

## Unit 16: Marriage, Dating, and Relationships

**Warm-up:** What are the qualities of an ideal person to date or marry?



Talk about Your Country:

- 1) Do people date in your country? What do people do on dates?
- 2) At what age do most people in your country get married?
- 3) What are some common engagement and/or wedding customs in your country?



**Discuss: What do you think?** Read about the couples below and the circumstances surrounding their relationship. Do you think the couple should get married? Why or why not?

- 1) Matt is 12 years older than Jennifer, but they have many common interests.
- 2) Lynn and Brian met in college, where they took many classes and had the same major, but Brian's family is very well-to-do, and Lynn's family is poor.
- 3) Sarah and Steve have a good time together and have many friends, interests, and beliefs in common, but Sarah wants to have children soon, and Steve never wants to have any.
- 4) Cathy is a doctor and makes a large amount of money, but Ricky never went to college and makes half as much money as Cathy does.
- 5) Cecelia is 30 years old. She met Lee one month ago, and now he and her parents are pushing her to marry him.
- 6) Chen and Rachel went to the same university, enjoy the same hobbies, and have the same friends, but Chen has never met Rachel's parents. Her parents have already told her they do not want her to marry Cheng because the two of them have different religions and cultures.

**Think  
about it**

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**Reading:** Valentine's Day is a popular American holiday that celebrates love. Read the excerpt below about the tradition of exchanging Valentine's Day cards. What factors contributed to the growth of the tradition?

### TYPICAL VALENTINE'S DAY GREETINGS

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, [Mexico](#), the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century. By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for [Christmas](#).) Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

<http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esther\\_Howland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esther_Howland)

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## Vocabulary:

Boyfriend/girlfriend  
Significant other  
Relationship  
Blind date  
Double date  
To ask out  
To go out (together)  
To break up  
Common interests  
Soulmates

Fiancé  
To pop the question  
To get engaged  
Bride  
Groom  
Bridesmaid  
Groomsmen  
Maiden name  
Arranged marriage  
Divorce



## Idioms and Expressions: (from <http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

### Idioms

1. *To be head over heels (in love)*
  - To be in love with someone very much, especially at the beginning of a relationship.
2. *Puppy love*
  - Romantic love which a young person feels for someone and which usually disappears as they become older
3. *A marriage/match made in heaven*
  - A marriage which is likely to be happy and successful because the two people are very well suited to each other

### Expressions

1. They are serious about each other.
2. They are very compatible.
3. It's just infatuation.
4. He has a crush on her. / It's just a crush.



## Conversation Questions:

1. How do we learn to love?
2. Do you believe in love at first sight?
3. What do you think contributes to the high divorce rate in our country?

