

PARTIES



Lesson preparation

1. Read the magazine article. Choose the correct words in these sentences.

1. Tony is Olivia's third/fourth husband.
2. Ginny went/didn't go to Olivias wedding.
3. Ginny had/hadn't been a bridesmaid for Olivia before.
4. Olivia has/hasn't kept in touch with her ex-husbands.
5. More/Fewer people in the UK are getting married these days.

FOR BETTER FOR WORSE

Ginny Bell looks at her friend's chances of having a happy marriage.

When Olivia first started going out with Tony, I thought it would never last. Two months later, she told me they were getting married. I thought she should **put** the wedding **off** for a few months until she knew Tony better. 'He really is the one,' Olivia told me. She'd said the same thing about her last three husbands, but I didn't like to **point** this **out** to her.

When Olivia asked me to be her bridesmaid, I tried to **get out of** the whole thing because I didn't want to see her make the same mistake again. However, I couldn't **come up with** a good excuse, so there I was again, standing outside the church wondering how much Olivia's parents had spent this time. A typical wedding costs about £16,000 and lasts six hours, so that's about £2,600 an hour. Olivia must be a very expensive daughter to have.

At the church Olivia introduced me by saying, "This is Ginny. She's been a bridesmaid at all my weddings!" And indeed I had. I wondered how long it would be before Olivia and Tony **split up**, adding £15,000 — the average cost of a divorce — to the cost of the wedding. Fortunately, Olivia **got over** her last three divorces quickly and is still friends with all her ex-husbands.

So what are their chances of a successful marriage? The day before the wedding I **came across** a newspaper report which said that the number of divorces in the UK is still **going**

up, while the number of people getting married is falling. I **looked** some figures **up** and found out that in 1971 there were 459,000 weddings in the UK, but 2001 there were only 286,000. And as for divorce, where you live makes a huge difference. For example, the divorce rate in the UK is 53%, but in Italy it's only 12%.

When my husband and I were leaving the reception, Olivia said, 'You two have never **fallen out**, have you? How can I make this marriage last?' Well, Olivia, what can I say? Move to Italy!

2. Look at the phrasal verbs in bold in the article. Match them to their meanings 1-10. Write the infinitive of the verbs.

1. avoid doing something you don't want to do *get out of*
2. feel better after you have been unhappy or ill
3. increase or rise
4. find some information in a book or on a computer
5. tell someone some information you think they don't know or have forgotten
6. decide or arrange to do something at a later time
7. argue with someone and stop being friendly with them
8. think of an idea, or a solution to a problem
9. end a marriage or relationship
10. find something by accident