

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 6 Practice 1

In episode 13, Robert and Mei have dinner together. What do you think they talk about?

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. salmon
2. to take someone seriously
3. a deal
4. progress
5. to give someone the sack
6. to fancy
7. dried
8. to ignore someone

Definition

- a. to want to have or do something
- b. a type of fish
- c. to end a worker's employment in your company, often because the worker was not doing well
- d. to give someone your attention and respect
- e. to not listen or pay attention to someone
- f. having all the water taken out of it (especially for food, e.g. fish, fruit, mushrooms)
- g. improvement; getting better
- h. an agreement; one person will do something if the other person also does something

Tasks

Task 1

Circle the five correct answers.

1. What do Robert and Mei talk about?
 - a. What to choose on the menu
 - b. Food in Britain
 - c. Chinese food
 - d. Mei's problems at work
 - e. Robert's problems at work
 - f. Robert's progress with learning Portuguese
 - g. A deal
 - h. *Game of Thrones*

Task 2

Match the phrases (a–j) with the person (1 or 2).

Person

1. Robert

.....

2. Mei

.....

Phrases

- a. feels busy and tired at work
- b. needs to be stronger about speaking a new language
- c. feels ignored at work
- d. chooses the salmon
- e. will talk to his/her manager
- f. misses Milton
- g. will go to another part of London
- h. needs to be stronger at work
- i. chooses the beef
- j. suggests how to practise a language

Discussion

What have you encouraged your friends to do?

Transcript

Robert: Hi, Jessie. How are you and the boys? I hope everything's OK with you all. I'm really sorry I haven't been able to come and visit. I've just been too busy with work. I'm getting really tired of it all, to tell you the truth. I live at the hotel – that means I work at the hotel, I eat at the hotel, I sleep at the hotel. It's too much. I can't wait to get away and make a new start in Brazil. My Portuguese is improving very slowly, but now Milton's away in Belfast doing *Game of Thrones*, so I haven't got a teacher. I miss him, actually. We have a good time together. I hope you'll meet him soon – you'd like him. And you'd like Mei too – Milton's neighbour, the Chinese woman, she works in IT – I told you about her I think. I had dinner with her last week. I invited her to the hotel after work.

Robert: So, what do you fancy, Mei?

Mei: Well, you work here, Robert. What's good?

Robert: What do you like? Do you eat meat? Fish? Are you vegetarian? Vegan?

Mei: No, I eat most things. I like fish – hmm, maybe the grilled salmon. I like salmon.

Robert: What do you think of British food?

Mei: I don't know, really – it's all pizza and burgers and curry.

Robert: That's not true! We've got the famous fish and chips.

Mei: Yes, that's OK. I don't *dislike* the food, but it just seems really simple – not very many flavours. And you British *really* love your potatoes.

Waitress: Good evening, Mr MacLachlan.

Robert: Good evening, Elsie. Um, I think we're ready to order – Mei?

Mei: Oh, yes. I'd like the grilled salmon, please, with ...

Robert: Is the salmon good?

Mei: Delicious, thanks. How's the beef?

Robert: A bit cold actually. I'll have to have a word with the kitchen staff ...

Mei: Well, you're the manager.

Robert: Assistant manager.

Mei: Assistant manager. You can still give them all – what's the word? When you send someone away from their job?

Robert: The sack. You give someone the sack. Which I'm not going to do!

Robert: Talking about jobs – and getting the sack! – how are things going in your job?

Mei: Oh, it's OK. It's the same. People are friendly but I don't think they take me seriously as a colleague, maybe because I'm a woman or because I'm Chinese – I don't know. They talk to each other and make plans and decisions but they ignore me.

Robert: You know, Mei, you should start pushing yourself forward a bit. Be stronger. You have to speak for yourself – don't wait to be asked.

Mei: That's easy to say. But it isn't so easy for me to do. I *am* a strong person – I always tell you and Milton what I think ...

Robert: You certainly do.

Mei: But not at work. I think you should show respect to your bosses at work, not disagree with them.

