

The day we met

READING & LISTENING

How do you think people usually meet friends and partners nowadays? Number the phrases 1–5 (1 = the most popular).

- 1 ☐ at work
2 ☐ at school or university
3 ☐ online (e.g. on forums, social networking sites, etc.)
4 ☐ in a bar, club, etc.
5 ☐ through friends

Read the beginning of two stories which appeared on Instagram #thewaywemet. Where did Tiffany and Kristina meet their partners for the first time?

Read the stories again. Write **T** (Tiffany) or **K** (Kristina).

The first time she met her partner, she...

- 1 ☐ saw him from a distance.
2 ☐ felt a bit frightened.
3 ☐ had moved away from her hometown.
4 ☐ had a problem with her health.
5 ☐ was immediately attracted to him.
6 ☐ felt that he didn't understand her.

What do you think happened to the two couples next?

Think of a couple you know well, e.g. your parents or friends. How did they meet? Do you know any couples who met in unusual circumstances?

Read the endings of the both stories.
Did you expect such an end?

Tiffany's story

...His face turned white. He apologized and explained that he had exactly the same white Jeep Cherokee. Then he clicked the lock button on his own keys. He realized that his car was parked right next to mine and he had opened the wrong car door by mistake. We both just started laughing. I said, 'You can leave your food though, I'll be happy to take it home.' He answered, 'Only if you'll make dinner for me with it.' A few days later, I made him dinner at my place and the rest is history. People don't always believe us when we tell them our story, but nobody could make this story up.

Tiffany's story

♥ THE WAY WE MET

Three years ago, I stopped at the supermarket on my way home from work to get some food. After checking out, I walked out of the store and pressed the unlock button on my car keys to open my white Jeep Cherokee. But as I got nearer, I noticed the rear door on the passenger's side was already open and there was a guy standing beside it. At first, I thought he was trying to steal my car, or rob me. But when I got a little nearer, I noticed he was actually unloading his shopping into the car. I was scared. I went up to him nervously and said, 'Um, hi.' He said, 'Hi,' and looked at me in surprise while he continued to unload his shopping. Then I said, 'Um, this is my car.' He laughed at me as if I was crazy and replied, 'No, it isn't, it's mine.' So I pressed the lock button on my car keys to show him that it was definitely my car. His face turned white.

Kristina's story


♥ THE WAY WE MET

I came to New York to do a Master's degree in Creative Writing. Matt was a personal trainer, and he was studying for his doctorate in Chinese medicine at another university in New York. At the time, I used to do a lot of running – I'd run two marathons – and I started to get really bad back pain. I saw lots of doctors, and they all said different things, like 'do yoga' and 'maybe you need an operation'. None of them knew what was wrong. The final one suggested acupuncture, so I thought I'd try it as a last resort. When I walked into the clinic for the session, I saw Matt. He was the acupuncturist. The moment we looked into each other's eyes, we connected. But he didn't ask me out; he was very professional. On my last session, I asked him how old he was. He said he'd be 29 the following week, but that he wasn't going to celebrate, because he had to study.



Kristina's story

...he wasn't going to celebrate because he had to study. I sent Matt an email. 'You should come to dinner with me on your birthday.' He didn't answer for two days. Then I got a message. 'I'd love to come to dinner with you.' And that's how it all started. Now we've both finished studying – we're travelling to China to celebrate our graduations and this summer we're planning to rent a flat together. And you remember I was studying Creative Writing? Well, Matt's surname is Tolstoy! He was obviously the man for me.

 **5.15** Listen to John talking about how he met his partner. Where did they meet? Was it a romantic meeting?

Listen again. Mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

- 1 John was teaching English in Indonesia.
- 2 His future wife was one of his students.
- 3 She usually arrived for her classes on time.
- 4 John was carrying a lot of things to class.
- 5 She made him drop them.
- 6 She helped him to pick them up.
- 7 They were friends for a long time before going out together.
- 8 They've been married for ten years.

