



## FAMILY LIFE

**Marriage** is a thing which only a rare person in his or her life avoids. True **bachelors** and **spinsters** make up only a small percent of the population; most **single** people are “alone but not lonely”.

Millions of others **get married** because of the fun of **family life**. And it is fun, if one takes it with a sense of humour.

There’s a lot of fun in **falling in love** with someone and chasing the prospective **fiancée**, which means **dating** and **going out** with the candidate. All the **relatives** (**parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, stepmothers and stepfathers** and all **in-laws**) meanwhile have the fun of criticizing your choice and giving advice. The trick here is not to listen to them but **propose to your bride-to-be** and somehow get her to accept your **proposal**. Then you may arrange the **engagement** and **fix the day of the wedding**.

What fun it is to get all those things, whose names start with the word “wedding” – **dress, rings, cars, flowers, cakes**, etc.! It’s great fun to pay for them.

It’s fun for the **bride** and the **groom** to escape from the guests and go on a **honeymoon trip**, especially if it is a **wedding present** from the parents. The guests remain with the fun of gossiping whether you **married for love or for money**.

It’s fun to return back home with the idea that the person you **are married to** is somewhat different from the one you knew. But there is no time to think about it because you are **newly-weds** and you **expect a baby**.

There is no better fun for a husband than taking his wife to a maternity home alone and bringing her back with the twins or triplets.

And this is where the greatest fun starts: **washing the new-born’s nappies** and **passing away sleepless nights, earning money to keep the family, taking children to kindergarten and later to school**. By all means it’s fun to **attend parents’ meetings** and to learn that your children **take after you** and don’t **do well at school**.

The bigger your children grow, the more they **resemble** you outwardly and the less they display likeness with you inwardly. And you start **grumbling at them** and discussing with your old friends the problem of the “**generation gap**”. What fun!

And when at last you and your grey-haired **spouse** start thinking that your family life has calmed down, you haven’t **divorced** but **preserved your union**, the climax of your fun bursts out!

One of your dearest **offsprings** brings a long-legged blonde to your house and says that he wants to marry. And you think: “Why do people ever get married?”



## ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY

### 1. **marry** / 'mæri /

1 if you marry someone, you become their husband or wife: *He married Bea in 1925.*

*I'm going to ask her to marry me on St Valentine's Day.*

*Sophia had, in a sense, married beneath her (=married someone of a lower social class than her).*

2 to perform the ceremony at which two people get married

*The priest who married us was really nice.*

### 2. **married** / 'mærid / having a husband or a wife

*Are you married or single?/ They've been married for eight years.*

married to: *Nicole is **married to** my brother.*

married couple/man/woman

*We're getting married (=marrying) next month.*

*When she first came to London, she was newly married and out of work.*

### 3. **marriage** / 'mæridʒ / [uncountable and countable] the relationship between two people who are married, or the state of being married

*She has three daughters from a previous marriage. / One in three marriages ends in divorce.*

marriage to: *his marriage to Marilyn Monroe / In Denmark they have legalized **marriage between** gay couples. They have a very happy marriage.*

arranged marriage (= your parents choose the person who you marry): *Women were often forced into **arranged marriages**.*

### 4. **engagement** / in'geɪdʒmənt / [countable] an agreement between two people to marry, or the period of time they are engaged: *Their engagement was announced in the paper.*

*Tony was stunned when Lisa suddenly **broke off their engagement** (=finished it)*

engagement ring (=a ring that a man gives a woman to show that they are engaged)

### 5. **in-laws** [plural] informal your relatives by marriage, especially the father and mother of your husband or wife ; рідня з боку чоловіка (дружини): *We have to spend Christmas with the in-laws.*

**mother-in-law** - plural *mothers-in-law* [countable] the mother of your wife or husband

### 6. **half-brother** [countable] a brother who is the son of only one of your parents ; однокровний брат (half-sister)

### 7. **step-** / step / used to show that someone is related to you not by birth but because a parent has married again: *her stepdad / the problems of stepfamilies/ step-brother – зведений брат*

### 8. **wedding** / 'wedɪŋ / [countable] a marriage ceremony, especially one with a religious service: *Do come to our wedding.*

*wedding party/reception/breakfast* etc (=a special meal or party that is held after a wedding)

*a wedding present / cutting the wedding cake*

*We celebrate our tenth **wedding anniversary** (=the date on which we were married in a previous year) next week.*

*a wedding dress* (=the dress worn by a woman who is getting married)

### 9. **honeymoon** / 'hʌnimu:n / [countable] a holiday taken by two people who have just got married *on your honeymoon: We went to Italy on our honeymoon.*

### 10. **hen party** BrE / **bridal shower** AmE - a party for women only, that happens just before one of them gets married

**stag party** BrE / **bachelor party** AmE - a night before a man's wedding, which he spends with his male friends, drinking or having a party.