

Collocations

Lecture one

- ✓ Your parents and siblings (brothers and sisters) are your **immediate family** – and your **extended family** includes all your relatives – uncles, cousins, great-aunts, etc.
- ✓ If the children experience abuse, poverty, or problems with the law, we can say they had a **troubled childhood**.
- ✓ Perhaps the parents went through a **bitter divorce** – that means a separation in which there were bad/angry feelings between the husband and wife. It's also possible to have a **messy divorce**, with a prolonged legal battle involving lots of conflicts about the separation of the former couple's assets (money and possessions). The decisions about the separation of assets are made in the **divorce settlement**. A family in which there are divorces or separations is sometimes called a **broken home**.
- ✓ If it was a **mutual divorce/separation** – that means the ex-husband and ex-wife agreed to separate without fighting – then they will probably stay **on good terms with each other** (meaning to have a polite relationship without conflicts).
- ✓ When you move to a new city, it can be hard to **make friends**. You'll probably have a number of **casual acquaintances** – people who you know on a basic level, but with whom you don't have a significant relationship. Over time, some of these may become **good friends** or **close friends** – these collocations refer to friends with whom you have an especially strong relationship.
- ✓ It's possible for one person to **have feelings for** another person – this expression is an indirect way to describe *romantic* feelings – but if the other person doesn't feel the same way, then **the feeling is not mutual**. The other person might say "**he's/she's just not my type**" – meaning that they are interested in people of a different type of personality/appearance.
- ✓ When I was a teenager, I was **painfully shy** (*extremely shy*). My best friend had a more **outgoing personality** (*she liked to be friendly and sociable*) and a good **sense of humor** (*ability to make other people laugh*). Unfortunately, she was also **brutally honest**, and sometimes her comments **hurt my feelings** (*made me sad, upset, or angry*).

- ✓ I've **come out of my shell** (*become less shy*) since those days; I **have a thicker skin** (*I'm less sensitive to criticism*) and it doesn't bother me when people **speak their minds** (*say exactly what they think, without considering the effects of the words on others*).

Source: 1000 collocations lesson 1-3

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