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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/05/13

Getting divorced!

Today, let's talk about getting divorced. These days the idea of getting a divorce appears to be trendier than getting married. Maybe not!

In the old days and occasionally even today getting married meant marrying someone for life. The question is what is the definition of life? Is it till death, or for a decade, or just a few years?

When a marriage goes wrong people today tend to go for the easy option of getting a divorce, rather than trying to solve it together. Why does it go wrong? Has the partner had an affair? Is the sex no good? Is there violence in the relationship? Have the man and wife drifted apart? There could be 101 different reasons for a marriage breaking down. In this lesson we will look at a few of them.

Splitting up from your partner can be traumatic. On the other hand you might feel elated it's all over. This is okay if there are no kids involved. However, if there are then this is when the heartaches begin...for you and the kids.

These days, allegedly, it appears in many countries it is the man who loses the most financially. The woman mostly gets the house and the kids. The former husband ends up in the bedsit; paying the wife whose new lover moves into his bed. This though is not always true... Alimony is another very hot issue!

Over the last decade divorce rates have rocketed. In some countries it used to be 1 in 3 people got a divorce. Today in some countries 1 in 2 marriages now fail. It is a sad reflection on how lifestyles today allow this. Society has changed. Attitudes towards the church controlling our lives have altered. Hence the breakdown or freedom to choose how we live...

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about getting a divorce. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What does allegedly mean?
- 2) What has changed?
- 3) What has rocketed?
- 4) What does traumatic mean?
- 5) What is the definition of life?

Student B questions

- 1) What is a bedsit?
- 2) Who mostly gets what?
- 3) Attitudes to what have changed?
- 4) Explain the term 'freedom to choose how we live'.
- 5) What is alimony?

Category: Marriage / Divorce / Partners
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Getting divorced! – 30th May 2013

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**getting a divorce**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Getting divorced! - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Imagine you are about to get a divorce. Write down five things you each want out of it. Then discuss them together. *5 mins each!*

The teacher will choose some students to hear their discussions.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Are long term relationships better than getting married?
- 2) Do you know anyone who has recently got a divorce?
- 3) Have you had a divorce?
- 4) Surely when you get married it should be for life, right?
- 5) Has anyone in your family had a divorce?
- 6) How does a divorce affect the children?
- 7) Why do lawyers love people who get a divorce?
- 8) Why is getting a divorce more costly for the man?
- 9) Should divorce be allowed?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the CNN studio in Atlanta, USA. Today's interview is: 'Getting a divorce'.

- 1) A divorced man
- 2) A divorced woman
- 3) A religious person
- 4) A single person

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a pub. Start a conversation about: 'Getting divorced! 5 mins.

SPEAKING - GAME

Groups – 20 things about getting divorced. 5 mins.

The teacher will choose some groups to hear their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Getting divorced – advantages and disadvantages

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Are you better off single?
- 2) In your country these days what is the average life of a marriage?
- 3) Why do one in two marriages fail in some countries?
- 4) Should we have the freedom to choose how we live?
- 5) Why is alimony such a hot topic?
- 6) When getting a divorce why does the woman generally get more than the man?
- 7) Why do marriages break down?
- 8) Why has the divorce rate rocketed in some countries?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Getting divorced!

Today, let's talk about getting divorced. These days the idea of getting a (1)___ appears to be (2)___ than getting married. Maybe not!

In the old days and (3)___ even today getting married meant marrying someone for life. The question is what is the (4)___ of life? Is it till death, or for a decade, or just a few years?

When a marriage goes wrong people today tend to go for the easy (5)___ of getting a divorce, rather than trying to (6)___ it together. Why does it go wrong? Has the partner had an affair? Is the sex no good? Is there (7)___ in the relationship? Have the man and wife drifted apart? There could be 101 different reasons for a (8)___ breaking down. In this lesson we will look at a few of them.

violence / trendier / marriage / definition / solve / occasionally / divorce / option

Splitting up from your partner can be (1)___ . On the other hand you might feel elated it's all over. This is okay if there are no kids involved. However, if there are then this is when the (2)___ begin...for you and the kids.

These days, (3)___, it appears in many countries it is the man who loses the most financially. The woman mostly gets the house and the kids. The (4)___ husband ends up in the (5)___; paying the wife whose new (6)___ moves into his bed. This though is not always true... Alimony is another very hot issue!

