Reading and vocabulary

Birth, marriage, and death



1 Match the statements (1–3) with the responses (a–c).

1 I'm having a baby!	a What a shame!
2 She died last night.	b Congratulations!
3 They split up after the party.	c I'm so sorry.

2 What colours do you connect with births, marriages, and death in your culture? Why? Do you know of any other cultures that have different colours connected with these life events?

3 Read the texts quickly and look at the pictures. Add the heading Birth, Marriage, or Death to each text 1–3.



1 _____

One of my neighbours, Mr Marsh, died yesterday. When he was alive, he did a lot for the environment. His wife died a year ago, so his children are arranging for him to have a 'green' funeral in a forest close to his home. They are also going to plant a tree for him.



2 _____

Daisy's expecting a baby boy and he's due in three months. Her first baby was born in hospital. I think she had a tough time because it was very noisy and she couldn't sleep. She wants to have this baby at home and try a water birth this time.



3 _____

James and Clare split up a month ago. I can't believe it! They started going out when they were at university and they only got married two years ago. They spent nearly £10,000 on the wedding, and had an expensive honeymoon, too. What a waste of money!

4 Read the texts again. Write the text numbers next to the statements.

This text describes …

1 ☐ someone who is pregnant.
2 ☐ someone who has been widowed.
3 ☐ people getting a divorce.
4 ☐ a mother's plans.
5 ☐ a recent wedding.
6 ☐ plans for a dead relative.
7 ☐ someone who cares about the world.
8 ☐ a lot of money spent on something.
9 ☐ an experience in hospital.

Match the lines in A to the lines in B.

A
1 Cora and Sebastian are so in love.
2 My grandfather passed away last week.
3 Ella is expecting a baby.
4 Tina's been a widow for a long time.
5 The wedding was last weekend.
6 Lisa and Alan got engaged!
7 Dora gave birth to a beautiful baby girl.
8 Eric and Petra got divorced three years ago.

B
☐ a They're on honeymoon in Barbados now.
☐ b Her husband died over ten years ago.
☐ c The funeral is next Friday.
☐ d He's still single, but she remarried last year.
☐ e He proposed on Valentine's Day.
[1] f They're getting married in the spring.
☐ g She's due on May 10.
☐ h She was over four kilos!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Everyday English

Finding the right words

Complete the dialogue with the lines in the box.

a I'm so sorry. He was such a kind man.
b Was it a boy or girl? How much did it weigh?
c Oh dear! I hope he feels better soon.
d Wow! They're going to be busy! Give them my congratulations.
e What a shame! They seemed such a happy couple.
f Congratulations! It's about time. You've been going out for three years!

1



A Have you heard the news? Jill and Simon are getting divorced.

B _____

2



A Harry's been in bed with the flu for a week!

B _____

3



A Maggie had the baby at six in the morning!

B _____

4



A We're getting married next spring!

B _____

5



A My grandad passed away last week.

B _____

6



A Karen and Tim are expecting twins!

B _____

11.4 Listen and check.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

MARITAL STATUS

2 **Write the words in the correct order.**

- ▶ get / to / they / married / want They want to get married.
- 1 baby / last / had / a / year / they .
- 2 separated / January / they / in .
- 3 have / good / a / very / relationship / we .
- 4 boyfriend / you / how / your / get / did / to / know ?
- 5 three / together / for / they / years / were .
- 6 with / six / went / him / months / I / for / out .

Choose the correct option.

1) Simon is a good husband and I've been _____ to him for 15 years.

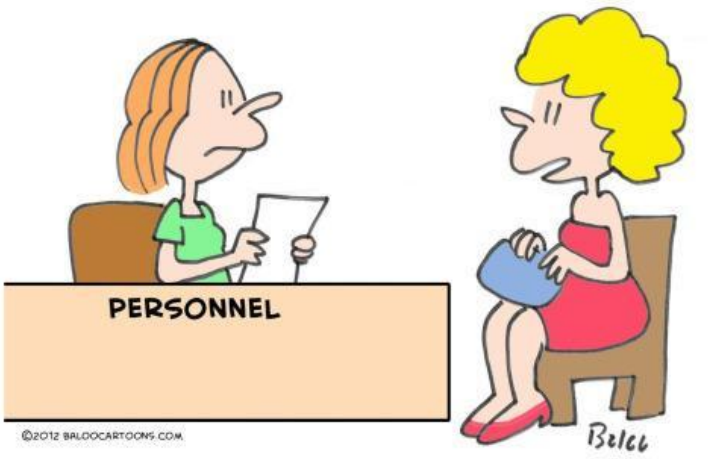
[ ]married
[ ]unmarried
[ ]marry

2) His wife died two hours after giving birth to their daughter.He became a _____.

[ ]widow
[ ]widower
[ ]divorced

3) I met my _____ on the Internet.We got engaged 3 months ago.

[ ]widow
[ ]fiancee
[ ]widower



"'Marital status'? — Well, it could be worse, I guess."

4) I love Susan very much.I am going to _____ her.

[ ]divorce
[ ]separated
[ ]marry

5) This woman can't stand her husband.She wants to _____ him.

[ ]marry
[ ]divorced
[ ]divorce

6) This _____ buried her husband eleven years ago.She has never married again.

[ ]widower
[ ]fiancee
[ ]widow

7) He _____ her because she didn't love him and she was so vain woman.

[ ]marry
[ ]divorced
[ ]marriage

8) I have been _____ for three months but I haven't got a divorce yet.

[ ]unmarried
[ ]separated

LIVEWORKSHEETS

[ ]divorced

9) Couples enter into their first _____ at an older age than in the past.
[ ]unmarried
[ ]divorced
[ ]marriage

10) John has three children but is not married.He wants to be _____ forever.
[ ]married
[ ]unmarried
[ ]widower

LIVEWORKSHEETS