

Arches Language School

Conversation Workshop: Married Life or Living Together

Language Level: A2

Grammar Focus: Past participles used as adjectives. Simple past tense.

1. Speaking Activity: My idea of Marriage

(15 mins)

Directions: Discuss these questions with your teacher:

- Are you married? If not, would you like to get married?
- How many children do you have or would like to have?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of having children within a marriage? Does it set spouses apart? Does it get them closer?
- Why don't people have more children nowadays?
- Do you believe in life-long marriage?
- What is the best age to get married?
- How old were your parents when they got married?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of married life?



2. Speaking and Reading Activity (25 min)

(From: "Conversation in Action". Let's talk by Edward R. Rosset)

Directions: In this activity, you'll hear your teacher read this short passage. Listen to the pronunciation and then answer the questions. There may be some new vocabulary for you, so ask your teacher about the meaning of any new word if you can't guess from the context.

Married Life or Living Together

Not many years ago, when two people got married it was for good, "until death separated them". Very few marriages ended up in divorce. Nowadays, about fifty percent of the couples that get married separate after a few years of living together. Married life can be very pleasant if there is love between husband and wife, or it can be hell if they keep arguing and criticizing each other all the time. Psychologists say that couples should watch for tiredness. When people are tired after a long day at the office, they tend to be irritable and answer back. Experts say that we must be thankful for what we have, and repeat to ourselves that we are very happy. If a person repeats it many times a day he/she will end up believing it, and then he/she will really be happy.

Questions:

- Was divorce common a few years ago?
- How long were people married?
- How many couples get divorced nowadays?
- When can married life be pleasant/hell?
- What do psychologists say? Do you agree?
- What happens after a long day at the office?
- What do experts say?
- What happens if you believe that you are happy?



3. Speaking Activity 3 (20 min): Living Together

Directions: In this speaking activity, you'll share about your situation with your family. The questions below may serve as a basis for your presentation, but feel free to add any information you consider relevant.

- Would you live with a partner without being married?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of this type of status?
- Do you think people should live together for a while before getting married?
- What is the most important thing people should experience before getting married?
- Is sex the main and most important attraction before and during marriage?
- Do you think that men and women should share housework when living together?
- Should all members of the family go to work?
- Why do you think couples fight? Can couples learn something from fighting?

