

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

⁵ became friends with

² had a romantic relationship with

⁶ formally agreed to marry

³ the relationship ended

⁷ two, perhaps three

⁴ important romantic relationship



B

Marriage*

“... 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

³ the ceremony when people get married

¹ became husband and wife

⁴ the wedding party

² an important public event

⁵ a holiday just after getting married

bride

(bride) groom



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

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.
- We had a big reception.

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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?