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MODULE 1: Getting together

2 Family celebrations

Key words
baby shower, crib, expectant, parenthood, pram, replica, separate, silverware, subsequent, transition

Reading

1 Read this article about baby showers in England, and answer these questions.

a Why is the baby shower an important event?

It celebrates the birth of a child and welcomes parents into parenthood.

b Why is the baby shower organised by friends or relatives rather than the expectant parents?

It is organised by friends or relatives so that they can show their support to the new parents.

The Baby Shower

The baby shower is a tradition that is becoming more and more popular in England. Despite what the name might suggest, the baby shower actually involves giving gifts to new or expectant parents. These gifts are almost always items which are needed to care for the new baby, such as cribs, prams, clothing, or simply toys for the infant. Often, family items, such as clothing or toys which have been inherited from ancestors, are also given. Sometimes silverware, such as silver replicas of toys, are also given to commemorate the birth of the child, though this does not occur if the child is yet to be born. Traditionally, the baby shower is an event for the mother, her female relatives and her friends. However, as the event has evolved it has become more and more common for both sexes to take part, or even for men to have a separate baby shower.

The expectant parents do not organise the baby shower. Instead, it is arranged by a close friend or relative. It is intended to welcome the parents into parenthood. It is also intended to ease this transition, by removing some of the burden placed upon new parents by showing support and friendship. Baby showers are normally only given for the first child, although sometimes smaller events, with fewer gifts, are held for subsequent children.





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2 Now answer these questions about the article.

a Why is the name of the baby shower misleading?

because it is an event for the parents, normally held before the baby is born

b What happens if the baby shower is thrown for new parents, rather than expectant parents?

Silverware is given to commemorate the child's birth.

c What is the purpose of the baby shower?

to ease the transition into parenthood and show the parents support and friendship

d What do some people inherit during baby showers?

family items, such as clothing or toys

e Who attends the baby shower?

the mother, her friends and family - sometimes men

f Is it common in Kuwait to have a baby shower? Explain.

3 Drawing inferences is like 'reading between the lines'. It is about drawing conclusions based on the details the author provides. In the article, the author states that baby showers for subsequent children tend to be smaller events with fewer gifts. Why might this be?

4 Choose up to three verbs from the text to complete each row of the chart.

Present Simple	is; suggest; involves; are; organise; occur	
Present Continuous	is becoming	X
Present Perfect	has evolved; has become	X
Present Passive	are needed; are given; is arranged; is intended; are held	
Present Perfect Passive	have been inherited	--

5 Complete sentences **a–g** with adjectives formed from the nouns in capital letters.

a extended families are important to Kuwaiti society. EXTENSION

b Some people receive economic support from their extended families. ECONOMY

c The family is important to Kuwaiti society. IMPORTANCE

d Nuclear families in the cities are very different from extended families in the countryside. DIFFERENCE

e Younger family members decide to have more independent lives in the cities. INDEPENDENCE

f The majority of staff felt the regional conference had been successful. SUCCESS

g I am extremely grateful for the jewellery I inherited from my grandma. EXTREME

Over to you

6 What's your favourite family celebration in Kuwait? Why? Describe the event.

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Language practice

1 Read the following pairs of sentences. Explain the meanings of the words in italics. You may consult the glossary or a dictionary.

a • The *bank* is closed today. a- a financial establishment that invests money deposited by customers

• She walks along the *bank* every morning. the land alongside a rive

b • *Bears* are wild. b- large mammals with thick fur and a short tail / to endure; to put up with

She can't *bear* this situation any more.

c • Put the vase on the *table*. c- piece of furniture at which meals are often eaten/ a set of facts or figures displayed in columns and rows

This *table* has interesting information on the economy.

d • She went to the ophthalmologist because her *pupil* was enlarged. d- the dark circle at the centre of the eye

Pupils are supposed to be neat when they come to school. students

2 Refer to the glossary or a dictionary to find the meaning of the words and write one sentence using each:

a get-together:
an informal gathering or meeting

b close-knit:
bound by a close relationship

c milestone:
a significant point of development

d breathing space:
an opportunity to relax and decide what to do next

e interior:
something inside, especially of a house or building

f well-deserved:
extremely worthy of something

3 Match the following sentences with their functions.

a Oh, I am sorry. I am already engaged in another activity. 3

b Thanks, I'd love to. 5

c I'm already going shopping, but I'll check if I can go earlier. 2

1 Asking for information
2 Pending; not yet decided
3 Rejecting politely
4 Inviting
5 Accepting

4 Complete this dialogue with these sentences.

And you *I'll definitely come* *Are you free*
The reason I'm calling is to invite you to a celebration
See you next weekend *What are we celebrating*
How are you *My sister is going to get married*

1 A: Hello, Fatima. How are you ?

B: Hi, Noura. I'm fine thanks, and you?

