



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

Four unusual marriage proposals!

Level: Upper intermediate (B2) to Advanced (C1)

Audio: Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will talk about marriage and relationships. This practical class will get your students using lots of useful language and all the essential skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Here are some ideas for doing it in class. Good luck!



1 Warm-up

Marriage quotes

Print off or write up the marriage quotes from the **Resource Page** (see below). Give your students a few minutes to read over them and discuss them (ask them what they think of them, which ones they like, which ones they agree with, etc.). Then, remove the quotes. Read them out or write them up with gaps. Students have to remember the missing words. For example:

Teacher: "Marriage is a journey. It's hills and _____."

Student: "Valleys!"

Etc.



2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet (**scroll down for this**): the Pre-reading, Reading I and Reading II activities. You could do this lesson as a **listening** activity. In order to do this, tell your students to turn over the sheet so they can't see the text as they do the exercises. For the first listening, play it once through without stopping.

If your students' listening level is low, stop the recording after each paragraph and check their understanding.

After finishing that, and if you've done this as a listening activity (not a reading), let your students read the text as you play the recording again. This is good for developing their listening skills as they can see the connection between the written and spoken language.

If you do this as a reading activity, you could assign a paragraph to different students. Then, in pairs or small groups, get them to explain what their assigned food item consists of.



3 Follow-up activities

Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (or paragraphs) to each student. Students have a minute or two to try to remember the text. When they're ready, students try to recount the information, using as much of the language as possible. This works well in pairs, with you monitoring the language.



News report

Students write a news report on a new marriage proposal story (real or invented). The news report should include information that answers the following questions: *who, what, when, where, why, how*. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to present their news stories. They should do this by using notes, not reading it word-for-word. They should also present it as if they were two reporters in a news studio, sitting at a desk looking into the camera. Other students listen then ask questions, or the person presenting the news could ask them questions. Alternatively, students could film their news report on a smartphone then show it to the class.

Dialogue

In pairs, students write a dialogue between a couple, with one of them making a marriage proposal. Or, it could be between a reporter a marriage consultant or expert who is giving advice on how to have the perfect marriage. Tell your students to make the dialogue as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to act out their dialogues (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones. Students could also film the dialogues on a smartphone then show it to the class.





Student's page

Four unusual marriage proposals!

Level: Upper intermediate (B2) to Advanced (C1)

1 Warm-up

Marriage quotes

Read over the following marriage quotes. What do you think of them? Which one/s do you like? Why? Discuss your ideas with a partner. Then, play a game with your teacher.

Marriage quotes

“Marriage is a journey. It's hills and valleys.” Eva Amurri

“Marriage is good for those who are afraid to sleep alone at night.” St. Jerome

“The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret.” Henny Youngman

“Marriage is a commitment for life. It is a permanent, lifelong relationship.” Dada Vaswani

“They say marriage will change you. but it didn't change me. Being *in love* changed me.” R. Kelly

“Remember that creating a successful marriage is like farming: you have to start over again every morning.” H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

“Happy is the man who finds a true friend, and far happier is he who finds that true friend in his wife.” Franz Schubert

“The secret of a happy marriage is finding the right person. You know they're right if you love to be with them all the time.” Julia Child

“Marriage is not a noun; it's a verb. It isn't something you get. It's something you do. It's the way you love your partner every day.” Barbara De Angelis

“By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.” Socrates

“Ultimately, I believe the only secret to a happy marriage is choosing the right person. Life is a series of choices, right?” Michelle Pfeiffer

“When I'm weak, you can be strong; when I'm strong, you can be weak. That's what I believe marriage is.” Gisele Bundchen



Objective To learn to talk about weddings and marriage in English.

Think about it When was the last time you went to a wedding? What was it like? What do you like/dislike about weddings?

Exams This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.

JUST SAY YES!

FOUR UNUSUAL MARRIAGE PROPOSALS

By Astrid Chater

What's the best place you can think of to propose to someone? A gourmet restaurant? A moonlit park? A white, sandy beach? Here are four unusual marriage proposals.

