**Chapter 10: Family:**

**Partner Taking, People Making, and Contract Breaking**

**Web Exercises**

1. Go to [Forum on Child and Family Statistics.](http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/) On the toolbar on your left, you will see the Family and Social Environment indicators for the America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2007 study (e.g., child care, child maltreatment, adolescent births). Explore the data and answer the following questions.
2. What proportion of U.S. children live with both parents?
3. What special problems do babies born to adolescent mothers face?
4. What has the trend been for teenage births (to 15- to 17-year-olds) been like over the last decade? Given what you read in your textbook, does this finding surprise you? Why or why not?
5. How do child-care arrangements differ for children in poverty compared to those not in poverty? How might this be related to the "feminization of poverty" discussed in your text?
6. Do a general search on "marriage and divorce statistics in the United States." Write a report (including proper citations) that gives a general overview of marriage and divorce in the United States today. Be certain that you include the number of marriages and divorces today, reasons for divorce, and the impact that divorce can have on adults and children. Some possible places to search include:

[The U.S. National Center for Health Statistics](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/divorce.htm)

[The Internet Public Library](http://www.ipl.org/)

[Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com)

Your college online library database

1. Some comparative studies have found the United States to compare poorly in the “family friendliness” of its laws and public policies. To explore this, read: <http://www.hreonline.com/pdfs/08012009Extra_McGillSurvey.pdf>. Answer the following questions:
2. What things is the United States doing well compared to other nations?
3. In what areas of work and family is the United States lagging behind?
4. Based upon your findings, do you believe that the United States should modify its work/family policies? Why or why not?
5. The [American Family Association](http://www.afa.net/) is an organization that claims to stand for “traditional family values.” As you read through the website, consider the following:
6. Does this site represent your values? If so, which ones? If not, how is it different?
7. Given the current family trends discussed in your textbook (teen pregnancy, cohabitation, and divorce), do you think the site represents the values of most Americans? Why or why not?
8. Visit the corporate website for your job (current or past). If your employer does not have a website or if you do not work, select the website of a close friend or family member’s job. Find the family policies of the institution. Find their policies on parental leave, childcare, flexible work, family leave, and so forth. What are these policies? How do these policies introduce or relax strain for the workers or the families of the workers managing the work/home balance? Compare what you find with what your peers find to better understand how family policies influence social institutions.

6. Go to the website for the [Families and Work Institute](http://familiesandwork.org/site/research/reports/main.html). Open one of the many articles on workplace flexibility.

1. What do you find as the trend in terms of workplace flexibility?
2. Is workplace flexibility more difficult in some industries than in others? How so?
3. How can workplace flexibility become gendered?

7. Go to the website for the National Center for Children in Poverty here: <http://nccp.org/tools/frs/>. Use the Family Resource Simulator, which shows how family resources and expenses change as earnings increase based on a hypothetical family. What did you find? Were you surprised by the answers?