Over the last decade divorce rates have rocketed. In some countries it used to be 1 in 3 people got a divorce. Today in some countries 1 in 2 marriages now fail. It is a sad reflection on how lifestyles today allow this. (7)___ has changed. Attitudes towards the church controlling our lives have altered. Hence the breakdown or (8)___ to choose how we live...

freedom / former / bedsit / society / traumatic / lover / heartaches / allegedly

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Getting divorced!

Today, let's talk (1)___ getting divorced. (2)___ days the idea of getting a divorce appears to be trendier than getting married. Maybe not!

In the old days and occasionally even today getting married meant marrying someone for life. The question is (3)___ is the definition of life? Is it till death, or for a decade, or just a few years?

(4)___ a marriage goes wrong people today tend to go for the easy option of getting a divorce, (5)___ than trying to solve it together. Why does it go wrong? Has the partner had an affair? Is the sex no good? Is (6)___ violence in the relationship? Have the man and wife drifted apart? There (7)___ be 101 different reasons for a marriage breaking down. In this lesson we will look at a few of (8)___.

could / there / rather / what / when / these / them / about

Splitting up from your partner (1)___ be traumatic. On the other hand (2)___ might feel elated it's all over. This is okay if there are no kids involved. However, if there are then this is when the heartaches begin...(3)___ you and the kids.

These days, allegedly, it appears in many countries it is the man who loses the most financially. The woman mostly gets the house (4)___ the kids. The former husband ends up in the bedsit; paying (5)___ wife whose new lover moves into (6)___ bed. This though is not always true... Alimony is another very hot issue!

Over the last decade divorce rates have rocketed. In some countries it used to be 1 in 3 people got a divorce. Today in some countries 1 in 2 marriages now fail. It is a sad reflection on (7)___ lifestyles today allow this. Society has changed. Attitudes towards the church controlling (8)___ lives have altered. Hence the breakdown or freedom to choose how we live...

how / his / you / for / our / the / and / can

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Getting divorced!

Today, let's talk _____. These days the idea of getting a divorce appears to be trendier than getting married. Maybe not!

_____ occasionally even today getting married meant marrying someone for life. The question is what is the definition of life? Is it till death, or for a decade, _____?

When a marriage goes wrong people today tend to go for the easy option of getting a divorce, rather than trying to solve it together. Why does it go wrong? Has the partner had an affair? Is the sex no good? Is there violence _____? Have the man and wife drifted apart? There could be 101 different reasons for a marriage breaking down. In this lesson we will look _____.

Splitting up from your partner can be traumatic. On the other hand you might feel elated it's all over. This is okay if there are no kids involved. However, if there are then this is _____ begin...for you and the kids.

These days, allegedly, it appears in many countries it is the man who loses the most financially. The woman _____ and the kids. The former husband ends up in the bedsit; paying the wife whose new lover moves into his bed. This though is not always true... _____ very hot issue!

Over the last decade divorce rates have rocketed. In some countries it used to be 1 in 3 people got a divorce. Today in some countries 1 in 2 marriages now fail. _____ on how lifestyles today allow this. Society has changed. Attitudes towards the church controlling our lives have altered. Hence the breakdown or freedom to _____...

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/small groups* – list the following – **staying single, getting married**, living together in a **long term relationship** and not getting married, and **remarrying!** Talk about each of them. *5 mins.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Getting a divorce _____
- 2) These days _____
- 3) The kids _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Getting divorced!** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) divorce
- 2) trendier
- 3) occasionally
- 4) definition
- 5) option
- 6) solve
- 7) violent
- 8) marriage

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) these
- 2) trendier
- 3) occasionally
- 4) definition
- 5) marriage
- 6) violent
- 7) relationship
- 8) different
- 9) traumatic
- 10) allegedly

ANSWERS

- 1) traumatic
- 2) heartaches
- 3) allegedly
- 4) former
- 5) bedsit
- 6) lover
- 7) society
- 8) freedom

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) heartaches
- 12) financially
- 13) bedsit
- 14) former
- 15) whose
- 16) though
- 17) alimony
- 18) divorce
- 19) attitudes
- 20) decade

Getting divorced! – 30th May 2013