

# UNIT 6: LONE PARENTS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Think about the people around you. Who looks after the children during the day?

- the mother
- the father
- the grandparents
- a nursery
- a babysitter

Do you agree or disagree?

- People rely more on friends than parents and family.
- Family has changed since I was a child
- Young people leave home as soon as they can

How does the government help single parents? Consider the following points: rent, electricity, food and clothes, child-care allowance, schooling.

## WRITING

Write a letter to the local newspaper talking about the advantages and difficulties of being a single parent. Here you are the beginning:

*Dear editor,*

*I am a lone parent with a young daughter...*

This is similar to a for and against essay.

### Structure

“For and against essays” are one type of discursive writing in which you discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a specific topic. It should consist of:

**a) an introduction** in which you present the topic, making a general remark about it without giving your opinion.

**b) a main body** in which you present the points for and the points against, in separate paragraphs, supporting your arguments with justifications / examples.

**c) a conclusion** which includes your opinion or a balanced summary of the topic.

Remember that you must not include opinions (I believe, I think) in the main body.

Opinion words can only be used in the final paragraph.

### Useful expressions

**To list and add points:** In the first place, to start / begin with, Secondly, Thirdly, In addition (to this), Furthermore, Moreover, Besides, etc.

**To introduce or list advantages:** The first / main advantage of..., Another / An additional advantage or...

**To introduce or list disadvantages:** The main / most important disadvantage/ drawback of..., One point/ argument against...

**To introduce examples / reasons:** for example, such as, for instance, in other words, in particular, because, since (=because).

**To show contrast:** On the other hand, However, Nonetheless, Nevertheless

**To introduce a conclusion:** In conclusion, To conclude / sum up, All in all, All things considered

### To express your opinion

I believe / think / feel that..., I strongly believe that..., In my opinion / view..., To my mind...