14.1 Marriage and family
Marriage and family are ________ structures in every society. This text uses this definition of
Marriage: a legally recognized social __________ between two people, traditionally based on a
sexual relationship and implying a ___________ of the union. So what is a family? A husband,
wife, and their children together, has served as the ______ for millennia. What about families
that deviate from this model, such as a single-parent household or a homosexual couple without
________? Should they be considered families as well? The _______ uses this definition of a
family: a socially recognized ______ (usually joined by blood, marriage, cohabitation, or
adoption) that forms an emotional connection and ________ as an economic unit of society.

Challenges Families Face In a 2010 survey by Pew Research Center in Washington, DC,
____ percent of adults surveyed stated that family is “the most important” ______ of their
life—just one percent said it was “not important.” Many religious and ______ conservatives
believe that marriage only exists between a man and a woman, citing ________ doctrine and
the basics of human reproduction as support. Social _________ and progressives, however,
believe that marriage can exist between any two consenting ______—be they a man and a
woman, or woman and woman, or man and man.

Marriage Patterns With _______ parenting and cohabitation (when a couple shares a
residence but not a marriage) becoming more acceptable in recent years, people may be ______
motivated to get married. What will be a “_________” in the future? Monogamy is when
someone is married to only ______ person at a time. However, in a majority of cultures (78 %),
polygamy, or being _________ to more than one person at a time, is accepted, with most
polygamous societies existing in northern _______ and East Asia. Polygyny refers to a man
being married to more than one _______ at the same time. The reverse, when a woman is
married to more than one man at the same time, is called _________. What major religious
denominations are _________ for the practice of polygamy?

Residency and Lines of Descent When considering one’s ________, most people in the
United States look to both their father’s and mother’s sides. Both paternal and maternal ancestors
are considered _______ of one’s family. This pattern of tracing kinship is called __________
descent. Note that kinship, or one’s traceable ancestry, can be based on blood, ________,
or adoption. In kinship tracing, patrilineal follows the __________ line for inheritance and major
familial ties; in matrilineal societies, inheritance and family ties are tied to __________.
Matrilineal descent is common in many _______ American societies, notably the Crow and
Cherokee tribes. In these societies, __________ are seen as belonging to the women, not men.
In a _________ residence system it is customary for the wife to live with (or near) her
husband’s blood relatives. In matrilocal residence systems, it is customary for the __________ to
live with his wife’s blood relatives (or her family of orientation). Who would you want to live next
to? Most couples in the U.S. are ____________.

One way to look at the life-________ of a family is called the Stages of Family Life.
This perspective focuses on how life changes through the typical stages of life. The stages are:
1 Marriage Family Childless
2 Procreation Family Children ages 0 to 2.5
3 Preschooler Family Children ages 2.5 to 6
4 School-age Family Children ages ________
5 Teenage Family Children ages 13–20
6 Launching Family Children begin to leave home
7 Empty Nest Family “Empty nest”; adult children have left home
Whether you grew up watching the Cleavers, the Huxtables, the Simpsons, or other TV families, many of the iconic families you saw in television included a father, a mother, and children cavorting under the same roof. Looking at how families are portrayed can give sociologists an idea of the values of the era that the television program aired. But do TV shows portray families as they are? Did the shows of the 60’s (My Three Sons, The Donna Reed Show) portray accuracy? How about the shows of ______? Would people watch a show about a “typical” family?

14.2 Variations in Family Life
A two-parent family with structure is known as a ________________, referring to married parents and children as the nucleus. In some family structures a parent is not present at all. In 2010, three million children (____ percent of all children) lived with a guardian who was neither their biological nor adoptive parent. Of these children, 54 percent live with ____________, 21 percent live with other relatives, and 24 percent live with nonrelatives. A family structure that may include aunts, uncles, and cousins living in the same home is referred to as the ________________.