2 A: Great. The reason I'm calling is to invite you to a celebration. It's going to be next weekend.

B: That sounds brilliant. What are we celebrating?

3 A: My sister is going to be married.

B: Wow, that's great. I'll definitely come. I can't wait.

4 A: Good, See you next weekend.

B: Yeah, see you then.

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5 Work out the order in which these pairs of actions happened. Then write sentences using the words or phrases in italics and verbs in the simple past or the past perfect. You may need to change people's names to pronouns.

a Waleed's father lent Waleed his car.
Waleed passed his driving test.
after
After Waleed had passed his driving test, his father lent him his car.

b The family finished preparing the food for the party.
The guests started arriving.
before
The family had finished preparing the food for the party before the guests started arriving.

c The tourists went on a guided tour of the city.
The tourists got off their coach in the city centre.
as soon as
As soon as the tourists had got off their coach in the city centre, they went on a guided tour of the city.

d The businessman checked in at the airport.
The businessman had breakfast.
after
After the businessman had checked in at the airport, he had breakfast.

e The audience asked questions.
The lecturer finished speaking.
when
The audience asked questions when the lecturer had finished speaking.

f The cousins arrived at the stadium at 11 a.m.
The volleyball tournament started at 12 p.m.
before
The cousins had arrived at the stadium at 11 a.m., before the volleyball tournament started at 12 p.m.

6 Match the sentence beginnings with their endings.

a As soon as the sun had set, 4
b The tornado had destroyed most of the town 1
c By the time Khalid got home, 5
d I had visited Kuwait City before, 2
e I could tell the festival had begun because 3

1 before it was evacuated.
2 but somehow I still got lost.
3 the streets were decorated with flags and banners.
4 the temperature dropped dramatically.
5 the documentary had already started.

7 Put the verbs between brackets in the right tense.

a Every time somebody discusses holidays, they reminisce (reminisce) about their summers abroad.
b The photographer certainly captured (capture) the mood of the celebration last night.
c He was holding (hold) the baby when it started crying.
d The ball just touched (just touch) the net.
e Why don't you swap (not swap) this jacket for that one? This one's better.
f I knew I had passed (pass) my exam when the teacher smiled at me.
g I have not seen (not see) my uncle since last year.
h He met / will meet / is meeting / is going to meet (meet) us at the airport at 9.00 a.m.

Self-assessment

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Writing Notes for a talk

1 When you prepare to give a talk or a presentation, it is helpful to make a few simple notes. Read these notes which a speaker wrote when he was preparing a talk.

Introduction
- Irish nomads – Travellers
- Method of travel
- Sold things they made

Differences now
- Houses
- Language: Gammon
- Cars
- Children: school / interests



2 Now read the talk and underline the parts of the talk the notes refer to. Did the speaker follow the exact order of his notes?

The speaker doesn't follow the exact order of his notes.

I am going to tell you something about the nomadic people who live in Ireland.

- They are called Travellers or Tinkers and traditionally they used to travel around the country in horse-drawn caravans selling things they had made. They were particularly well-known for making pans and kettles.
- Now more and more Travellers are moving into modern houses and settling down.
- They still travel, usually in modern cars and lorries now, but not as often as in the past. Their children go to school regularly and do the kinds of things children all over the world do: watch TV, listen to music and have their favourite football teams.
- Travellers have their own language, called Gammon, but this is now dying out as their traditional lifestyle is changing.

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3 Write your own notes for a talk on a subject you know something about. Follow these steps:

a Choose a subject you know something about.
b Plan the structure of your talk in your head. Don't write the whole talk.
c Write brief notes to remind yourself of the main points that you want to include.

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