



Extended Family Listening **Answers**

1. **Who in the narrator's family became estranged, and why?**

Answer: Her mother became estranged from her half-sister after a disagreement about money.

Transcript: *"My mother became estranged from her half-sister after a disagreement about money, and they haven't spoken in years."*

2. **How did the narrator gain step-siblings?**

Answer: Her mum remarried, so she gained a step-father, a step-brother, and a step-sister.

Transcript: *"My mum remarried, so I suddenly had a step-father and two step-siblings: a step-brother and a step-sister."*

3. **What family role does the narrator's brother's wife have?**

Answer: She is the narrator's sister-in-law.

Transcript: *"My brother is married, so I get along really well with his wife—my sister-in-law."*

4. **How is the narrator connected to a 'second cousin once removed'?**

Answer: Through her cousin's second marriage.

Transcript: *"My cousin married twice; her second husband is her fiancé-turned-spouse, and now I have a second cousin once removed through them."*

5. **What is unusual about the narrator's godfather?**

Answer: He was actually just a neighbour, not a blood-relative.

Transcript: *"My godmother has been a family friend of my mum's since childhood, while my godfather was actually just a neighbour."*

6. **What family role does the narrator personally have for her friend's child?**

Answer: She is a godmother to her best friend's son.

Transcript: *"In fact, I'm also a godmother myself—to my best friend's son."*

7. **What happened to the cousin who got engaged?**

Answer: She broke off the engagement.

Transcript: *"Another cousin got engaged last year, but then broke it off."*

8. **What is the difference between the narrator's widowed relatives?**

Answer: One aunt is a widow (lost her husband), and one cousin is a widower (lost his wife).

Transcript: *"One of my aunts is a widow, and one of my cousins is a widower."*

9. **Who turned out to be both a flatmate and a colleague from the past?**

Answer: Her closest colleague, who was also a long-lost classmate, became her flatmate.

Transcript: *"My closest colleague is almost like family—she's my long-lost classmate from university!"*

10. **Why does the narrator compare her family tree to a 'soap opera'?**

Answer: Because of the many complex relationships, divorces, remarriages, and in-laws, which make it complicated and dramatic.

Transcript: *"Between ancestors, descendants, spouses, ex-husbands, and new fiancés, it sometimes feels like a soap opera."*