Robert: Of course! You should show respect to everyone! But you can disagree with someone and still be respectful. Like when they talk about 'the guys' and you don't like it. You need to say something.

Mei: I know. I know, Robert. How's your Portuguese now you've lost your teacher?

Robert: Awful. I miss Milton. I'm not really doing any Portuguese now he's gone to Belfast.

Mei: You're not doing any? And what will happen when you get the job in Brazil and you fail the language test? You'll be sorry then, Mr Robert MacLachlan, hotel manager – ex-hotel manager.

Robert: But I don't know anyone else who can teach me.

Mei: So look online. Get an app. Watch films with subtitles. Read a magazine.

Robert: Hmm.

Mei: Is there an area of London where there are a lot of Brazilians – or Portuguese?

Robert: Yes. Milton goes there to buy dried fish and other stuff for cooking.

Mei: Solution! You go there to the little shops – not the supermarket – and you buy dried fish and you speak Portuguese to everybody.

Robert: I can't just speak Portuguese to people. I feel embarrassed. I don't know them.

Mei: Robert MacLachlan, you have to be stronger. Push yourself forward a bit! Stand up straight! Look people in the eye! Speak to them!

Robert: OK, Mei. I get the point. Let's make a deal. We'll both do something to be stronger – you at work, me with Portuguese. I'll go to 'Little Portugal' and you say something to your boss. We'll meet here on Friday and see what progress we've made. Is it a deal?

Mei: It's a deal.

Robert: Mei certainly isn't shy with me. But she's right, I do need to push myself with Portuguese if I want to get a job in Brazil – and start trying to find Chico. And I really do want to be manager of my own hotel. So I'll be buying dried cod fish tomorrow. I don't know how to cook it though. I'll let you know how I get on.

Writing home
Episode 14

Mei speaks up at work in episode 14, and Milton gets some bad news. What do you think has happened?

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. bossy
2. to include someone
3. to give advice
4. a parcel
5. to keep doing something
6. to sign for something

Definition

- a. to tell someone what you think they should do in a particular situation
- b. always telling people what to do
- c. to make another person part of something
- d. to do something repeatedly
- e. something put in paper or a box and usually sent by post
- f. to write your name on a document to confirm you have received it

Tasks**Task 1**

Write a number (1–8) to put the events in the order they are mentioned.

_____ Mei is glad that her family and friends are happy and healthy.

_____ Mei tells Jiang that she had dinner with Robert.

_____ Steve tells Mei that he will think about the problem.

_____ Mei tells Jiang about Milton's friend Carolina.

_____ Mei tells Jiang that Milton's mother is ill.

_____ A delivery man arrives with a parcel.

_____ Mei tells Steve that she doesn't feel part of the team when he says 'the guys'.

_____ Mei tells Jiang that she decided to do something about her problems at work.

Task 2

Circle the best answer.

1. Who gave Mei some good advice about her problems at work?
 - a. Jiang
 - b. Robert
 - c. Milton
2. Who is Mei bossy to?
 - a. Jiang
 - b. Robert
 - c. Milton
3. Who is Steve talking about when he says 'the guys'?
 - a. all the men in the team
 - b. all the women in the team
 - c. everyone in the team
4. Who is the parcel for?
 - a. Milton
 - b. Mei
 - c. Carolina
5. Who signs for the parcel?
 - a. Milton
 - b. Mei
 - c. Carolina
6. Who is Milton going to visit in America?
 - a. Carolina
 - b. his brother
 - c. his mother

Discussion

Have you ever spoken up at work?

Transcript

Mei: Hi, Jiang. How are things with you? I hope the family are all well. I'm feeling a bit happier than the last time we spoke. I had dinner the other day with Robert, the man who's learning Portuguese with Milton. He's really nice. We talked about my problems at work and he gave me some good advice, although I didn't really want to hear it at the time. I have to say more at work – I have to speak in meetings and I have to tell people when they do or say things I don't like. You probably don't believe me, your bossy friend, but it's very difficult for me to do that. But I decided I was going to do something ...

