



2 Changing Lifestyles

1 Synopsis

This video looks at the changing role of fathers since the 1950s and 60s, when most fathers went out to work every day and most mothers stayed at home to take care of the children. David is a modern father. Both he and his wife have careers. They share the duties of taking care of the children and doing the housework. David's father, Bob, also helped out when his wife decided to go back to work. He became very involved in his children's lives, unlike most fathers at that time. David feels that he has more responsibilities than most fathers, but that his own father was a good role model.

Length of video: 4:59min

2 Target Language

Grammar: Present Perfect Progressive

Vocabulary: collocations: family life

Language points: expressing contrasts: *but, instead, however, while*

3 Procedural Notes

A Before you watch

Individuals. Have some students read aloud the statements in the first column of the chart. Draw students' attention to some of the collocations, e.g., pursue a career, do the chores, take care of the children, etc. Have students complete the chart about their own childhoods. Circulate while they are working. Remind them that if they check the "other" column, they need to write down the name or role of that person.

In groups. Have students compare and discuss their charts in small groups. Discuss any typical patterns as a class.

B While you watch

1 As a class. Draw students' attention to the title of the video, "Changing Lifestyles." Encourage them to speculate what it could be about. Play the first minute of the video with the sound off. Have students predict what the video will say about fathers in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s, and how family life has changed in more recent times. Then, play the whole video, with the sound on, for students to check their predictions.

Individuals. Have students read the sentences. Tell them to complete the answers that they can remember. Play the video again for students to complete the rest of the exercise and check their answers.

Answer key:

1 Bob 2 Shirley 3 Bob, Shirley 4 David
5 Diane 6 David, Diane 7 David 8 Shirley

2 Individuals. Have students read the questions. Check that they understand them. Elicit some ideas from the class. Tell students to write notes (not full sentences) while the video is playing, and not to worry if they miss some details. Play the video again while students take notes. Give them time to write up the complete sentences and nominate students to read their answers to check answers as a class.

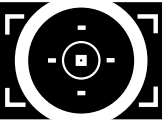
Suggested answers:

- 1 Bob had a full-time job as an electrical engineer. His wife was a stay-at-home mom and did almost all of the childcare and housework.
- 2 Bob started to take a more active role. He began to do more cooking, driving the children places in the car, and he got more involved with the children. For example, he encouraged David to develop his interests in magic and theater.
- 3 David is a research scientist. He leaves work at five o'clock each day to be with his children. He takes them for walks with the dogs, to the doctors, and to the park, and he prepares dinner.
- 4 David's job is more flexible than his wife's, so he is able to change his schedule more easily to take care of the children.

C After you watch

1 As a class. Check that students understand the sentences and the verbs in the box. Elicit and review the form of the present perfect progressive on the board (*has / have + been + -ing* form). Ask the class why we use this tense. (To talk about repeated actions or processes that started in the past and continue now.)

In pairs. Have students work in pairs to complete the sentences. Tell them that some verbs can go in more than one place, but that students should use the context and meaning to decide the best place for each one. Check answers.



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Answer key:

- 1 have been deciding 2 have been pursuing
 3 have been devoting 4 has been enjoying
 5 has been traveling

2 In pairs. Have pairs brainstorm ideas for the changing roles of men and women in your country in recent years. If they find this difficult, elicit some ideas from the class and write them on the board. Have pairs write three sentences expressing their ideas, using the present perfect progressive. Have them report back to the class.

D Language points

Individuals. Call on a student to read aloud the words in the box. Elicit that these words are all used to express contrast. Tell students that *but* and *however*

are sometimes interchangeable, but that *but* generally goes after a comma at the start of a new clause, not at the beginning of a new sentence. Elicit any other rules (for example, *instead* collocates with *of* and is followed by verb-*ing* or a noun). Have students complete the sentences with the correct words. Check answers as a class.

Answer key:

- 1 However 2 Instead 3 but 4 While

E Your viewpoint

In groups. Read the questions aloud and check that everybody understands them. Have students work in small groups to discuss the questions. While groups are working, circulate and help with vocabulary. Finish off with a class discussion.

4 Video Script

Presenter: Welcome to Changing Lifestyles. Today, we'll take a look at the changing role of fathers. In the 1950s and the 1960s, most fathers went to work every day, and most mothers stayed at home to take care of the children. However, since the late 60s and the early 70s, family life has been changing dramatically. Instead of accepting the rigid roles imposed by society, many couples have been deciding to change their work-life balance. More mothers have been pursuing careers, while at the same time, fathers have been devoting more time to caring for children and doing household chores. This is David Knowle. David is 33 years old. Husband, and father of two girls. David is a modern father. He and his wife both pursue careers and share in raising the children and doing housework.

Diane: OK, well, then are you gonna go to the playground?

Girl: Right.

Diane: OK.

Girl: Right, Mama.

Diane: I love you. Can you say bye-bye?

Baby: Ba-ba.

Diane: Bye-bye!

Girl: Bye!

Diane: Bye-bye.

Presenter: David's father, Bob Knowle, was also a loving father, but David's role as a father was different. During the early part of his career, Bob went to work every day while his wife Shirley stayed home. Bob worked for 38 years at Westinghouse as an electrical engineer. Bob worked on some of the first computers ever produced. Bob had always been an involved father, but in 1970, Shirley decided to go back to work. That was when Bob's role as a father changed.

Bob: When Shirley went back to work, I had to change my role and start to do more cooking, driving the children here and there. When our children were growing up, I took a lot of interest in what they were doing.

David: I think in many ways I was probably better prepared for the changing roles that I've had to take on by my father.

Bob: We did many things together and I tried to get them involved in other areas that they seemed to show interest in such as theater and magic.

David: He did a great deal more than I think many fathers. I mean I can think of childhood friends whose fathers, you know, were running businesses who participated almost not at all in their development. And I think I had a role model.



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Bob: I remember David was interested in ... he got very interested in magic and juggling and he was an avid reader.

Presenter: As a young man, David loved magic, but he pursued a career as a biochemist. Before having children, David spent 40 hours per week studying cellular DNA in a research lab. And his wife Diane spent 40 hours a week working as a lawyer in Washington, DC. After the girls were born, David and Diane both cut back on their hours in order to take care of their daughters. As a research scientist, David's schedule was more flexible, so he took on more responsibility for the children's day-to-day care.

David: Well, I have been able to adjust my schedule so that I can be home at five o'clock for the kids. And if the children are sick, being able to come home, take them to the doctors. We go for a walk, we take the dogs up the street, go to the park, hang out at the park, and then we head back to the house and begin preparing dinner.

Presenter: Since Bob retired ten years ago, he has been enjoying his role as a grandfather. He's been traveling with his wife Shirley, and he's been playing tennis. Meanwhile, David is just beginning his journey as a father in a new era.

David: It can be difficult, especially when, you know, you're taking on new roles for the first time, and it can be disconcerting and it can be more comfortable to take on those traditional roles. I have ... I think I have many more responsibilities than even most fathers do today, and certainly more than I think when my father was raising his children. But the difference is not the sort of classic role reversal. I'm not a stay-at-home dad. We have an excellent babysitter who has allowed us ... allowed both my wife and I the opportunities to continue pursuing our career.

Presenter: While there are many differences in how David and Bob have raised their children, there are many important similarities.