

Fill in the blanks with words from the box. There are THREE words you will not need.

A stepfamily, or blended family, is a _____ with at least one child from a _____ relationship who lives with them all the time or some of the time.

These families often have an image problem. In old fairy tales stepmothers are wicked and stepsisters are _____. When you see a stepfamily in one of your favourite TV soap operas they usually have _____ with other family members. That is why the phrase "*blended family*" is often used instead of stepfamily.

Family life has faced many _____ over the past half century. Traditional _____ families – mother, father and two children – are a lot less _____ today. About 40% of all marriages end in _____.

Today, over 2.5 million children in the UK live in stepfamilies. Most of them start when the birth parents _____ up and find new partners.

Being part of a stepfamily can really be a challenge for children. An important factor is the way the birth parents deal with the end of their _____. They need to be careful not to talk too much about their ex-partner or his/her faults. Children sometimes also feel _____ about liking their stepparent too much, because they may think that they are betraying their birth parent.

Although, while it may be hard at first, being in a stepfamily can provide all members with a new life and a feeling that they have _____ something worthwhile.

achieved
arguments
break
bullies
challenges
common
couple
divorce
guilty
nuclear
popular
previous
proud
reality
relationship

KEY

A stepfamily, or blended family, is a **couple** with at least one child from a **previous** relationship who lives with them all the time or some of the time.

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Being part of a stepfamily can really be a challenge for children. An important factor is the way the birth parents deal with the end of their **relationship**. They need to be careful not to talk too much about their ex-partner or his/her faults. Children sometimes also feel **guilty** about liking their stepparent too much, because they may think that they are betraying their birth parent.

Although, while it may be hard at first, being in a stepfamily can provide all members with a new life and a feeling that they have **achieved** something worthwhile.