

# Marriage

**1.) Do you want to get married? If so, at what age?**

*I've always wanted to **tie the knot** before I turn thirty.*

**2.) How long do couples usually date before getting married in your culture?**

*It really depends on the couple, and their situation. If they are mature and **financially stable** it can be rather quick.*

**3.) In your culture, if you are a man do you need permission from the brides parents?**

*No. However, a dinner is arranged where the parents will get a chance to meet the potential **fiancé**.*

**4.) How important is it to have good relationships with your in-laws?**

*While engaged and as **newlyweds** relationships with in-laws are rather good. However, as time passes the relationship starts to weaken.*

**5.) Divorce is much more common in the West than in the East. Is there any kind of **stigma** attached to divorcees?**

*I come from a divorced family. When I was young I think there was a stigma surrounding divorced families but those days are long gone.*

**6.) What are the advantages of getting married as opposed to being single?**

Both have there *pro's and con's*. I'm not married so my opinion is worthless.

**7.) Who is marriage more stressful for, the man or the woman? Also, who typically pays for what in a marriage?**

*I think the pressure to get married is more stressful for the man. While the pressure of marriage affects the woman more, the cost of the wedding depends on the financial status of both families.*

**8.) What are some *fascinating* dating or wedding customs in your culture? What customs do you find interesting about Western style weddings?**

*I'm not sure what is fascinating about Korean weddings but I've always been interested in the bridesmaids and groomsmen aspect of Western style weddings.*

**9.) What qualities are important for you when searching for a possible *suitor*?**

*I think she must be sincere in her reasons for love. If she is marrying for money or out of *desperation* the marriage is *doomed* before it begins.*

**10.) What comes first to Koreans, their career or marriage? Does it differ between men and women?**

*I think it depends on the individual. I wouldn't be surprised if most men cared more about their careers then their marriage.*

**11.) How are *interracial* marriages viewed in your country? Are opinions beginning to change or are they quite conservative?**

*The older you are the more conservative you will likely be in your way thinking. Interracial marriages, while becoming more common, will always be *taboo*.*

If these topic questions are too easy, try this:

[Cambridge Vocabulary for IELTS Advanced Band 6.5+ with Answers and Audio CD](#)

## Vocabulary:

- **"tie the knot"**: Slang for marriage. "I heard you're going to tie the knot this spring with Songi."
- **financially stable**: Not living paycheck to paycheck, and having an emergency fund.
- **fiancé**: A fiancé is a man who is engaged to be married; a fiancée is a woman who is engaged to be married.
- **newlywed**: A recently married person.
- **stigma**: A mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person.
- **"pro's and con's"**: The pros and cons of something are its advantages and disadvantages, which you consider carefully so that you can make a sensible decision. "Motherhood has both its pros and cons."
- **fascinating**: Extremely interesting.
- **suitor**: A man who pursues a relationship with a particular woman, with a view to marriage.
- **desperation**: A state of despair, typically one that results in rash or extreme behavior.
- **doomed**: Likely to have an unfortunate and inescapable outcome; ill-fated.
- **interracial**: Existing between or involving different races.
- **taboo**: A social or religious custom prohibiting or forbidding discussion of a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place, or thing.

## Daily Expressions & Idioms:

1.) **"Hit a rough patch"**: When your relationship is not doing so well lately.

*"Our relationship is **going through a rough patch**. We barely talk anymore since she found those text messages on my phone."*

2.) "She's the one": Man often refer to the woman they want to marry as the "one".

*"You two have grown really close over the past six months. Do you think she is the one?"*