

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



*A blended family on wedding day
Image: Eveanne Jarmon*

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 _____ 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
argument

break

bullies

challenge

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.

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

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

Today, over 2.5 million children in the UK live in stepfamilies. Most of them start when the birth parents **break** 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 **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.