15 Romance, marriage and divorce

A Romance

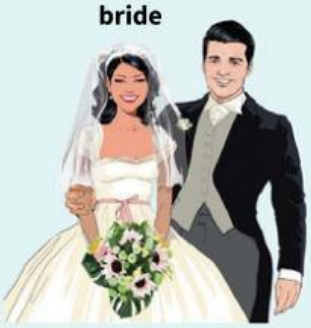
"I had my first **date**[1] when I was 16, and it was terrible. I took a girl to the cinema but she didn't like the film and looked bored all evening; it was a bad start. Then, when I was 17, I **went out with**[2] a girl for three months, but we **broke up**[3] when she met a boy who was two years older than me, and had a car. My first **serious relationship**[4] was when I went to university. I **got to know**[5] Melanie because we were on the same course. At first we were just friends, then we started going out with each other, and after a few months we realised we were **in love**. We **got engaged**[6] **a couple of**[7] years after we left university and then …"

[1] a planned romantic meeting
[2] had a romantic relationship with
[3] the relationship ended
[4] important romantic relationship
[5] became friends with
[6] formally agreed to marry
[7] two, perhaps three

B Marriage*

(bride) groom

bride



"… we **got married**[1] the following year. We didn't want a big **ceremony**[2], so we had the **wedding**[3] in the local church near Melanie's home with just family and a few friends. afterwards we had the **reception**[4] in a small hotel nearby, and then went on our **honeymoon**[5] to Greece."

* the time when you are married
[1] became husband and wife
[2] an important public event
[3] the ceremony when people get married
[4] the wedding party
[5] a holiday just after getting married

Common mistakes

She **got to know** Darren at university. (NOT She ~~knew~~ Darren at university.)

Now they plan to **get married**. (NOT They plan to get ~~marry;~~ or They plan to ~~married~~.)
She's getting married **to** Darren next year. (NOT She's getting married ~~with~~ Darren next year.)

C Children

"Just over three years later Melanie **got pregnant**, and our first child, Cal, was born just two days after our fourth wedding **anniversary**[1]. We had a big **celebration**[2]."

[1] a day that is exactly one or more years after an important event
[2] a time when you do something you enjoy because it is a special day

Language help

adjective	noun	verb	noun
engaged	**engagement**	**celebrate**	celebration
pregnant	**pregnancy**	**marry**	marriage

D Divorce*

"Things started to **go wrong**[1] when I got a job as manager of a sportswear company. I was working six days a week and I had to do a lot of travelling. It was difficult for Melanie as well. She was working during the week, then at weekends she was often **alone / on her own**[2] with two young children. I felt I couldn't **give up**[3] my job, and in the end Melanie decided to **leave**[4] me. The following year we **got divorced**[5]."

* when a marriage officially ends
[1] become a problem
[2] without other people
[3] stop doing
[4] stop living with me
[5] the marriage officially ended

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

15.1 Put the events in a logical order.

I went out with Gabriel. ☐
We got married. ☐
I got pregnant three months later. ☐
We got engaged. ☐
I got to know Gabriel. ☐
Our son was born just after our first anniversary. ☐
We went on our honeymoon. ☐
I met Gabriel at a party. [1]
We had a big reception. ☐

15.2 Which words are being defined?

1 The big party you have after the wedding. *reception*
2 A romantic meeting you plan before it happens. .....
3 The period of time when you are married. .....
4 How you describe a woman who is going to have a baby. .....
5 The day that is exactly one year, or a number of years, after an important event. .....
6 The name given to the woman and man on their wedding day. ..... and .....
7 Stop doing a job or activity. ..... something up

15.3 Complete the dialogues.

1 A: When did they get *engaged* ?
B: Last week. They plan to get married in a ..... of years.

2 A: Where did they meet?
B: I think he got ..... her at university.
A: And now they're married?
B: Yes, the ..... was last week.

3 A: Is it going to be a big wedding?
B: No, they're having a small ..... in the village church.
A: And what about the reception?
B: They're having a reception but no ..... . They're going straight back to work.

4 A: So, it's all over.
B: Yes. Lily ..... him and moved out last month.
A: Oh dear. Have they had problems for a long time?
B: I think it all started to go ..... when they moved to Woodbridge.
A: And what about Oliver? Is he alone now?
B: Yes, completely on ..... . He doesn't want any new relationships yet.
A: But the marriage is definitely over?
B: Yes, I'm afraid they're getting ..... .

15.4 Over to you

Answer the questions for you, then, if possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

1 Can you remember your first date? (When, and who with?)

2 Can you remember your first serious relationship? (Who was it with? Did you break up, or are you still with the same person?)

3 Whose was the last wedding you went to?

4 What was the last big celebration (other than a wedding) that you went to?

LIVEWORKSHEETS