

## Chapter 4 Families and households

### Topic 6 Family diversity

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#### Activity: Media

#### The conventional nuclear family

#### Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify the key features of the conventional nuclear family.
- Analyse some of the features of modernist views of the family.
- Evaluate functionalist and New Right views of the family.

The clip below is from 1950 and shows a family dinner time. This is around the time that Parsons was studying the family.

A. Watch the clip and answer the questions that follow:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8yY\\_QP4FYs&feature=Playlist&p=1C9FE9F438A59F61&playnext=1&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8yY_QP4FYs&feature=Playlist&p=1C9FE9F438A59F61&playnext=1&index=5)

1. Is the family shown in a positive or negative view?
  2. How are the women portrayed in the clip?
  3. How are the men portrayed in the clip?
  4. What aspects of the functionalist view of the family are illustrated by the clip? Look at page 225 and also Topic 3 for ideas.
  5. What aspects of the New Right view of the family are illustrated by the clip?
  6. How does this image of family life differ from your own family?
  7. What criticisms would feminists make of this view of family life? See topic 3 for a reminder of feminist views of the family.
- B. Write a summary paragraph entitled: 'Positive and negative aspects of the nuclear family'.