Colleague: So, I'll get that new design job finished by the end of the day so I'll be ready to start on the programming first thing tomorrow. Steve?

Steve (boss): OK. Great. Two days should be enough to get that done. Get one of the other guys in the team to have a look at it tomorrow evening.

Mei: Steve ...

Steve (boss): Yeah, Mei.

Mei: When you said 'one of the other guys' then – did you mean the men in the team or are you including me too?

Steve (boss): I meant everybody in the team. Why?

Mei: Because when you say 'the guys' like that, it sounds like you mean the men and not me.

Steve (boss): No. I mean all of you. I say 'the guys' when I mean everybody. Now ...

Mei: But Steve ...

Steve (boss): Yeah, Mei?

Mei: I'm the only woman in the team and if you keep calling us 'the guys' I feel like I don't have a place.

Steve (boss): Really?

Mei: Yes.

Steve (boss): Well, it isn't only me. All the guys ... I mean, everybody uses 'the guys' all the time.

Mei: I know. That's what I'm saying – everyone does. Do you think we could all say something else? Like 'everybody', for example. Or 'people' – 'the people in our team'.

Steve (boss): Well, yes, I suppose so. But it isn't easy to change. Leave it with me for a while, Mei. Let me think about it.

Mei: OK. Thank you, Steve.

Mei: Ha ha! I said something! So now we'll have to see if anything changes ... No more 'the guys in your team'. And to change the subject, I have to tell you about poor Milton. I was at home yesterday evening ...

Mei: Hello.

Delivery man: Hello. Do you know anything about Mr Milton da Silva?

Mei: Yes. Milton. He lives over there in that flat – 4B. This is 4A.

Delivery man: Yeah, I know. I've got 4B on the paper but there's no answer. I came here yesterday too.

Mei: Yes – he's away. He's in Belfast. Filming.

Delivery man: Well, good for him. But his parcel will be going back to France tomorrow – unless you can sign for it? Can I leave it here?

Mei: Well, what is it?

Delivery man: No idea. It's heavy though.

Mei: Who's it from?

Delivery man: It just says Carolina.

Mei: Oh. That's his friend Carolina. She has the flat downstairs. OK, I'll take the parcel. Where do I sign?

Mei: Milton talks a lot about Carolina. He met her at university in Newcastle. She used to live downstairs but she went to France to visit another friend – a woman who's just had a baby, I think. So I sent Milton a message to say this heavy parcel had arrived and should I send it to him in Belfast or keep it here? And he sent me a message back saying that I should keep it here because his mother is very ill and he has to go to see her in the States as soon as he can. So Milton will be back here at the end of next week to get his things organised and then he'll go to America. His mother must be very ill. Poor Milton. He was really enjoying himself in Belfast. So, Jiang, I was thinking that my problems at work are very small – my family is happy and healthy and my friends too. And that's the most important thing.

Word on the Street Dating Scene 1

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Watch the video. Choose the correct expressions to complete the sentences.

1. Stephen is planning to send a lot of ...
 - a) Valentine's cards.
 - b) Christmas cards.
2. Ashlie thinks that sending cards is ...
 - a) a waste of time.
 - b) a waste of money.
3. Ash decides to ...
 - a) join a dating agency.
 - b) go speed dating.
4. She ... Stephen to go with her.
 - a) wants
 - b) doesn't want
5. She ... who she likes.
 - a) sees someone
 - b) doesn't see anyone
6. She ... new friends.
 - a) makes some
 - b) doesn't make any

Activity 2

Watch the video again. Complete the extracts with the correct words. There are two words in each space.

1. **Stephen:** It's Valentine's Day _____ and I'm writing the cards I'm going to send. Aren't you going to send any?
2. **Stephen:** I'm sure there's a speed dating night down at _____. It's a great chance to meet new people. And anyway it'll be a lot of fun.
3. **Lady:** Welcome to speed dating, the place where you will find love and romance and passion. Or perhaps just a _____. Now, you ladies know what to do. You remain seated and these handsome gentlemen will come to your table. If he's not Mr Right, you can always ring the bell.
4. **First man:** Yes, so, I really _____, don't you? My favourite is the Wakefield CPC four six four nine hundred. I've got some photos here somewhere.
5. **Second man:** Well, I'm really looking for a girl who likes _____. Someone who'd like to wash my clothes, do my ironing.
6. **Third man:** Your hair's _____. I like blonde hair. Have you ever thought about changing your hair colour?

