

Discussion

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups:

1. What does the writer mean when she says 'I did it'?
2. Do you think the writer really does have a 'wide circle of friends'?
3. Are 'Lonely Hearts' ads popular in your country as a way of meeting new people?
4. How do you feel about people who place 'Lonely Hearts' ads? Do you think they are sad and lonely? Or are they just normal people who are too busy to meet the sort of people they would like to?
5. If you ever placed an ad or replied to one, would you lie about any of the following?
a) your age b) your appearance c) your job d) your income e) your past

Language

Work in pairs. Put the sentences below in the correct order to make a story:

1. Mark fancied Lucy.
 They got engaged.
 They got on very well.
 She had twin girls, Emma and Katie.
 Mark proposed to Lucy.
 They got married.
 Lucy got custody of the children.
 Lucy became pregnant.
 He asked her out on a date.
 Mark and Lucy started to have rows.
 They started going out together.
 They split up.
 They fell in love with each other.
 Lucy asked for a divorce.
 Mark had an affair.
 They went on their honeymoon.

Now use some of these expressions to tell a story which is true for you.

Discussion

1. Write a description of yourself in 25 words for a 'Lonely Hearts' ad. Put together the descriptions from everyone in the class and mix them up. Ask the teacher to read them out one at a time. Can you recognise the writers? Has anybody lied? Here are some typical expressions from these ads:

solvent lady	professional male	looking for fun	sincere and caring
own house	down to earth	intelligent guy	likes dancing
with own teeth	easy-going	strong body	biker
romantic	blue eyes	enjoys cinema	athletic

2. Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups:

- a. In your country where do most people meet their partners?
in school/at work in bars and nightclubs
at parties through their family
through 'Lonely Hearts' ads some other way
- b. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of trying to make friends through a 'Lonely Hearts' ad?
- c. Are there any dangers involved in meeting people through a 'Lonely Hearts' ad? What advice would you give a friend who told you (s)he was going out tonight on a lonely hearts date?