

True Love

The Dating Game



So you're in a **bar** and someone **catches your eye**. Wow, she's the girl of your dreams! You begin **chatting her up**, and soon you realize you're crazy about her. You want to **get together** the next evening and **go out** on a **date**. No, no, no! We're not talking about the fruit kind of date, or the what-day-is-it kind of date. We're talking about the **romantic** kind of date. How do you ask her? Where do you go? Well, don't ask us. It seems like hundreds of years since

we've been on a date, and we've completely forgotten what to do. A date for us is a trip to the local supermarket. But our **sources** tell us there are many options to suit any pocketbook. How about **cocktails** at the local bar? Make sure you both have ID; you will probably be **carded**. How about a romantic **stroll** in the park? And, **just to be on the safe side**, make sure you know whom you are going with.

What if you never seem to meet anyone? These days, many people try **dating services** on the Internet to find **Mr. or Ms. Right**. Watch out for those **blind dates**, though. That 20-year-old **stunner** whose picture you saw may turn out to look more like your great-grandmother . . . or worse! Some people prefer to go on a **double date** at first until they feel more comfortable. Watch out at night; **cougars** could be **prowl**ing the streets! No, we're not talking about a big cat that has escaped from the zoo. Cougars are older women looking for younger men to date. (We think men must have come up with that comparison, haha.) And for you ladies, **sugar daddies** are not giant candy bars. These are older men looking for younger women to date. Be careful that you don't turn out to be some guy's **trophy wife**. Some rich old men just like the idea of going to events and parties with **arm candy**.

For kids in high school, one of the most important and exciting dates is **prom night**. This is a special evening with a very fancy dance that has music and food. If you're a parent, you'd better start saving. This can be an expensive time, with kids **going all out** to make it a perfect night. Girls spend lots of money on a special dress, a fancy hairstyle, and lots of makeup, and yes, some parents even rent a **limo** for the night. Here's the funny thing about prom night: however carefully you choose a dress and do your hair, you can be sure that in 30 years you'll **cringe** when you look at the pictures of yourself—and probably your date, too!

DIALOGUE 1: TRACK 42

ALAN: Hi, Lia. What's up?

LIA: Oh, nothing much. Just trying to get ready for midterm exams.

ALAN: Mmm. Me, too. I'm feeling a little stressed.

LIA: Yes! I can't wait 'til they're over; then I can **let my hair down** a bit.

ALAN: Well, I could really use a **break** right now. Do you feel like **catching a movie** tonight? *Crazy Weekend with the Zombies* is playing at the **multiplex**.

LIA: Hey, that's a great idea! I'm dying to see that. I hear it's **hilarious**. Why don't we grab something to eat beforehand? I'm **sick of dorm food**.

ALAN: Sure. How about if I pick you up at about 7? The movie starts at 8:30, and we can grab a quick bite before we go.

LIA: Sounds great! See you at 7.

TIP 1

Don't forget: you must be 21 to buy alcohol in the United States. Most places will card you. In some states, you can buy alcohol only in a liquor store. In others, you can buy beer and wine in a supermarket.

TIP 2

Smoking is not allowed in most public places. Most smokers can be seen roasting in the summer and freezing in the winter as they stand outside a building for their smoke. Take our advice: it's much easier (and healthier) to quit (or never take it up in the first place)!

VOCABULARY

- ① **arm candy**: someone very attractive that you bring on a date to get attention
- **bar**: a place for socializing that serves alcoholic beverages
- ① **better half**: a fun term that refers to your partner in a serious relationship, or your spouse
- **blind dates**: when you go out with someone before you've met him or her
- ① **break**: a short time away from some stressful work
- ① **carded**: asked to show identification that proves you are old enough to order alcohol
- ① **catching a movie**: going to a movie (can also be used in other contexts, such as, *catching a baseball game, catching a show*)
- ① **catches your eye**: is attractive to you; gets your attention
- ① **chatting someone up**: having a casual conversation
- **cocktails**: special alcoholic drinks with several ingredients
- ① **cougars**: older women looking for young men to date
- **cougars** (also called **mountain lions** or **pumas**): large wild cats, formerly found in many places in the United States but now rarely seen
- **cringe**: be shocked or embarrassed at something
- **date**: Four meanings here! (1) a fruit from the date palm tree; (2) a day on the calendar, like Monday, August 6; (3) a romantic event, time spent with someone special; (4) the person you go on a date with (So *date* can be the event and the person! Confused? That's English for you!)
- **dating services**: groups (usually online) where you can sign up and look for people with similar interests

- ① **dorm**: short for *dormitory*; the place where students live at a school or college
- **dorm food**: the kind of food served in schools
- **double date**: four people (two couples) going to the same place together
- ① **get together**: meet with someone
- ① **going all out**: spending lots of time and energy to make something perfect
- ① **go out**: meet and spend time with someone
- **hilarious**: very funny
- ① **just to be on the safe side**: being cautious with someone or something new
- ① **let one's hair down**: relax
- **limo**: a very large, very fancy car that holds many people (or one rich movie star!)
- ① **Mr. or Ms. Right**: the perfect person for you!
- **multiplex**: a movie theater that shows many different movies
- **prom night**: the most exciting social event for kids in high school
- **prowling**: searching for something; moving quietly like a cat
- **romantic**: about love
- ① **sick of**: tired of
- **sources**: people who give you information
- **stroll**: a slow, enjoyable walk
- ① **stunner**: someone who is very beautiful
- ① **sugar daddy**: an older man who buys lots of presents for a younger woman he wants to date
- ① **trophy wife**: a young beautiful woman who marries a much older, very successful (usually rich!) man