Single Parents Single-parent households are ________ in the U.S. in 2010, 27% of children lived with a single parent only, _____ from 25 percent in 2008. Foster parents account for about a quarter of nonrelatives. Changes in the traditional family structure raise ____________ about how such societal shifts affect children. U.S. Census statistics have long ____________ that children living in homes with ____________ parents grow up with more financial and educational ____________ than children who are raised in single-parent homes. Statistically, the parent’s marital status tends to be a significant ____________ of advancement in a child’s life.

Cohabitation What is the ________? Between 2006 and 2010, nearly half of heterosexual women (48 percent) ages fifteen to forty-four said they were not ____________ to their spouse or partner when they first lived with them. Cohabitation is practiced by an estimated ________ million people (11.5 percent of the population) in 2011, which shows an increase of 13 percent since ________ . Those who do not cohabitate before marriage have better rates of remaining married for more than 5 ________ . The median age for marriage is the ________, it has ever been since the U.S. Census kept records—age ________ for women and age ________ for men. The trend is to marry at an older age.

Same-Sex Couples The number of same-sex couples has ________ significantly in the past decade. Nationally, same-sex couple households make up ____ percent of the population. In an analysis of 81 parenting studies, sociologists found no quantifiable data to support the notion that opposite-sex ________________ is any better than same-sex parenting.

Staying Single In 2010, there were ________ million unmarried individuals over age eighteen in the United States, accounting for a significant part of the total adult population. Although both single men and single women report ________ pressure to get married, women are subject to greater scrutiny. The decision to marry or not to marry can be based on a variety of ________, including religion and cultural expectations. Race/ethnicity-wise, ____________ individuals are the most likely to marry while African Americans are the least likely to marry. In general, being single is not a ________________ of marriage; rather, it is a lifestyle that does not necessarily include marriage. Often, concentration on ________________ and career goals take precedent over the institution of marriage.

Theoretical Perspectives on Marriage and Family

Functionalism When considering the role of ________ in society, functionalists uphold the notion that families are an important social institution and that they play a ________ role in stabilizing society. The family—and its members—perform certain ________ that facilitate the prosperity and development of society. Lee’s four key ________ of the family are
found in all societies: 1. Sexual Regulation, 2. Reproduction and the socialization of 

__________, 3. Educational, and 4. Economic. By this perspective, _______ tend to assume the 

instrumental roles in the family, which typically involve work outside of the family that provides 

__________ support and establishes family status. Women tend to assume the expressive 

__________, which typically involve work inside of the family which provides 

__________ support and physical care for children. Such an arrangement ________ for the smooth 

functioning of society.

Conflict Theory Conflict theorists are quick to point out that U.S. families have 

been defined as ________ entities, the consequence of which has been to leave ________ matters to only those within the family. Conflict theory highlights the role of ________ in family 

life and contends that the family is often not a haven but rather a ________ where power 

struggles often occur. Conflict theorists find disputes over control of ________ and the 

division of household labor to be common sources of marital discord. Studies indicate that when 

______ do more housework, women experience more satisfaction in their marriages, reducing the 

incidence of conflict.

Symbolic Interactionism Interactionists view the ________ in terms of symbols 

and the meanings assigned to them. The family itself is a ________. Interactionists would say 

that family is not an objective, concrete reality, but rather an entity that ________ with the 

social norms of a society. For instance, what does the word “Parent” mean? How about “wife” or 

“husband”? Interactionists view the family as a group of ________ players or “actors” that come 

together to act out their ________ in an effort to construct a family. These roles are up for 

interpretation. Interactionists also look at the ________ in meanings of symbols over time in a 

family.

