

Language

Match these different kinds of families with the definitions on the right:

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. an affluent family | a. They want to be successful. |
| 2. a close family | b. Only one parent lives with the children. |
| 3. a dysfunctional family | c. They have a lot of money. |
| 4. a single-parent family | d. They have strong relationships. |
| 5. a talented family | e. They have a certain amount of power. |
| 6. an average family | f. They have a lot of personal problems. |
| 7. an influential family | g. They're all good at something. |
| 8. an ambitious family | h. There's nothing special about them. |

Would you use any of the expressions above to describe your family?

Do any of the expressions above describe the family you read about earlier?

Do you live with your *immediate family* or do you also live with members of your *extended family*? (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins etc.)

Discussion

Read the article and underline anything you think is a good argument for or against gay marriages.

LET'S GET MARRIED!

"We have a mortgage together, we have a cat together, we're no different from the neighbours, so why can't we get married?" one gay man told reporters outside the Vermont courtroom in the United States. A large group of gay couples were at the court to hear whether the state would change the law and allow same-sex marriages. Many expressed their frustration at not being allowed marital status. "We want to get married for the same reason as everyone else – we're in love."

A woman campaigner for gay rights said, "Why do people want to stop gay people getting married? It makes no difference to them, but it makes a huge difference to a gay couple who want to make a public commitment."

A spokeswoman for a traditional family organisation said, "If we start to re-define what a marriage is, where do you draw the line? Why not say two men and a woman can get married, or three women perhaps?"

Discuss the following views of same-sex marriages. Which views are closest to your own?

1. Gay marriage? Why not? If two people want to make a lifetime commitment to each other, they should be allowed to.
2. It doesn't matter that they're gay. They've been together for 15 years. They should have exactly the same rights as a normal couple. What is normal anyway?
3. Marriage between a man and a woman is natural. If marriage stops being natural, where will it all end? If two men can marry, why not three or four?
4. Marriage is for the procreation of children. Gay partners can't have children so they shouldn't be allowed to get married.
5. I don't care if they want to get married or not. I just wish it wasn't all over the newspapers.
6. I don't believe in marriage anyway, so it's not really an issue for me.