

Why get married?

Discussion

Discuss these questions with a partner:

1. In your opinion, what are the three commonest reasons people decide to get married?
2. Do you think marriage is 'a thing of the past'?
3. Do you know someone who has had a long and happy marriage? Why has it lasted?
4. Why do you think there is such a high divorce rate in many developed countries?
5. Are married people treated differently from single people in your experience? In what ways?

Share your opinions with the rest of the class.

Reading

Read this newspaper article and answer the questions below in pairs or small groups:

LAST TO MARRY WINS!

A group of unmarried male friends in New Jersey made a strange bet 20 years ago when they were all still at high school. They drew up a contract and set up a special bank account to hold the money they had each bet.

The pot of money grew until it was several thousand dollars and John Cheney was the lucky winner – because he is now the group's last remaining bachelor. He collected his winnings from his friends at a pub last Saturday. "I guess I just haven't found the right person," said Cheney, now 38 years old.

The whole story started when two of the group bet a six-pack of beer over which one would be the last to get married. The group eventually grew to nine men, all 1981 graduates of Haddonfield Memorial High School.

"We all thought we'd be bachelors for a long time," said Mike Koontz, also 38. He was the first member of the group to get married, walking down the aisle in 1987. He always thought John would win the money. "He's a real confirmed bachelor," said Mike.

1. What was the prize?
2. Why hasn't Cheney got married?
3. Why did they make the bet?

Do you think a group of young women would have made the same bet?
Was John Cheney's wait worth it?
What is a 'confirmed bachelor'?



"Belinda, will you make me the happiest man in the world and divorce me?"