Activity 3

In the video, Stephen uses a lot of language to persuade Ash and give her advice. Complete Stephen's sentences with the correct expressions.

you should / it's a great chance to / You need to / what about / you have to / Come on / Don't forget / remember

1. _____ join a dating agency, where they find the perfect partner for you.
2. Well, _____ speed dating?
3. _____, Ash, _____ to meet new people.

4. _____, _____ make a good impression. Make some jokes, try and be nice.
5. I think _____ keep trying. It's supposed to be fun, _____.

Discussion

- Is Valentine's Day a popular tradition in your country? Is there a similar holiday?
- How do people usually meet in your country?

Discuss these questions with another student or post a comment on the LearnEnglish website.



Stephen: Dear Valentine, I want the world to know I love you... Roses are red, violets are blue... I love you more than I can say...

It's Valentine's Day next week and I'm writing the cards I'm going to send. Aren't you going to send any?

Ashlie: Oh, what's the point? I never get any back. I'm just so unlucky in love.

Stephen: Oh, you're just not meeting the right people. You should send more. The more cards you send, the more you receive.

Ashlie: I don't think it works like that, Stephen.

Stephen: That's it, Ash. You need to join a dating agency. You know, where they find the perfect partner for you.

Ashlie: Hmm... I don't know, Stephen. I think they just take your money and match you up with the first person who comes along. And besides, I don't want a computer to make decisions for me.

Stephen: Well, what about speed dating?

Ashlie: What?

Stephen: You know, speed dating. Where you meet lots of different people in one night. Like lots of little dates. Like an interview for a boyfriend. And...

Ashlie: And?

Stephen: You get to choose someone. Or they get to choose you. I'm sure there's a speed dating night down at the club. It's a great chance to meet new people. And anyway it'll be a lot of fun.

Ashlie: Well, OK then. But will you come with me?

Stephen: Of course I will. If you meet the man of your dreams, I need to check him out.

Ashlie: Oh, Stephen!

Ashlie: Wow, Stephen! There are a lot of people here. It seems really popular.

Stephen: Good. Lots of choice for you then.

Ashlie: What's this bell for?

Stephen: You ring the bell when you don't want to speak to someone any more. Then they move on. Now, come on, Ashlie – sit up straight, smile.

Ashlie: Stop it, Stephen!

Stephen: Don't forget, you have to make a good impression. Make some jokes, try and be nice. And if you get bored of them, just ring the bell.

Stephen: Ashlie, the lady's about to talk.

Lady: Welcome to speed dating, the place where you will find love and romance and passion. Or perhaps just a new friend. Now, you ladies know what to do. You remain seated and these handsome gentlemen will come to your table. If he's not Mr Right, you can always ring the bell. Are you ready? Begin!

First Date: Yes, so, I really like computers. Don't you? My favourite is the Wakefield CPC four six four nine hundred. I've got some photos here somewhere...

Second Date: Well, I'm really looking for a girl who likes doing housework. Someone who'd like to wash my clothes, do my ironing...

Third Date: Your hair's too dark. I like blonde hair. Have you ever thought about changing your hair colour?

Stephen: So Ashlie? How's it going?

Ashlie: Terrible! So far they've been either totally boring or just weird!



Stephen: Hmm, well, I think you should keep trying. It's supposed to be fun, remember!

Ashlie: Look, Stephen! He's very handsome. And tall. Go on, Stephen. Go, go, shoo. He's coming over...

Ted: Hi!

Ashlie: Hi.

Ted: I'm Ted.

Ashlie: I'm Ashlie.... or, or Ashlyn, in Irish. Or Ash, actually. My brother calls me Ash so that would be fine. But, well, my full name is Ashlie Bridget Alice Walker but you can call me...

