

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	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 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 **civil** 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 **APP** 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 affair	connected with sex a sexual relationship between two people that is normally secret because at least one person in the relationship is married
belief	a strong feeling that sth is true or real		
apart	not together: <i>live apart</i> = 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	5	4 equality / constant	.....
1 equality / pressure	.....	5 affair / statistics	.....
2 vary / lack	.....	6 belief / pressure	.....
3 statistics / split	.....	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