

السنة الثانية
التحصيل الأول
الطبعة الأولى

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Making Marriage More Affordable

Do you want to get married in the near future? Or perhaps the question should be: can you afford to get married in the near future?

In many countries in the world, weddings are becoming extremely expensive affairs. Even a relatively simple one can cost more than €80,000. The money goes on the bride's wardrobe - her dress, shoes and other clothes - on her jewellery, on a sum paid by her father (called a dowry); and on a huge reception for all the friends and relatives - perhaps 1,000 guests altogether. Many grooms and their families cannot actually afford this amount, and they have to go into debt to pay for the wedding. As many as 80 per cent of all personal loans in some countries are used to cover wedding expenses.

Young people in these countries know all about the cost of a wedding. 'When my sister got married, it was very grand,' says Huda, who is studying graphic design at college. 'It was a

traditional wedding and lasted three days. It was beautiful and made us very happy, but for me it was a waste of money. Today, when I ask my sister about it, she says, 'I wish I'd saved the money to spend on my child and my house.'

Nabilah, a media studies student, nods in agreement. 'I have a cousin who got married 11 years ago and he is still paying off the debts!'

In some countries, men solve the problem by marrying foreign brides. The dowry is often much lower. But is it really a solution? It may create a bigger problem, particularly in countries with small populations. If men marry out of their religion and culture, there may not be enough nationals for the local women to marry in the future.

What can a government do about it? Some countries have made marriages between nationals and foreigners illegal. Other countries offer loans or gifts to nationals if they marry a local girl. These schemes seem to be very successful. In the UAE, for example, a scheme of this sort has helped 44,000 couples to get married in the last 10 years.

Another possible solution is the mass-wedding - ceremonies with hundreds of brides and grooms at the same time. They can be huge affairs, but all the couples share the cost. When Ali Salem got married, he was one of 650 grooms. 'If I had got married by myself,' he says, 'I would have needed over €50,000. But with this kind of wedding, I only spent around €16,000.' Couples can save a lot by hiring their wedding clothes, particularly the bridal dress. In many countries, this dress has hundreds of beads and can cost thousands of pounds. However, it is only worn once and then put away. It makes sense, therefore, to hire the dress for one or two days at a fraction of the cost.

A wedding can be an expensive business, but with help from the government and economies from the bride and groom, it is possible to make it affordable.

LESSON 2: Reading

Discuss these questions.

Are you married?

Yes

- 1 When did you get married?
- 2 Where did you get married?
- 3 Was it a big event? How many guests did you invite? *ضيوف*
- 4 Did you get lots of presents? *هدايا*

No

- 1 When would you like to get married – soon, or after you finish your studies?
- 2 Why will you get married in the future?
OR
Why might you not get married in the future?

You are going to read a newspaper article about marriage. Look at the headline, picture and topic sentences on the right. What will the main point of the article be? Tick (✓) one.

- ☐ Many people are not getting married because it is too expensive.
- ☒ Governments have the answer to expensive weddings.
- ☐ A history of marriage.
- ☒ Marriage is expensive, but there are ways to make it cheaper.
- ☐ The cost of marriage around the world.

Read the topic sentences again.

- 1 What information do you expect to find in each paragraph? Think about this, then ...
- 2 Match each type of information in the blue box to the correct topic sentence.

Read the article on page 14 of the Reading Resources book. Check your answers to Exercises B and C above.

What conclusion do you expect to find in the final paragraph?

- 1 Discuss in pairs.
- 2 Read the final paragraph in the Reading Resources book.

Summarise the article.

- 1 What is the main problem?
- 2 What are the solutions?
- 3 Does the writer mention any problems with the solutions?

Making Marriage More Affordable



- 1 Do you want to get married in the near future?
- 2 In many countries in the world, weddings are becoming extremely expensive affairs.
- 3 Young people in these countries know all about the cost of a wedding.
- 4 In some countries, men solve the problem by marrying foreign brides.
- 5 What can a government do about the problem?
- 6 Another possible solution is the mass-wedding – ceremonies with hundreds of brides and grooms at the same time.
- 7 Couples can save a lot by hiring their wedding clothes, particularly the bridal dress.

a	government attempts to deal with the problem
b	information about mass-weddings
c	information about the cost of weddings in different countries
d	information about ways the bride and groom can save money
e	introduction to the article
f	quotes from young people about the cost of weddings
g	reasons for (and problems with?) marrying a foreign bride



THEME 6

There Are Two Ceremonies

In this theme you are going to write about marriage in your country.