Word on the Street

Dating Scene 1 – Language Focus

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Use the correct words to complete the conversation with expressions (**in bold**) about love and romance.

partner / agency / Mister / unlucky
/ speed / of your dreams

A: I never get any Valentine's cards. I'm just so _____ **in love**.

B: You're just not meeting the right people. You should join a **dating** _____. They'll help you to find **the perfect** _____.

A: I don't know. I don't want a computer making decisions for me.

B: OK, well, what about _____ **dating**?

A: What's that?

B: It's where you meet lots of different people in one night. Then if you find _____ **Right**, you can meet him again.

A: I'm not sure.

B: Oh, come on. It'll be great fun. And you could meet **the man** _____!

Activity 2

Which of these expressions go with 'make'? Which go with 'do'? Put the expressions in the correct groups.

your homework / a joke / a good impression / the ironing / the housework / a list / a decision / a cake / the washing-up / a good job / the laundry / a mistake

Make ...

Do ...

Activity 3

Put the words and expressions in the correct order to make sentences with 'The more ...'.

- the more / cards / The more / you send, / you receive.

2. The more / the more / you study /
English, / you'll learn.

3. rained, / it / The more / into the café.
/ the more / came / people

4. The more / exercise, / you / the fitter
/ you / become.

5. eat, / The more / chocolate / the
happier / I / feel. / I

6. The more / the angrier / he / he /
listened, / became.

Word on the Street Dating Scene 2

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Watch the video. Put the events in the correct order.

- Stephen is waiting for the postman.
- Stephen gets a Valentine's card.
- Ashlie and Stephen go to the park.
- Ashlie writes a profile for a dating website.
- Ashlie gets a message from Barry.
- Ashlie and Barry arrange to meet.
- Barry runs away.

Activity 2

Watch the start of the video again. Write down the correct words to complete the conversation.

Ashlie: Stephen! For goodness' sake, you'll scare the postman away. Anyway, _____. The postman usually _____.

Stephen: Yeah. You're right. He'll probably be late. _____ all those cards for me.

Ashlie: It's Valentine's Day today and

Stephen takes it very seriously. He thinks _____ a lot of cards _____.

Stephen: I sent lots of cards, so I'll get lots of cards. Simple.

Ashlie: Stephen, _____. Anyway, I thought _____ with my online profile.

Activity 3

Choose the correct expressions to complete the sentences.

- When Ben talks on the phone, he ... his father.
 - sounds
 - sounds like
- I'd love to go to Prague one day. It ... really interesting.
 - sounds
 - sounds like
- You don't ... very well. Are you feeling OK?
 - sound
 - sound like
- What's that noise? It ... your phone.
 - sounds
 - sounds like
- A:** Did Susan tell you about her accident?
B: Yes, she did. It ... terrible
 - sounded
 - sounded like

6. **A:** I like this music. Do you have any idea who wrote it?

B: I'm not sure. It ... Beethoven.

a) sounds

b) sounds like

Discussion

- Do you think dating agencies are a good idea?
- Would you like to try speed dating?

Discuss these questions with another student or post a comment on the LearnEnglish website.

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Ashlie: Stephen! For goodness' sake, you'll scare the postman away. Anyway, it's too early. The postman usually comes at 11.

Stephen: Yeah. You're right. He'll probably be late. He's got to carry all those cards for me.

Ashlie: It's Valentine's Day today and Stephen takes it very seriously. He thinks he's going to get a lot of cards this year.

Stephen: I sent lots of cards, so I'll get lots of cards – simple.

Ashlie: Stephen, it doesn't work like that. Anyway, I thought you were going to help me with my online profile.

The speed dating didn't really work out. So now Stephen thinks I should try online dating to see if I can meet someone on the internet.

Stephen: Yeah, we're going to try it, Ash. Come on, let's take a picture. You'll need one for your profile. I'm a very good photographer.

Ashlie: OK, then. Come on.