Marriage proposal I

Location: a food court in a busy shopping mall

Method: Mike gets down on his knees to propose to the love of his life, Caroline. Explaining that this is the exact same spot where they met a year earlier, he tells her that she makes him "dizzy with love." A guitarist then appears who starts singing the song "Sweet Caroline". Just to make things even more awkward, an elderly man at a nearby table shouts, "Say yes!"

Result: Fail! Caroline runs off, leaving Mike in stunned silence.

Marriage proposal II

Location: a Delta Airlines flight

Method: Arvin gets permission to make a special announcement during the flight. Addressing his true love, Alex, Arvin tells the passengers how he thinks she's the "most beautiful woman in the world". He asks the passengers on the plane to help him ask her "a very important question". Only those in first class hear the answer, prompting a curious passenger from economy class to ask "What did she say?"

Result: Success! Luckily for Arvin, Alex agrees to marry him.

Marriage proposal III

Location: in front of a Wimpy restaurant in a busy shopping mall

Method: A flash mob starts singing the Beatles' song "All You Need is Love". After a couple of minutes, "Romeo" comes down the escalator singing "Can't Take My Eyes Off You". Once down, Romeo twirls his girlfriend around and makes her dance for another minute and a half. He eventually gets down on his knees to make the proposal as the flash mob continues singing and dancing around them.

Result: Success! She accepts his hand in marriage!

Marriage proposal IV

Location: a busy stadium during a basketball match

Method: Romeo kneels down in the middle of a basketball court in front of thousands of spectators to propose to his beloved. While you can't hear what he's saying, you can clearly see on her face that she isn't incredibly excited about it. The basketball commentators can be heard saying "I really can't imagine doing that." On offering her the ring, she looks at it, but refuses to take it. She then whispers something to him and walks off. As she disappears, a team mascot tries to comfort the heartbroken man. "He'll

VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the basketball game proposal. Search YouTube: "marriage proposal rejected at basketball game".

probably get over it in ten or twelve years or so," the commentator adds.

Result: Fail! In case you hadn't already guessed, the answer was no.

Proposing marriage in public certainly has its risks, but if it's successful, it'll be a memorable occasion. ☆

GLOSSARY

to propose *vb*
to ask someone to marry you
moonlit *adj*
if a place is "moonlit", there is light from the moon in that place
a food court *n*
an area inside a shopping centre / shopping mall (see entry below) with many restaurants
busy *adj*
with many people in it
a shopping mall *n* *US*
an indoor area with many shops, restaurants, etc.
to get down on your knees *exp*
to go onto your knees (the joint in the middle of your legs)
a spot *n*
a place
dizzy *adj*
if you feel "dizzy", you feel as if you're going to fall
awkward *adj*
uncomfortable
in stunned silence *exp*
if someone is "in stunned silence"; they can't talk because they're shocked
to prompt *vb*
if A "prompts" you to do/say something, A causes you to do/say it
a flash mob *n*
a group of people who suddenly start singing, acting, etc. in public, often in order to promote something
an escalator *n*
an electrical staircase that takes you from one floor to another in a building
to twirl *vb*
if you "twirl" someone around, you move them around in circles
a beloved *n*
someone you love
to whisper *n*
to speak in a very low, soft voice
a mascot *n*
an animal or toy that is a symbol of an organisation, sports team, event, etc.
to comfort *vb*
if you "comfort" someone, you try to make them feel better
heartbroken *adj*
if someone is "heartbroken", they're sad – often because someone doesn't love them
to get over *phr* *vb*
if you "get over" a bad experience, you manage to forget about it

Answers on page 44

Pre-reading

Think of three places where you can propose marriage. Then, think of three unusual ways of making the proposal.

Reading I

Read the article once. Were any of your ideas similar to the ones you thought of for the Pre-reading task?

Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How did Mike say that Caroline made him feel?
2. What song did the guitarist sing?
3. Where was Arvin when he made his proposal?
4. Which passengers couldn't hear Alex's answer?
5. Who was singing the Beatles' song "All you Need is Love"?
6. Who tried to comfort the man who proposed during a basketball game?