Lesson 1: Vocabulary

You are going to learn some of the vocabulary you will need for your essay.

- 1 Discuss these questions. Use some of the red words.
- 1 What is the name of the biggest festival in your country?
 - 2 When do you see balloons in the street in your country?
 - 3 Is there a special festival to mark the harvest? What happens?
 - 4 Do you like parades? What was the last one you saw?



- 2 In Lesson 2 you are going to read a text about Islamic weddings in India. Here are some sentences from the text. Complete the sentences with the green words. Use the definitions to help you.

- 1 There are a number of ceremonies before the wedding.
- 2 At the engagement ceremony, a boy and a girl agree to get married.
- 3 The parents of the couple decide on a date for the wedding.
- 4 A henna artist puts henna on the hands and feet of the bride.
- 5 After the wedding, the marriage contract is presented.
- 6 The bride's father tells the groom to take care of his daughter.

ceremony an event in a public place with a lot of special activities

married the adjective from marry

wedding the event at which a man and woman get married

bride a woman who is getting married

marriage the noun from marry

engagement the agreement to marry at a later date

groom a man who is getting married

- 3 Study the green words. Which ones
- 1 have doubled letters?
 - 2 end in e?
 - 3 have two vowels together?
 - 4 have the same vowel twice (but not together)?
 - 5 have the same vowel three times (but not together)?
 - 6 have the same consonant twice (but not together)?

- 4 Test each other on the green words.

Student A

Give one of the definitions.

Student B

Identify the word and write it down.

balloon (n)

festival (n)

harvest (n)

neighbour (n)

parade (n)

bride (n)

ceremony(ies) (n)

engagement (n)

groom (n)

marriage (n)

married (adj)

wedding (n)

Lesson 2: Writing

You are going to read about Islamic weddings in India.

- ① Look quickly at the article opposite. Find and copy the events into the correct places in Table 1 opposite. Write any English translation in brackets after special words.
- ② Look again at the text. Compare Islamic weddings in India with traditional weddings in your country.
 - 1 Tick (✓) five things that are the same in your culture.
 - 2 Mark with a cross (X) five things that are different.
- ③ Write sentences comparing Indian culture with your culture.
 - 1 Write five sentences with *both*.
Example: *In both cultures there is an engagement ceremony before the wedding ceremony.*
 - 2 Write five sentences with *whereas* and *while*.
Example: *In Indian culture, the bride wears yellow, whereas in ... culture she wears white.*
- ④ Number your sentences in Exercise C in a logical order. Then rewrite the sentences as two paragraphs.



Skills Check 1

Writing a topic sentence

A paragraph usually starts with a topic sentence. A topic sentence prepares a reader for the content of the paragraph. A good topic sentence is like a door – it opens the paragraph and leads into it.

Examples:

Paragraph content	Topic sentence
the similarities between X and Y	<i>There are many similarities between X and Y.</i>
the differences between X and Y	<i>There are also some differences between X and Y.</i>

Lesson 3: Learning new skills

- ① Put these words into pairs. Explain your choices.

boy	bride	couple	father
girl	groom	man	parent
wali	woman	both parties	
man and woman			
- ② In Indian culture, who ...
 - 1 becomes engaged?
 - 2 decides on a date for the wedding?
 - 3 arrives with his wedding procession?
 - 4 usually wears a long skirt and blouse?
 - 5 reads verses from the *Holy Qur'an*?
 - 6 agrees on the wedding gift?
 - 7 signs the marriage contract?
 - 8 sits together after the wedding dinner?
 - 9 gives the bride's hand to the groom?
 - 10 holds the *Holy Qur'an* above the bride's head?
- ③ Every paragraph needs a topic sentence.
 - 1 Read Skills Check 1.
 - 2 Write a suitable topic sentence for each of the paragraphs you wrote in Lesson 2 Exercise D.
- ④ You must link sentences in a paragraph.
 - 1 Read Skills Check 2.
 - 2 Read each paragraph about Indian weddings again. There is an extra sentence for each paragraph under the table. But where should it go? Write the number of the extra information in the best place in the paragraph.

Skills Check 2

Linking sentences

The sentences in a paragraph must be linked. In other words, the reader must not be surprised by a sentence. There must be a logical link between each sentence and the next.

