

The modern British family

I) Are these sentences true or false?

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| 1. Divorce is not common in Britain. | True / False |
| 2. Childcare is not cheap in Britain. | True / False |
| 3. Women can now earn as much as men. | True / False |
| 4. Many mothers nowadays are not married. | True / False |

II) Summary completion; fill in the correct words:

The _____ (old) picture of a happy family living in Britain is no longer true. In the past 20 years, the lives and _____ (make up) of families in Britain have changed enormously. The biggest change has been caused by _____ (separation). As many as 2 out of 3 _____ (relationships) now end in divorce, leading to a situation where many children live with one _____ (father or mother) and only see the other at weekends or holidays. Nowadays, many mothers also work, because they need to work to _____ (earn money for) themselves and their children. This has caused an _____ (rise) in childcare facilities, which are very expensive and can be _____ (hard) to find in many areas. In addition, women are no longer happy to stay at home _____ (bringing up) children, and many mothers earn as much as or even more than men. There are also many single mothers, _____ (especially) among teenagers. Many of their children never get to know their fathers. However, these changes have not had a totally _____ (bad) effect. For women, it has become much easier to have a _____ (success in the job). In addition, modern children are often more independent and _____ (grown-up) than in the past, because they are used to dealing with _____ (unknown people) and mixing with other children.