Adoption

In a legal sense, a process that allows for the transfer of the legal rights, responsibilities, and privileges of parenthood to a new legal parent or parents.

Bilateral descent

A kinship system in which both sides of a person's family are regarded as equally important.
Cohabitation

The practice of living together as a male–female couple without marrying.

Domestic partnership

Two unrelated adults who have chosen to share a mutually caring relationship, reside together, and agree to be jointly responsible for their dependents, basic living expenses, and other common necessities.

Egalitarian family

An authority pattern in which spouses are regarded as equals.
Endogamy

The restriction of mate selection to people within the same group.

Exogamy

The requirement that people select mates outside certain groups.

Extended family

A family in which relatives—such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles—live in the same home as parents and their children.
Pride in the extended family, expressed through the maintenance of close ties and strong obligations to kinfolk outside the immediate family.

A set of people related by blood, marriage or some other agreed-upon relationship, or adoption, who share the primary responsibility for reproduction and caring for members of society.

The conscious or unconscious tendency to select a mate with personal characteristics similar to one's own.
Incest taboo

The prohibition of sexual relationships between certain culturally specified relatives.

Kinship

The state of being related to others.

Machismo

A sense of virility, personal worth, and pride in one’s maleness.
Matriarchy

A society in which women dominate in family decision making.

Matrilineal descent

A kinship system in which only the relatives of the mother are significant.

Monogamy

A form of marriage in which one woman and one man are married only to each other.
Nuclear family
A married couple and their unmarried children living together.

Patriarchy
A society in which men dominate in family decision making.

Patrilineal descent
A kinship system in which only the relatives of the father are significant.
Polyandry

A form of polygamy in which a woman may have more than one husband at the same time.

Polygamy

A form of marriage in which an individual can have several husbands or wives simultaneously.

Polygyny

A form of polygamy in which a man may have more than one wife at the same time.
Serial monogamy

A form of marriage in which a person may have several spouses in his or her lifetime, but only one spouse at a time.

Single-parent family

A family in which only one parent is present to care for the children.