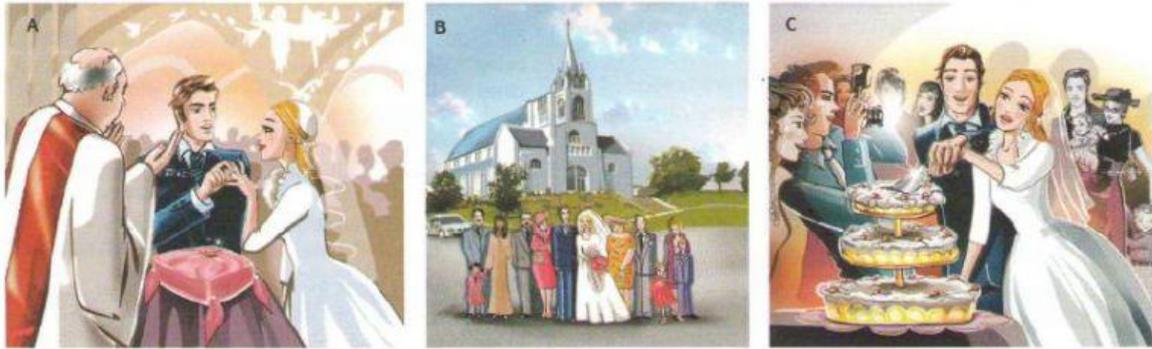


## Present Simple vs Present Continuous



1. *Marriage is a thing of the past.* Do you agree? Explain why or why not.

2. Read the magazine article and find out if the writer agrees that marriage is a thing of the past.

### COMMENT

#### IF YOU ASK ME ...

Sue Carey disagrees with her university professor

Marriage is certainly \_\_\_\_\_ (change). More and more people \_\_\_\_\_ (live) together and \_\_\_\_\_ (have) children without getting married, she told us. The number of divorces \_\_\_\_\_ (increase) all the time. It doesn't matter if you're single or married, she said with a smile of victory. 'The prison of marriage \_\_\_\_\_ (belong) to an older generation!'

But now, twenty years later - is marriage dead? You do not need to think about it for too long: go to any newsagent and look at the magazines on sale. On the cover of every popular magazine like *Hello!* someone \_\_\_\_\_ (get) married. Or maybe someone \_\_\_\_\_ (get) divorced. The stories \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) the magazines and in thousands of offices around the world, people \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) around and \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at the wedding photos of the rich and famous.

In the UK, people \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) until they are older to get married, but the number of weddings is actually increasing. True, divorces are also going up, but people \_\_\_\_\_ (get) married again, for a second, third or fourth time.

In the year after university, I went to the weddings of four of my friends. My own (first) marriage was two years later. We want to read about marriage, look at films and photos, and do it ourselves. It appears that we can't get enough of it. Sorry professor, but the conclusion seems clear: *marriage is very much alive and well.*

**3. Answer the questions**

**1) Is marriage changing in your country? How?**

**2) At what age do people usually get married?**

**3) What are the advantages and disadvantages of getting married?**