**Divorce**

**HW Task. Provide definitions (written form) for the following words and phrases:**

* **a late husband/wife**
* **an estranged (formal) husband/wife**
* **a trial separation**
* **to get a divorce**
* **a bitter/acrimonious divorce**
* **a person’s ex-husband/ex-wife**
* **children from a broken home.**
* **a stable home**
* **a deprived home.**

What can be put before the words *wife*and *husband*to indicate that they are no longer married to someone?

**Class Discussion**: Can dysfunctional families also be respectable ones?

**HW Read these two opinions about divorce. Which one do you agree with more? Why? (Written form) but no more than 3-4 sentences.**

1. *Julia Casper – getting divorced for the sake of the children*

The only surprising thing about divorce is that it doesn’t happen more often. What people want from a marriage may be the same when they get married, but, as we all know, people can change.

What he wants may be very different from what she wants five years down the line. Very often, men have the attitude of, “She looks after me and she is there when I want her; but I have my own life.” Women, on the other hand, think, “He is my best friend; I want him to share my interests, my emotions and my life.” One or both of the partners begins to feel trapped. They start to live separate lives, which results in tension, arguments and battles, which then also has a negative effect on the children if there are any. So, what is the point of staying together? It’s better for children to grow up in a relaxed, loving environment with one parent than in a tension-filled home with both parents.

Of course it’s better to avoid splitting up – it hurts everyone, especially the children – but if a marriage is over, it’s best to accept the situation and move on before more harm is done.

1. *Sue Hardcastle – staying together for the sake of the children*

Too many people see divorce as the easy way out. I admit that in some cases it may be necessary – for example, if your partner was physically or mentally abusing you. Getting divorced should be absolutely the last option. It’s not just a lifestyle choice. Part of the problem is that people seem to have an impossibly idealistic view of marriage. They expect love, romance and excitement to fill their lives all the time. But the fact is, married life is not always perfect love and harmony. There will be arguments and disagreements. It is boring at times and, especially when children come along, it can be hard work! You’ve got to be willing to make the effort to make a relationship work. It is this effort which makes marriage a rich and satisfying experience.

And what example is it to children if you decide to split up? What message does it give? “When things get difficult, you can just quit.” It’s no surprise that people whose parents divorce often get divorced themselves. How can they believe in the possibility of a permanent relationship if the people they most trusted couldn’t do it?

***HW Who believes what?***: *Mark the sentences below with ‘S’ if they are what Sue says and ‘J’ if they are what Julia says:*

1. People expect too much from marriage.
2. Children can experience negative things in a bad marriage.
3. Children whose parents split up can find it difficult to trust other people later in life.
4. Living with one parent can be better than living with both.
5. You shouldn’t give up just because a relationship is difficult.

***Class discussion: Do you agree or disagree with the statements above?***

1. People expect too much from marriage.
2. Children can experience negative things in a bad marriage.
3. Children whose parents split up can find it difficult to trust other people later in life.
4. Living with one parent can be better than living with both.
5. You shouldn’t give up just because a relationship is difficult.