12 Marriage and divorce

A Weddings

In the UK, it is the **custom** for many couples to **get engaged** before they get married. For the **wedding** itself, couples can choose a **religious ceremony**, for example in a church, or a **civil ceremony**, in a **registry office** or some other building. On the day of the wedding, the woman is called the **bride**, and the man is the **groom**. After the wedding, most married couples have a **reception**, followed by a **honeymoon**. During the reception, several people **make speeches** and wish the couple a happy **marriage**. On the same day every year after that, the couple **celebrate** their wedding **anniversary**.



GLOSSARY

custom	sth that people in society or a community usually do: *It's a **custom** for people to give presents to a couple getting married.*	**(wedding) reception**	a meal and/or party after a wedding
get/be engaged	If two people **get engaged** or **are engaged**, they have agreed to get married.	**honeymoon**	a holiday for a couple who have just got married
wedding ceremony	a time when two people get married a formal public event. A **religious ceremony** takes place in a church, mosque, temple, etc. A **civil ceremony** is a non-religious ceremony which often takes place in a **registry office**.	**make a speech**	give a formal talk to a lot of people at a special event
		marriage	the period when two people are married
		celebrate	do sth to show you are happy about a special day
		anniversary	a day that is exactly a year after a special event

1 Put these words in the correct order.

the reception	.....	▶ the couple meet	1	the anniversary	.....
the wedding	.....	the honeymoon	.....	get engaged	.....

2 Underline the correct word.

▶ They got ***engaged*** / ***married*** last week. The wedding is planned for June.
1 Jake and Emma's ***wedding*** / ***marriage*** is next Saturday.
2 Jake is the ***groom*** / ***bride***.
3 It's a ***civil*** / ***religious*** ceremony in St Peter's Church.
4 The reception will be ***before*** / ***after*** the wedding ceremony.
5 Speeches are a custom during the ***ceremony*** / ***reception***.
6 On their honeymoon, Jake and Emma will be ***bride and groom*** / ***husband and wife***.

3 Complete the questions with a suitable word.

▶ Do couples usually get engaged before they get married?
1 Can couples have a religious ceremony or a ..... ceremony in a ..... office?
2 Does the ..... usually wear a dress of a particular colour? If so, what colour?
3 Is there usually a ..... after the ceremony?
4 Do people often ..... speeches? If so, who does it?
5 Is it the ..... for the wife to wear a wedding ring on her left hand?
6 Do couples often go on a ..... after the wedding?
7 Do couples usually ..... their wedding ..... every year?
8 Do most ..... last forever in your country?

ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY

.....
.....
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4 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY **Write answers to the questions in Exercise 3, or ask another student. Are there any other customs you have during weddings in your country?**

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Divorce

Although most couples say they 'marry for life', recent **statistics** do not support this **belief.** Currently about 42% of married couples in the UK **separate** and get divorced, with the average marriage lasting about thirty years. Reasons for deciding to live **apart vary,** but certainly include money problems – which cause **pressure** in a relationship – **lack of** communication, one partner having a **sexual** relationship (an **affair**) with another person, **constant** arguments, and lack of **equality** in the relationship, e.g. if one person does all the housework, or one person makes all the decisions.

SPOTLIGHT *separate v, adj*

The verb **separate** means 'stop being together'. The adjective **separate** means 'away; not together'.
Listen to the MP for the different ways they are pronounced.

- *My parents **separated** when I was a child.* (SYN **split up**)
- *The older children are **separate from** the younger ones in the school.*

GLOSSARY

statistics	a collection of numbers that give information about sth	**sexual**	connected with sex
belief	a strong feeling that sth is true or real	**affair**	a sexual relationship between two people that is normally secret because at least one person in the relationship is married
apart	not together: ***live apart*** = live in separate homes		
vary	be different from each other, or change according to the situation	**constant**	happening all the time, or again and again ALSO **continuous** happening all the time: ***continuous noise***
pressure	a feeling of worry and stress because of what you have to do	**equality**	being the same or having the same rights **equal** *adj*
lack (of sth)	not having sth or not having enough of sth		

5 **Is the pronunciation of the underlined sounds the same or different? Write *S* or *D*. Use the APP to help you. Practise saying the words.**

▶ separate / sexual S
1 equality / pressure .....
2 vary / lack .....
3 statistics / split .....
4 equality / constant .....
5 affair / statistics .....
6 belief / pressure .....
7 separate (*adj*) / affair .....

6 ***Yes* or *No*?**

▶ If two people live ***apart***, they don't live with each other. Yes
1 If something is ***constant***, it happens from time to time. .....
2 ***Equality*** is about how good or bad something is. .....
3 A ***lack*** of something is when you haven't got enough of something. .....
4 ***Statistics*** give you information through numbers. .....
5 When couples ***separate***, they stay together. .....
6 If things ***vary***, they don't change. .....

7 **Complete the sentences.**

▶ In some cultures, there is a general belief that marriage is for ever.
1 They were only married for four years, but now they live ..... .
2 You can get lots of figures from ....., but they don't tell the whole truth.
3 If you have money problems, it can put ..... on any relationship.
4 A ..... of communication has been a ..... problem for them. They just don't talk to each other.
5 Sophie's parents ..... when she was a teenager; she stayed with her mum.
6 In an ..... relationship, there is less chance that a marriage will come to an end.
7 His parents got divorced last year and now live in ..... houses, but they're only about a hundred metres from each other.
8 Reasons for divorce ..... enormously.

8 ABOUT YOU **Cover the text above and write down five reasons why couples get divorced. Can you also think of at least two more reasons why people get a divorce?**

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS