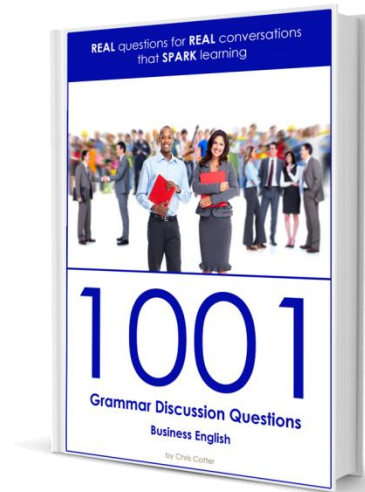
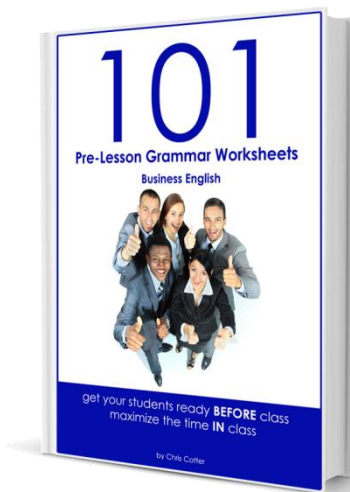
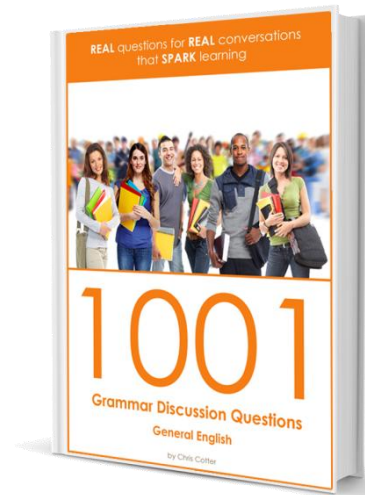
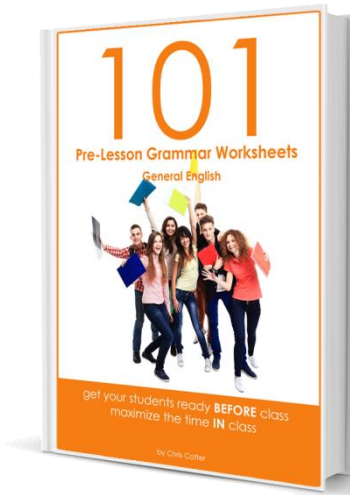
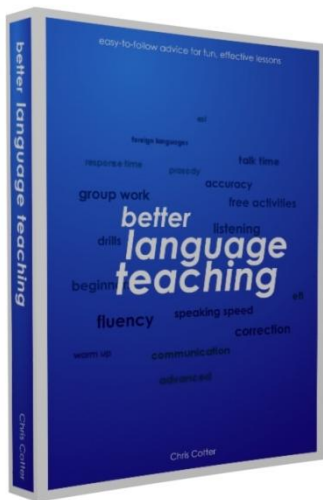


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

When to Tie the Knot

Around the world, young people have postponed marriage, preferring to wait to tie the knot. There are many reasons for this trend, such as the pursuit of careers and personal goals, a fear of divorce, and the realization that marriage is no longer the first step of adulthood but rather the last. Some see this shift as a positive. Of course, others are dismayed by the change.

Advocates of late marriage believe couples should wait until their late 20s and early 30s, as the average quality of marital life is improved. Couples are more likely to do things together, and are less likely to fret that their marriage is in jeopardy, let alone to even consider divorce. In part, greater personal experience affects their outlook. A better understanding of oneself allows each person to better choose a life partner. Financial stability, a completed education, and the beginnings of a career also greatly contribute to the success of the marriage. However, many people who wait too long may simply never marry.

