**MARRIAGE**

**Class discussion TASK. Read and discuss:**

1) What springs to mind when you hear the word “marriage”?

2) Is marriage different today than it was a hundred years ago?

3) Are there any rules to marriage?

4) What would the world be like if there was no marriage?

5) What is important in a marriage?

6) Is your idea of marriage different now compared to when you were a child?

7) Is it OK to live together before marriage?

8) Why do so many marriages go wrong?

**HW TASK. READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT AND EXPLAIN (PROVIDE WRITTEN DEFINITIONS FOR) THE WORDS IN *RED BOLD ITALICS.***

***Marriage*** is a thing which only a rare person in his or her life avoids. True***bachelors*** and***spinsters*** make up only a small percent of the population; most single**people** are**“alone but not lonely”.**

Millions of others***get married*** because of the fun**of family life.**And it is fun, if one takes it with a sense of humour.

There’s a lot of fun in**falling in love** with someone and chasing the prospective***fiancée*,** which means***dating*** and **going out** with the candidate. All the**relatives (parents, grandparents** and**great-grand­parents, brothers** and **sisters, cousins, aunts** and**uncles, nieces** and **nephews, stepmothers** and**stepfathers** and all**in-laws)** meanwhile have the fun of criticizing your choice and giving advice. The trick here is not to listen to them but ***propose to*** your***bride-to-be*** and somehow get her to accept your***proposal*.** Then you may arrange the ***engagement*** and**fix the day of the wedding.**

What fun it is to get all those things, whose names start with the word “wedding” —**dress, rings, cars, flowers, cakes,** etc.! It’s great fun to pay for them.

It’s fun for the***bride*** and the***groom*** to escape from the guests and go on a***honeymoon trip*,** especially if it is a **wedding present** from the parents. The guests remain with the fun of gossiping whether you**married for love or for money.**

It’s fun to return back home with the idea that the person you **are married to** is somewhat different from the one you knew. But there is no time to think about it because you are***newly-weds*** and you**expect a baby.**

There is no better fun for a**husband than** taking his**wife**to a***ma­ternity home*** alone and bringing her back with the**twins**or**triplets.**

And this is where the greatest fun starts:**washing the new-born’s nappies** and**passing away sleepless nights, earning money to keep the family, taking children to kindergarten** and later**to school.** By all means it’s fun to **attend parents’ meetings** and to learn that your children***take after you*** and don’t***do well* at school.**

The bigger your children grow, the more they***resemble*** you out­wardly and the less they display likeness with you inwardly. And you start***grumbling at* them** and discussing with your old friends the problem of the **“*generation gap*”.** What fun!

And when at last you and your grey-haired***spouse*** start thinking that your family life has calmed down, you haven’t**divorced** but**pre­served your union,** the climax of your fun bursts out!

One of your dearest***off-springs*** brings a long-legged blonde to your house and says that he wants to marry. And you think: ‘Why do people ever get married?’

**HW TASK. Complete the text below with the correct form of these words:**

**last     contest     sign     break     split up      break down     work**

**PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT**

In the USA couples sometimes (1)……..a contract before they get married called a ‘prenuptial agreement’, which puts in writing what will happen to their money and possessions if the marriage (2)………It doesn’t surprise me that some of these marriages don’t (3)……..long. Before it has even started, the happy couple are already planning what to do when the marriage doesn’t (4)……….And, of course, a prenuptial agreement only works if both partners are reasonable. But what happens if one person doesn’t want to (5)……..and (6)……..the divorce? Or what happens if someone tries to (7)……..the contract? Well, what it really means is lots of work – and money – for the lawyers! Do you think prenuptial agreements are a good idea? Would you have one?