a happy **childhood**.

What do you think 'childhood' means? _____

His wife cannot **get on well with** his mother.

She found it difficult to **get on well with** her, possibly because of the difference in their ages.

What do you think 'get on well with' means? _____

Over the past 20 years **single-parent families** have become more common.

Single-parent families often arisen due to the death of one of the parents.

What do you think 'single parent family' means? _____

My daughter **takes after** me with her love of horses.

Try to **take after** your parents. They are hardworking people.

What do you think 'take after' means? _____

The school uses a combination of modern and **traditional** methods for teaching reading.

The dancers were wearing **traditional** costumes.

What do you think 'traditional' means? _____

The children of **overprotective** parents often do not develop the skills they need to take care of themselves when they leave home.

Like most mothers in my county, my mum was **overprotective**.

What do you think 'overprotective' means? _____

As a parent, you try to create a stable home environment for your children to **grow up** in.

It is hard for any parent to accept that eventually their children will **grow up** and move away from home.

What do you think 'grow up' means? _____

Parents might spend only 15 minutes of **quality time** a day with their kids.

Designing a child's room can be fun and an ideal way to spend **quality time** together.

What do you think 'quality time' means? _____

A lot of women manage to **bring up** families and go out to work at the same time

She's finding it hard to **bring up** her children alone.

What do you think 'bring up' means? _____



Finding Out: Definitions

Step 1: Match the words with their definitions. (If you can't understand the definitions, you can use a bilingual dictionary.)

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|------------------------|---|
| 1 grow apart | 1 to say what you think is wrong or bad about something |
| 2 spoil | 2 to take care of someone or something |
| 3 look after | 3 a family that consists of one parent and his or her children living together |
| 4 relatives | 4 when a relationship gradually changes and two people become less close |
| 5 criticise | 5 the time of your life when you are a child |
| 6 depend on | 6 too worried about someone's safety, so that you prevent them from being independent |
| 7 childhood | 7 to always allow a child to have or do everything that they want |
| 8 get on well with | 8 to look or behave like an older relative |
| 9 single parent family | 9 when people like each other and are friendly to each other |
| 10 take after | 10 members of the same family |
| 11 traditional | 11 to change from being a baby or young child to being an older child or adult |
| 12 overprotective | 12 to look after a child until he or she becomes an adult |
| 13 grow up | 13 to need someone or something in order to survive or be successful |
| 14 quality time | 14 typical of the things that people have usually done |
| 15 bring up | 15 a period of time relaxing or doing things that people enjoy, and not worrying about work or other responsibilities |

Definitions taken from www.macmillandictionary.com

Answers: 1-4, 2-7, 3-2, 4-10, 5-1, 6-13, 7-5, 8-9, 9-3, 10-8, 11-14, 12-6, 13-11, 14-15, 15-12