Stephen: OK, so now you have to describe yourself.

Ashlie: So, I guess we could say, tall, beautiful, funny, clever, thin, successful...

Stephen: Or maybe you could just tell the truth?

Ashlie: Stephen! OK, then. Which of these statements sounds most like me? Am I: A: Quiet and shy; B: Outgoing and chatty; C: Optimistic and confident?

Stephen: Ah, definitely optimistic and confident.

Ashlie: Quiet and shy. OK, hobbies... Tick all the boxes that are true for you. Let me see... OK, playing cards, yes, gardening, yes, walking, yes...

Stephen: Err, hang on, Ashlie. I've never seen you do any of those things.

Ashlie: Well, I'm trying to sound mature. You know, more grown up.

Stephen: Mature? You sound like an old lady! You're supposed to tell the truth...

Ashlie: The postman. Just the one card, Stephen?

Stephen: It's not how many you get, Ashlie. It's the thought that counts. Ooh, listen to this, 'Your eyes are like diamonds that shine in the sky...'

Ashlie: Stephen, is that your writing?

Stephen: Err, no.

Ashlie: Err... yes it is, Stephen. Did you send yourself this card?

Stephen: No, Ashlie. I notice you didn't get any. Anyway, how's your profile going?

Ashlie: All finished actually. Now I just need to wait for a reply. Oh my goodness! That was quick!

Stephen: Quick. Open it, Ashlie. Let's see who you got.

Ashlie: Strange photo...

Stephen: What's the message? What does he say?

Ashlie: Well, his name's Barry... He says our interests are the same – they match perfectly. He wants to meet...

Stephen: Oh, do I hear wedding bells?

Ashlie: Well, I think I should meet him. He sounds nice. But Stephen – you will come, won't you? Just to keep me safe?



Stephen: OK. But how will you recognise each other?

Ashlie: We could wear a red flower or something?

Stephen: A red flower? That's a silly idea. You never wear flowers. Maybe you should wear something green. I know – a green scarf.

Ashlie: OK. Let me message him. OK, done. Ooh, I'm going on a blind date!

Ashlie: Stephen! What on earth are you wearing?

Stephen: Shh – I'm in disguise.

Ashlie: Yes, but why?

Stephen: So no one recognises me.

Ashlie: Right. OK. Look, I'll sit on that bench over there. You text me if you see him arrive. Remember, green scarf.

Ashlie texting: Green scarves everywhere – I should have worn a flower

Stephen texting: Look right – Man in hat – Green scarf – Flowers

Man: Ashlie? Ashlie Walker? Oh, no.

Stephen: Ashlie, you asked for that. I told you, you needed to tell the truth.

Ashlie: Right, that's it, Stephen! I give up on dating.

Stephen: Come on, grandma!

Word on the Street

Dating Scene 2 – Language Focus

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Which of these adjectives describe people's character? Which describe people's appearance? Put the adjectives in the correct groups.

short / shy / pretty / handsome /
 pessimistic / big / fair / outgoing / beautiful /
 optimistic / slim / quiet / funny / clever /
 sociable / dark / confident /
 tall / chatty / thin

Character

Appearance

Activity 2

Many new verbs about computers and the internet come from nouns. Use the correct verbs to complete the sentences.

google / blog / friend / email /
 text/message / bookmark

1. Have a safe journey. Will you _____ me when you arrive?
2. If you just _____ 'chocolate cake', you'll find lots of good recipes.
3. When I'm on holiday, I _____ every day so people can see what I'm doing.
4. This girl wants to _____ me on Facebook, but I don't recognise her. Do you?
5. I wish I could find that website again. It was really useful, but I forgot to _____ it.

6. I _____ Joanna at work nearly every day but she hasn't replied recently. Maybe she's on holiday.

Activity 3

Match the expressions.

did she manage to pass that exam? / are you wearing? You look really strange. / were you talking to for so long? / didn't you tell me about this yesterday? / are my keys? I can't find them anywhere.