Example: You write:

At the mangni (or engagement) ceremony, a man and a woman become engaged to be married. What can you write next? Some details about the ceremony perhaps.



Before the wedding

There are a number of ceremonies before the wedding. At the mangni (or engagement) ceremony, a boy and a girl agree to get married. The girl wears a dress that she gets as a present from the boy's family. At the mangni, the parents of the couple decide on a date for the nikaah, or wedding. The mehndi (henna) ceremony takes place at the bride's home on the evening before the wedding. During the ceremony, the women sing traditional songs.

During the wedding

There are several ceremonies on the day of the wedding. Weddings can take place at the bride's home, groom's home, or at a local hall. The groom arrives at the location with his baraat, or wedding procession. The groom drinks sherbet with the bride's brother. The bride usually wears a sharara, which is a long flowing skirt and blouse.

A maulvi, or priest, conducts the ceremony in front of close relatives of the bride and groom, including the walis, i.e., the fathers of the bride and the groom.

The maulvi reads selected verses from the Holy Qur'an. The nikaah ends with the ijab and qubul - in other words, the proposal and acceptance.

There is one other important matter to decide on the day of the nikaah. The older relatives of the man and woman agree on the mehar, or wedding gift, from the groom's family to the bride's family.

After the nikaah, the marriage contract, or nikaahnama, is presented. It contains the rules for both parties. It is signed by the groom, the bride, the walis and the maulvi.

The women and the men have dinner separately. After dinner, the couple sit together for the first time, on either side of the Holy Qur'an. This ceremony is called aarsi mussahaf. Their heads are covered by dupattas (traditional scarves). They read prayers under the direction of the maulvi.

After the wedding

There are two main ceremonies on the day after the wedding. The bride's father gives her hand to the groom. This ceremony is called the rukhsat, or farewell. The bride says goodbye and leaves to go to the groom's house. The groom's mother holds the Holy Qur'an above the head of the bride as she enters her new home for the first time after the wedding.

Table 1: Ceremonies in an Islamic wedding in India

Before the wedding	During the wedding	After the wedding
mangni (engagement)	1, 4	6
2	5, 7	10
3		

- 1 They exchange rings.
- 2 A henna artist puts the mehndi on the girl's hands and feet.
- 3 Musicians play traditional songs when the groom arrives.
- 4 The groom wears a sherwani, a traditional coat.
- 5 The walis play an important role in the ceremony.
- 6 Usually, the groom's side proposes and the bride's side accepts.
- 7 The groom's family can pay the mehar at the wedding or later.
- 8 The contract includes the right of the wife to divorce her husband.
- 9 The name comes from the word for mirrors (aarsi), because the couple can only see each other in mirrors.
- 10 He tells the groom to take care of her.

Applying new skills

Information appears in an English sentence in several common patterns.

Look at each set of four pieces of information.

1 Number the sections of each set in the correct order to make a good sentence.

2 Write out each sentence. Be careful with your punctuation.

3 Look at all of your sentences. What is the common pattern?

a traditional songs during the ceremony the women sing

b the groom with the bride's brother sherbet drinks

c from the Holy Qur'an reads the priest selected verses

d contains the rules for both parties the contract

e the bride's hand gives the bride's father to the groom

These sentences have the same basic pattern. But there is extra information – about the subject, the object or the time.

1 Number the sections of each set in the correct order to make a good sentence.

2 Write out each sentence. Be careful with your punctuation.

a ends and the qubul the wedding with the jab

b the henna ceremony at the bride's home before the wedding takes place on the evening

c the parents decide on for the wedding at the engagement ceremony of the couple a date

d the older relatives and the woman the wedding gift from the groom's family of the man agree on to the bride's family

e conducts in front of the ceremony close relatives and the groom a priest of the bride

You are going to write about weddings in your culture.

1 Copy and complete Table 1. Put English translations of any special words.

2 Write three paragraphs, following the chronological order of information in the table. Use the basic sentence patterns from Exercises A and B above.

3 Write a topic sentence for each paragraph.

4 Exchange drafts with a partner. If you come from the same culture, decide if the factual content is correct. Otherwise, check the information with the table your partner has made. Tick (✓) any good points. Mark (?) any problems.

5 Correct any mistakes of fact, spelling, punctuation and grammar, and make a second draft.

6 Give your second draft to your teacher / instructor.

Table 1: Ceremonies in a wedding in my culture

Before the wedding	During the wedding	After the wedding