IDENTIFY FAMILY MEMBERS AND GIVE THEIR AGES

Our family is a big part of who we are. When we meet new people or start conversations, it's very common to talk about our family. We may want to tell someone how many siblings we have, how old they are, or who lives with us. In English, we use simple words and short sentences to share this kind of information.

Knowing how to talk about family members and their ages will help you speak more freely in real situations, like when meeting new classmates, coworkers, or neighbors. It also helps you understand others when they talk about their own families.

Family members

English	Spanish	English	Spanish
Mother	Mamá	Father	Papá
Grandmother	Abuela	Grandfather	Abuelo
Daughter	Hija	Son	Hijo
Sister	Hermana	Brother	Hermano
Aunt	Tía	Uncle	Tío
Niece	Sobrina	Nephew	Sobrino
Cousin	Prima	Cousin	Primo
Sister-in-law	Cuñada	Brother-in-law	Cuñado
Mother-in-law	Suegra	Father-in-law	Suegro
Parents	Padres	Grandparents	Abuelos
Children	Hijos	Grandchildren	Nietos
Siblings	Hermanos	Only child	Hijo(a) único(a)
Girlfriend	Novia	Boyfriend	Novio
Wife	Esposa	Husband	Esposo

How old are the people in the family?

grandpa	grandma	mother	father
70	65	40	45

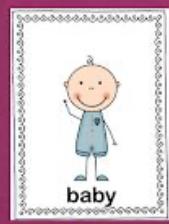| sister	brother	baby	baby
12	10	1	1

www.eflelementaryresources.blogspot.com

© EFL Elementary Teachers

In English, we use specific words for each family member. The most common are mother, father, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, uncle, aunt, and cousin.

Here are some examples of how to use them:

- My mother is a nurse.
- I have one brother and two sisters.
- My grandparents live in another city.

When talking about someone's age, we use the verb to be. We don't say "She has 20 years," like in some other languages. Instead, we say:

- She is 20 years old.
- He is 35
- They are 15 and 18.

You don't always need to say, "years old." Saying just the number is okay in casual speech.

How to say who people are to you

To explain who someone is, we use possessive adjectives like my, his, her, our:

- This is *my* sister.
- *Her* name is Lucia.
- *His* brother is very tall.
- *Our* mother works at the hospital.

If you're talking about someone else's family, you can also say things like:

- What's your dad's name?
- How old is her grandfather?
- Do you have any cousins?

These questions are helpful when learning more about others and starting conversations.

REAL CONVERSATION EXAMPLE

Julia: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Mateo: Yes, I have two sisters.

Julia: How old are they?

Mateo: One is 10 and the other is 15.

Julia: That's nice! I only have one brother. He's 18.

This is a normal conversation. It uses very simple grammar but gives a lot of information. You can do the same!

Common Mistake to Avoid

❌ She has 25 years.

✅ She is 25 years old.

Remember: in English, age uses the verb "to be", not "to have."

Reference:

Kitlum. (2025) How to talk about your family in English. FluentU. Retrieved from:

https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/talk-about-family-in-english/