

PD- RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILY

LESSON 3- MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

MARRIAGE

Many people see marriage as having two key purposes:

1. Uniting two people together in a life-long bond
2. Providing a secure environment for the birth and upbringing of children

Marriage is a civil contract between two people.

The couple to be married may choose whether to have the ceremony in a registry office or other place licensed to conduct marriages. They may also choose to have it as part of a religious ceremony in a place of worship licensed to conduct marriages.

The average length of UK marriages ending in divorce is



**11½
years**

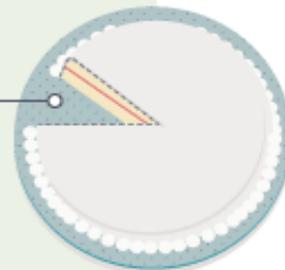
**+8
years**

The average age for first marriage has increased by 8 years since 1970

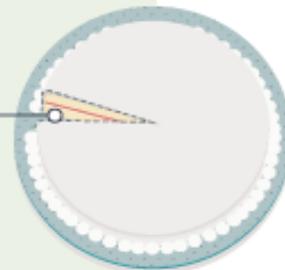


Marriages in the 16-19 age group make up

6%
of all marriages
in 1981



but only
0.3%
in 2010



CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

A civil partnership is an alternative to marriage. A civil partnership is very similar to marriage but civil partnerships do not include religious aspects.

Further differences are explained on the next slide.

MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Marriage and Civil Partnership are very similar. They both legally unite a couple in the eyes of the law which gives them certain privileges and protection.

Similarities:

- Acquire parental responsibilities of children.
- Next of kin rights (they will inherit your property when you pass away for example, unless their will states otherwise).
- They would inherit life insurance money.
- United in the eyes of the law.
- Your partner has the right to live with you.
- You must be in both for 12 months before legally ending it.
- Both are usually intended to be life-long partnerships.

Differences:

- Civil partnerships were created in 2004 for same sex couples but in 2019 it was also an option for straight couples.
- Marriage only became legal for same sex couples in 2014.
- Marriage is often linked to religion whereas civil partnership is secular (non-religious).
- Weddings are more common with marriage.
- People in civil partnerships cannot call themselves 'married'.
- The certificates contain different information.
- Ending a marriage is called divorce, ending a civil partnership is called dissolution.
- Adultery (cheating on a partner) cannot be a reason to dissolve a Civil Partnership.



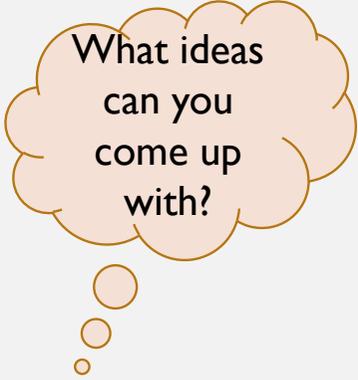
COHABITATION

Some couples choose to live together without being married. This does not mean that they are friends simply sharing accommodation, but they are together as a couple and having a sexual relationship.

Living together is also known as cohabitation. If a couple choose to live together there are some areas of law where they may not have the same rights as if they were married, or if they had registered their relationship as a civil partnership. This includes the right to inherit property if your partner dies.

Some couples who choose to live together draw up a legal agreement known as a cohabitation contract. This outlines the rights and obligations of each person towards each other.

COHABITING RATHER THAN MARRYING



What ideas
can you
come up
with?

Reasons why cohabitation may be better than marriage	Reasons why marriage may be than cohabitation

DIVORCE

Divorce is legally ending your marriage. This means that you will no longer be legally joined to your partner.

What do you think is top reason for divorce in the UK?

Rank the following reasons from 1 to 10.

Drifted Apart

Appearance

Money Problems

Abuse

Addiction

Different Parenting Ideas

Adultery

Unhappiness

Cultural Issues

Communication Issues

Further task: what other factors might lead to divorce

TASK: Decide which of the statements you agree with and which you do not agree with

Divorce should only be allowed once a married couple have exhausted all other options and tried to fix their relationship

If a couple are unhappy in marriage, they should not stay together for the sake of the children.

When a couple marry, they make a promise (vow) before God

Those who get divorced should not be allowed to remarry.

In theory, divorce and separation can be the most loving course of action for everyone involved.

Sometimes divorce is better for the children of a married couple if it saves them from a dysfunctional or unhappy home life

Too much divorce is bad for society.

Marriage should be for life.

It shouldn't be too easy to get a divorce, otherwise it devalues marriage

ACTIVITIES ON DIVORCE

<https://vimeo.com/229876896/d447d0f6b0>

Activity 1:

What is the impact of having a divorce for the people involved?

Think about the impact on:

- The partners who are getting divorced
- The children of the partners who are getting divorced

Activity 2:

Imagine one of your school friends has parents that are divorcing

- Make a list of ways you can be 'a good friend' during this difficult time