
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Divorce: Why does it happen?



1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?
2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.
 - What do the presenters say the episode is about?
 - What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?
3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

- a) Word/phrase: _____
It means: _____.
- b) Word/phrase: _____
It means: _____.
- c) Word/phrase: _____
It means: _____.
- d) Word/phrase: _____
It means: _____.
- e) Word/phrase: _____
It means: _____.
- f) Word/phrase: _____
It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. What was the divorce rate in Europe and America during the 1990s?
 - a) almost 50%
 - b) almost 70%
 - c) almost 90%

2. Which phrase describes 'a woman who stays home to take care of the children and manage the household'?
 - a) stay-at-home mum
 - b) soccer mum
 - c) single mum

3. What is a 'cooling-off period'?
 - a) time for a cold bath after a sauna
 - b) time for two people who are arguing to try to improve the situation
 - c) time to recover after having an illness

4. Which word describes a problem which is 'unable to be brought to a satisfactory resolution'?
 - a) solvable
 - b) resolvable
 - c) unresolvable

5. "When Imogen's parents were not able to support her, the school _____ to help".
 - a) interfered
 - b) intervened
 - c) interrupted

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6. Which word is closest in meaning to 'invariably'?
- a) usually
 - b) always
 - c) occasionally

6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

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7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

a) stay-at-home mum – a woman who stays home to take care of her children and manage the household

b) change your mind – change an earlier decision you made or opinion you had

c) unresolvable – not able to be fixed or brought to a satisfactory resolution

d) cooling-off period – a period in which two groups who are arguing can try to improve the situation before taking further action, or, an agreed length of time in which someone can decide not to buy something they have agreed to buy

e) intervene – to become involved in a difficult situation in order to improve it

f) invariably – always; on every occasion

5. 1a, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5b, 6b

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet, and adapt it as necessary.

Expansion activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.