1. What on earth

2. Who on earth

3. Why on earth

4. How on earth

5. Where on earth

Word on the Street Wedding

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Watch Amandeep's documentary about a wedding in England. Put the parts of the documentary in order.

- She talks to Bobby, the groom.
- She talks about different kinds of wedding ceremonies in Britain.
- She interviews the vicar at Stevie and Bobby's wedding.
- Stevie and Bobby get married.
- Amandeep talks to Stevie, the bride.
- Stevie and Bobby sign the register.

Activity 2

Use the correct expressions to complete the extracts from the documentary. Then watch the documentary again to check your answers.

register / husband and wife / couple /
 Same-sex couples / groom / marriage
 ceremonies / civil ceremony / vicar /
 wedding day / church / carriage /
 bridesmaids / Christian wedding /
 engaged / reception / bride

00.00 – 00.46

The sound of bells in an English churchyard. The bells signal a very special event for one _____ because today is their _____. Stevie and Bobby are _____ and are allowing Word on the Street to follow them on their special day, when they become man and wife. The day starts very early in the morning for the _____, Stevie, and _____ help her with the preparations.

01.20 – 1.56

Bobby and Stevie are having a traditional _____ in a _____. But today in Britain, there are many different _____, depending on the religion or beliefs of the couple. A _____ is a non-religious legal marriage that takes place somewhere other than a place of worship. _____ can also get married in Britain. To understand more about today's ceremony, I met the _____ who's going to be leading it.

02.28 – 04.00

The _____ arrives first, and waits for his bride. ... The bride arrives in a horse-drawn _____, accompanied by her father. And now the ceremony can begin. ... With the signing of the official _____, Bobby and Stevie are now legally _____. After some photographs to record the big day, everybody will go to a local hall for dinner and a big party called the _____.

Discussion

- How do people celebrate marriage in your culture?
- What do you think makes for a lasting relationship?

Discuss these questions with another student or post a comment on the LearnEnglish website.

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Amandeep: The sound of bells in an English churchyard. The bells signal a very special event for one couple because today is their wedding day. Stevie and Bobby are engaged and are allowing Word on the Street to follow them on their special day when they become man and wife. The day starts very early in the morning for the bride, Stevie, and bridesmaids help her with the preparations. I spoke to Stevie as she was getting ready.

How are you feeling?

Stevie: Feeling... a little bit nervous but very excited.

Amandeep: And what have you got left to do?

Stevie: Just having my hair done now, then put on my dress after.

Across town at Bobby's house, there is lots of food to prepare and Bobby's also getting ready.

Bobby: Nice to meet you.

Amandeep: So it's your big day today?

Bobby: It is.

Amandeep: Fantastic. Is this the main suit?

Bobby: It is. This is it.

Amandeep: Brilliant. Just check it fits all OK, it's ironed well...

Bobby: Yep.

Amandeep: It looks good.

Bobby and Stevie are having a traditional Christian wedding in a church. But today in Britain there are many different marriage ceremonies, depending on the religion or beliefs of the couple.

A civil ceremony is a non-religious legal marriage that takes place somewhere other

than a place of worship. Same-sex couples can also get married in Britain.

To understand more about today's ceremony, I met the vicar who's going to be leading it.

Amandeep: What are the origins of this marriage ceremony?

Rev. Chris Shipley: This marriage ceremony goes back first to the Reformation in the 16th century and then further back in time and it is a standard Christian wedding with Christian vows made in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amandeep: And what's your advice for a long and successful marriage?

Chris: A good deal of tolerance, a willingness to ask for help and a sense of humour.

Amandeep: The groom arrives first, and waits for his bride. The atmosphere at a wedding is a mixture of pride, joy and celebration. There may be a few tears, too – of happiness.

The bride arrives in a horse-drawn carriage, accompanied by her father. And now the ceremony can begin.

Chris: Bobby and Stevie have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

Amandeep: With those important words and the signing of the official register, Bobby and Stevie are now legally husband and wife. After some photographs to record the big day, everybody will go to a local hall for dinner and a big party called the reception. So a big congratulations to the newly married couple from Word on the Street!