

Language

Divide the following expressions into two groups:

B = before marriage A = after marriage

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. go on honeymoon | 12. propose to them |
| 2. meet someone you like | 13. have an affair with someone |
| 3. talk about marriage | 14. walk down the aisle |
| 4. become friends | 15. get engaged |
| 5. get pregnant | 16. start going out with them |
| 6. meet their family | 17. see a marriage counsellor |
| 7. plan the wedding | 18. get separated |
| 8. have a stag / hen night | 19. get divorced |
| 9. have kids | 20. find someone attractive |
| 10. bring up children | 21. start to get close |
| 11. start having marriage problems | 22. get back together again |

With a partner, choose 10 of the expressions in the box and put them in the ideal order for you.

Discussion

1. In 2002, Rutgers University in the US released the results of a study which lists the top 10 reasons men are waiting longer these days to get married. In pairs or groups, discuss if you think each is a valid argument.

TOP 10 REASONS WHY MEN ARE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT TO MARRIAGE

1. They can have sex outside marriage more easily than in the past.
2. They can enjoy the benefits of having a wife by cohabiting rather than marrying.
3. They want to avoid divorce and its financial risks.
4. They want to wait until they are older to have children.
5. They are afraid that marriage will require too many changes and compromises.
6. They are waiting for the perfect soulmate, and she hasn't yet appeared.
7. In the US there are few social pressures to marry.
8. They are reluctant to marry a woman who already has children.
9. They want to own a house before they get a wife.
10. They want to enjoy life as a single man as long as they can.

2. With a partner, choose one of the following situations. Prepare your part in the conversation for 2 minutes, then have the conversation.

- a. Your son/daughter is now 30 and you want them to settle down. Try to talk them into it.
- b. You have been going out with your partner for 3 years and are looking for a bigger commitment. Try to persuade them to think about getting married.
- c. Your best friend is deciding whether or not to get married. Try to talk them into it.
- d. Your best friend is deciding whether or not to get married. Try to talk them out of it.

Intercultural problems

With a partner, discuss the following:

1. Would you consider marrying (or are you already married to) someone from another country or culture?
2. What special problems do you think arise from a marriage between people from different countries or cultures?
3. Make a list of the benefits and drawbacks of such marriages.