

Dialogue

A: Don't you think it's better to stay single than to get married?

B: There are so many different **motives** for marriage that it's impossible to **generalize** about why people prefer married to single status.

A: **Rubbish!** It must be possible to compare living together with someone to live on your own. What about the question of independence?

B: But you don't seem to realize that many married people live totally independent lives.

A: That may be so, but for most people the whole point of marriage is to live together and possibly to raise a family.

B: In that case, it's obvious that children are commitments for life. I guess that many single people have different **priorities**.

A: Surely, there's more to marriage than having children.

B: If you're talking about the religious or security aspects of getting married, the divorce rate is so high in Britain that these don't seem to be **relevant** anymore. Why not just stay single? You can still live together with other people as long as you find them **compatible**.

Vocabulary

motives
generalize
rubbish
commitment
priorities
relevant
compatible



single



married

Express Yourself

Get Married?

Stay Single?

1. Are you for or against trial marriages i.e. living together outside marriage to test your compatibility?
2. Do you think that marriage should be for life? Should divorce be made easier or more difficult?
3. Why do you think that the divorce rate has become so high in many countries?
4. Is it better to marry someone of approximately the same age? Should the man be older than the woman?
5. How important is the religious aspect of marriage to you? Which aspects are more important, if any?
6. Should it be legal to marry more than one partner at the same time?
7. Should it be legal to marry someone of the same sex? Should marriages between gay and lesbian partners be recognized by the church?