14.3 Challenges Families Face

Divorce and Remarriage In 1960, divorce was generally ________, affecting only 

9.1 out of every 1,000 married persons. That number more than doubled (to 20.3) by 1975 and 

peaked in ________ at 22.6/1,000. The dramatic increase in divorce rates after the 1960s has been 

associated with the liberalization of divorce ________ and the shift in societal make up due to 

women increasingly entering the ________. Divorce does not occur equally among ________ 

people in the United States; some segments of the U.S. population are more ________ to divorce 

than others. In a 2009 ACS study, American ________ and Alaskan Natives reported the 

highest percentages of currently divorced individuals (12.6 percent) followed by blacks (11.5 

percent), whites (______ percent), Pacific Islanders (8 percent), Latinos (7.8 percent) and Asians 

(4.9 percent). In general those who marry at a ________ age and have a college education have 

lower rates of divorce. So what ________ divorce? A great deal of marital problems can be 

related to ________, especially financial stress. The addition of ________ to a marriage 

creates added financial and emotional stress. Research has found that marriages enter their 

______ stressful phase with the birth of the first child.

Divorce often has a cyclical ________; divorce begets divorce. Children of divorced parents 

are ________ percent more likely to divorce than children of married parents. Currently, people in a 

second ________ account for approximately 19.3 percent of all married persons.

Children of Divorce and Remarriage Divorce is often justified by the ________ 

that children are better off in a divorced family than in a family where parents who do not get 

______ well. However, long-term studies determine that to be generally ________. Children 

of parents thinking about divorce are often ________ and frightened by the threat to their 

family security. They may feel ________ for the divorce and attempt to bring their 

parents back together. Only in high-conflict homes do children ________ benefit from 

divorce and the subsequent decrease in conflict. Studies also ________ that stress levels for 

children are ________ improved when a child acquires a stepfamily through remarriage. Proximity
to __________ also makes a difference in a child’s well-being after divorce. Boys who have more time with their __________ show less aggression than those who are raised by their mothers only. Similarly, girls who live or have __________ arrangements with their mothers tend to be more responsible and mature than those who are raised by their fathers only.

Violence and Abuse To be more inclusive, sociologists have created the term __________ partner violence (IPV), this term also includes unmarried, cohabitating, and __________ couples. IPV often starts as __________ abuse and then escalates to other forms or combinations of abuse. Perpetrators of IPV __________ to establish and maintain dominance and dependence in order to hold __________ and control over their victims, making them feel stupid, crazy, or ugly—in some way worthless. Those couples who are separated report __________ rates of abuse; same sex and those who are __________ are also more likely than those who are married to experience IPV.

Child Abuse Children are among the most __________ victims of abuse. In 2010, there were more than __________ million reports of child abuse. Three-fifths of child abuse reports are made by professionals, including __________, law enforcement personal, and social services staff. Child __________ may come in several forms, the most common being __________ (more than 3/4ths), then physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological and then __________ neglect. The majority of perpetrators (_______ percent) are parents. Young parents are typically less capable of coping with stresses, particularly the __________ of becoming a new parent. Teenage mothers are more likely to __________ their children than their older counterparts. As a parent’s __________ increases, the risk of abuse decreases. Drug and alcohol use is also a known contributor to child abuse. Children __________ by substance abusers have a risk of physical abuse three times greater than other kids, and neglect is __________ times as prevalent in these families. The long-term effects of child abuse impact the physical, __________, and emotional wellbeing of a child. Abused children may also __________ from cognitive and social difficulties. Behavioral consequences will affect most, but not __________, of child abuse victims.

Corporal Punishment: Is __________ abuse? While some parents feel that physical discipline, or corporal punishment, is an __________ way to respond to bad behavior, others feel that it is a form of abuse. Studies have shown that excessive corporal punishment done in __________ results in greater aggression in children as they grow up.

One particularly __________ form of abuse is called __________ syndrome. Infants are __________ often victims of physical abuse, particularly in the form of violent shaking. This type of physical abuse describes a __________ of medical symptoms such as brain swelling and retinal hemorrhage resulting from forcefully shaking or causing impact to an infant’s __________. Why would a parent shake a baby? The most common trigger is loud, long __________.

In studying families and abuse it is important to remember that the majority of families in the U.S. do not have __________ and largely function quite well. There are good families!!!