But a significant number of people favor the opposite view, and believe that marriage at a younger age is better. An early marriage means that the couple matures together, as well as discovers the joys and pains of adulthood as a team. They rely on one another when faced with hardships. New research also suggests that couples married by their early 20s were slightly happier than those who waited until their late 20s. In addition, those who waited until their 30s or older to marry were far less satisfied with their relationships.

Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be an ideal age, no full proof guarantees of a happy and fulfilling life for those married at 28 instead of 23. Worldwide trends point to later marriages, but the jury remains undecided as to whether this is a good thing.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the Article (for students)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

dismayed	proof	fret	postponed	average
hardships	favor	contribute	adulthood	let alone
advocates	outlook	trends	matures	stability

When to Tie the Knot

Around the world, young people have (a. _____) marriage, preferring to wait to tie the knot. There are many reasons for this trend, such as the pursuit of careers and personal goals, a fear of divorce, and the realization that marriage is no longer the first step of (b. _____) but rather the last. Some see this shift as a positive. Of course, others are (c. _____) by the change.

(d. _____) of late marriage believe couples should wait until their late 20s and early 30s, as the (e. _____) quality of marital life is improved. Couples are more likely to do things together, and are less likely to (f. _____) that their marriage is in jeopardy, (g. _____) to even consider divorce. In part, greater personal experience affects their (h. _____). A better understanding of oneself allows each person to better choose a life partner. Financial (i. _____), a completed education, and the beginnings of a career also greatly (j. _____) to the success of the marriage. However, many people who wait too long may simply never marry.

But a significant number of people (k. _____) the opposite view, and believe that marriage at a younger age is better. An early marriage means that the couple (l. _____) together, as well as discovers the joys and pains of adulthood as a team. They rely on one another when faced with (m. _____). New research also suggests that couples married by their early 20s were slightly happier than those who waited until their late 20s. In addition, those who waited until their 30s or older to marry were far less satisfied with their relationships.

Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be an ideal age, no full (n. _____) guarantees of a happy and fulfilling life for those married at 28 instead of 23. Worldwide (o. _____) point to later marriages, but the jury remains undecided as to whether this is a good thing.

STEP ONE

Define: What does "marriage" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

STEP TWO

Target Word Pool: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take you?

fret	dismayed	stability	matures	let alone
hardships	outlook	favor	postponed	contribute
unflavored	outlook	unstable	postpones	dismaying
froth	maturely	lookout	fretted	left alone
stabilities	letting alone	unfavorable	hardship	matures
postpartum	hardiness	postponing	contributor	favored
dismissal	fret	postponing	looked	potentially
maturity	dismayed	contribution	favor	stability
fretting	postponement	mature	partnership	contribute
continue	stable	hardships	alone	contribute
outlooks	letting	postponed	disability	dismays
maturation	favoring	frat	mayfly	hardly
contributing	looked for	let alone		

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

fret	dismayed	stability	matures	let alone
hardships	outlook	favor	postponed	contribute
a.	Around the world, young people have () marriage, preferring to wait to tie the knot.			
b.	Some people are () by the change.			
c.	Couples are less likely to () that their marriage is in jeopardy.			
d.	Couples are less likely to worry about their marriage, () to even consider divorce.			
e.	Greater personal experience affects a couple's ().			
f.	Financial () and a completed education help the success of the marriage.			
g.	The beginnings of a career also greatly () to the success of the marriage.			
h.	Some people () the opposite view, and believe that marriage at a younger age is better.			
i.	An early marriage means that the couple () together.			
j.	They rely on one another when faced with ().			

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	According to the article, why are people waiting longer to get married?
b.	According to the article, why contributes to the success of a marriage?
c.	What does the article say about couples who marry in their early 20s?
d.	What does the article say about couples who marry in their 30s?
e.	What is the conclusion of the article?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What problems do couples face when they marry young? Please explain.
b.	What problems do couples face when they marry in their 30s or 40s? Please explain.
c.	What does a successful marriage need? Please explain.
d.	What are some reasons that marriages fail? How can these problems be avoided?

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for additional practice.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.