

21<sup>st</sup> century families

- 1 Work with a partner and answer the questions.
- How many people live in your household? Who are they?
  - Do you think this is average for your country?
  - Look at the information. Is there anything that you find surprising?
- 2a Read the texts about families in two different countries. Which country has bigger households?

Average household size			
Country	Household size	Country	Household size
India	4.8	Spain	2.8
Mexico	4.3	Russia	2.7
Turkey	4.1	the US	2.6
Brazil	3.3	Japan	2.5
China	3.0	Germany	2.1

# What is a typical family?

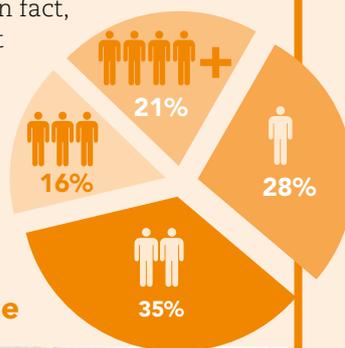
All over the world, families live together, work together and play together. But how are families different? And what is a 'typical' family? Let's look at a typical family in two different countries – the UK and India – to get a picture of family life in each place.

## The UK

There are 26,473,000 households in the UK. 18.6 million of these are families, and 12.5 million of these are married couple families – this is the most common family type in the UK. In general, UK families are small. The average number of children is 1.8, compared to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) global average of 2.63.

British families like technology: 65% of households have a computer and 79% have got a mobile phone. They like cars, too! In fact, 40% of households have got two cars.

Pets are very popular in the UK and about 52% of households have got a pet: that's over half! Cats are very popular, with a total population of 7.9 million.



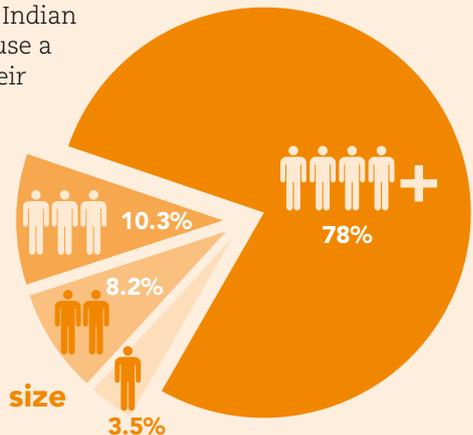
Household size



## India

In India, 78% of households have four people or more. Why are households large? This is because many people live in extended families, where children, parents, cousins and grandparents all live together under the same roof.

Many companies in India design and make new technology, but at the moment only 9.4% of families have got a computer at home. Not many families have got a car, either: only 4.7%. 45% of Indian households use a bicycle as their main form of transport.



Household size



**2b Read the texts again and decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1 In the UK, the average number of children is 2.63.  | T / F |
| 2 Most UK families have got a mobile phone.           | T / F |
| 3 Over half of UK families have got a cat.            | T / F |
| 4 In India, households are usually large.             | T / F |
| 5 A lot of new technology comes from India.           | T / F |
| 6 More people have got a car than a bicycle in India. | T / F |

**2c Read the statements. Which country is each statement about? Write the UK or India.**

- 1 65% of households have got a computer.  
.....
- 2 A lot of children live with their grandparents.  
.....
- 3 Many families use a bicycle, not a car.  
.....
- 4 There are a lot of households with one person.  
.....
- 5 The average number of children is 1.8.  
.....
- 6 Less than 10% households have a computer.  
.....

**Gateway to culture**

**3a Work with a partner and answer the questions.**

- 1 Do you know any households with just one person?
- 2 Do you know any households with more than four people?
- 3 What's the biggest family you know?

**PROJECT**

**3b You are going to work on a presentation about typical households. Read the questions and prepare your project research.**

- 1 Work in small groups. Choose a country you are interested in to compare and contrast with your own country.
- 2 In your groups, do some research on the Internet to find information about the following for your country and your chosen country:
  - the total number of households
  - the average number of people in a household
  - the average number of children per family
  - other interesting or surprising information about families.
- 3 Work together and discuss what you found out. Decide how to present your information to the class. This can be a slideshow, a presentation or a poster, using graphs or charts if necessary.

**3c Present your information to the class. What were the main similarities and differences between your country and the country you chose?**