

The Family



Groups of 3 or 4 students:
The teacher will put a text on the wall.
One person in the group:
* Go and look at the text.
* Tell the others the words.
Other people: Write the words in your book.

In early times, the typical Korean family was large. Several generations often lived together, and many children were desired for stability and security. It was not unusual for the number of people sharing one house to total a dozen or more. In recent years, the movement to urban areas and the spread of apartment-type housing have meant that newly married couples tend to live in their own quarters instead of living with other family members, giving rise to an increasing number of nuclear families.

Traditionally, in a Korean home the head of the family was regarded as the source of authority. All family members were expected to do what was ordered or desired by the family head. Obedience to the superior was regarded as natural and one of the most admirable virtues. On the other hand, it was understood that the patriarch of the family would be fair in dealing with the family members.