

1 Read the article about marriage and dating.

IS MARRIAGE CHANGING?

Forty years ago, most people got married in their early twenties. But today, people often wait until they are older to get married. What caused this change? Read the information about **dating** and **marriage** and **find out**.

In the past, men usually had better jobs than women. Many women got married early, had children and stayed at home. Today, many young women study at university and get better jobs than women could get in the past. Because of this, many women want to work. They don't want to stay at home. They have also got more money to spend on travel, hobbies and interests **outside** the home.

Dating is different now, too. Forty years ago, young people went out more in the evenings. There was always a party or a place to go dancing, so it was easier to meet people. People often **fell in love** and got married at a very young age. But today, Internet dating websites are popular ways to meet people. These sites can often match people's interests and personalities and people can choose their future **husbands** and **wives** more carefully.

Are these changes good? Well, according to some studies in the USA and in England, there aren't as many divorces in recent years. So, some people think these changes are good. What do you think?

2 Complete the sentences about life in the past according to the text. Use the affirmative or negative form of There was or There were.

1. more young women at home.

THERE WAS	THERE WASN'T	THERE WERE	THERE WEREN'T
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2. a place to go dancing.

THERE WAS	THERE WASN'T	THERE WERE	THERE WEREN'T
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3. many women with professions.

THERE WAS	THERE WASN'T	THERE WERE	THERE WEREN'T
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4. many parties in the evenings.

THERE WAS	THERE WASN'T	THERE WERE	THERE WEREN'T
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5. any Internet.

THERE WAS	THERE WASN'T	THERE WERE	THERE WEREN'T
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2 Match the word and its definition.

dating	beyond the limits or borders of a given place
marriage	a married man
outside	to go out socially on an appointment
fell in love	discover, confirm
husband	a married woman
wife (pl. wives)	had a strong liking for somebody
find out	the institution under which two people establish their decision to live together by legal commitments

3 Write questions with the words below. Use the Past Simple.

1. when / most people / get married / in the past

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2. what / women / often do / in the past

.....

3. how / men and women / meet / in the past

.....

4 Answer the questions in Exercise 3 according to the text.

1. Most people _____ in _____ in the past.

2. Women often _____, _____ and _____ in the past.

3. Men and women _____ at a _____ or at a _____.

5 Write three paragraphs about your grandparents or parents. Include as much of the following information as you can:

- where they were born
- what they studied
- where they met
- when they got married
- where they lived
- how many children they had

(Use about 75 words)

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