

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: <i>It's a custom for people to give presents to a couple getting married.</i> | (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 celebrate | the period when two people are married 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 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

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

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 **CD** 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 | constant | happening all the time, or again and again ALSO continuous happening all the time: continuous noise |
| vary | be different from each other, or change according to the situation | equality | being the same or having the same rights equal adj |
| pressure | a feeling of worry and stress because of what you have to do | | |
| 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.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|-------|
| ▶ <u>se</u> parate / <u>se</u> xual | <u>S</u> | 4 equality / <u>co</u> nstant | ..... |
| 1 <u>e</u> quality / <u>pr</u> essure | ..... | 5 <u>a</u> ffair / <u>st</u> atistics | ..... |
| 2 <u>v</u> ary / <u>l</u> ack | ..... | 6 <u>b</u> elief / <u>pr</u> essure | ..... |
| 3 <u>st</u> atistics / <u>sp</u> lit | ..... | 7 <u>se</u> parate (<u>adj</u>) / <u>a</u> ffair | ..... |

6 Yes or No?

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ▶ If two people live apart , they don't live with each other. | <u>Yes</u> |
| 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?