PROM-POINTE
 ...one to the e
 ...-dayt
 ...these pairs of wc
 ...longer:
 ...: hat
 ...: rat
 ...: mat

You Marry



...creative and post th
 ...sports event. But t
 ...knee, after asking t
 ...I will marry you!"
 ...romantic. (We've taken
 ...and romantic.)
 ...you get to prepare fo
 ...say, "I do." It's jus
 ...stressful! Trying to
 ...copy, and stay with
 ...more interestir
 ...Planner to h
 ...wedding



PRONUNCIATION POINTER

Adding an e to the end of a word makes the a vowel sound long:
date = **dayt**.

Say these pairs of words and notice how the e at the end makes the a sound longer:

Hat-hate: *hat* **hayt**

Rat-rate: *rat* **rayt**

Mat-mate: *mat* **mayt**

Will You Marry Me?



After you've been going out for a while, you may realize you **only have eyes for** that special person. Yes, you have **fallen for** her **big time** and decide that you want to **get hitched**. First of all, you need to **pop the question**. Some people think it seems **old-fashioned** now, but it's still usually the custom for the man to **propose** to the woman. And what is the question? It's always, "Will you marry me?" Some guys

get very creative and post the question on highway **billboards**. Some plan to do it at a sports event. But the really traditional marriage proposal is done on **bended knee**, after asking the woman's father for permission. If the woman says, "Yes, I will marry you!" you're **engaged!** She is your **fiancée**, and you are the **fiancé**. (We've taken these words from French. Don't ask us why, but it does sound romantic.)

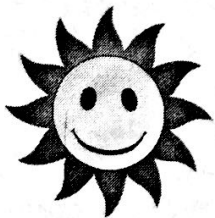
Now you get to prepare for **the big day** when you will finally **tie the knot** and say, "**I do.**" It's just about the best time of your life—and also the most stressful! Trying to have your dream wedding, keep all the **in-laws** happy, and stay within a **budget** can be a real chore. Things become even more interesting if you come from a family where parents have remarried. Now there are **stepparents** as well. Some people have a **wedding planner** to help them with the details. The great part about that is that the wedding planner gets to have the headaches! The planner does the **grunt work**, while the happy couple enjoys thinking about

exchanging vows. Well, they think about the vows . . . and about how they're going to pay the wedding planner!

A very popular custom with couples today is to set up a **bridal registry.** The bride-to-be registers with a store, and the couple decides what things they'd like in their new home. The best part? The bride and groom pick out all the cool stuff, but they don't have to spend a penny! They make a list of things they'd really like to have; friends and family check the list and decide what they'd like to buy as a gift. It sure **beats running the risk** of getting four toasters! Remember to include items in a **range** of prices. Some people may like to **chip in together** and get a more expensive gift. Other people may want to **go solo** and get something smaller.

Friends of the **bride** and **groom** often have **bachelor** or **bachelorette** parties to celebrate. This is the last chance to party with your friends as a single person. Don't **overdo** it and feel sick on your wedding day. Or worse: don't run off and **elope** with someone else!

Finally, the big day arrives, and it's all you ever dreamed it would be. The bride looks beautiful, the groom is handsome, and the guests are all well behaved. A success! Now, it's off to the **honeymoon** to **de-stress** from it all. Whew, what a **whirlwind!** Now all you have to do is *remember* the **anniversary,** or you'll be in big trouble!



Fun Fact!

A bachelor party is called a **stag** party. We don't care what they're called: they're the parties when you kiss your single days good-bye!

DIALOGUE 2: TRACK 43

LIA: It's my wedding anniversary tonight.

JAE: Oh, congratulations!

LIA: Yeah, gosh, it **takes me back** to when Tony first asked me to marry him. He had it all planned out so carefully.

JAE: Uh-oh. Sounds like there is a romantic story here.

LIA: It's quite a story, all right. He was working in New York, and I was still living in England, so I flew to New York City to spend a long weekend with him. We went to the top of the Empire State Building . . .

JAE: . . . and he asked you to marry him? With the stars **twinkling** in the night sky? There, at the top of the building, with the beautiful **skyline** of New York City right below you?! How romantic!

LIA: Um, well, uh, not quite. Yes, in his **original plan** he was going to ask me there. But

JAE: But . . . ?

LIA: Well, we had some friends with us, and Tony told his **bff** about the romantic Empire State Building proposal plan. His friend **begged** him not to propose to me there!

JAE: Are you kidding? Why not?

LIA: Tony's friend was with *his* girlfriend, too. He was worried that if Tony asked me to marry him, then his girlfriend would expect a proposal, too!

JAE: HAhaahaha! So then what happened?

LIA: Well, then Tony went to Plan B. He was going to take me out for a romantic meal at one of those Japanese restaurants where they prepare the food at the table. He was going to ask the guy to put my ring in the food.

JAE: Hahaha! This is too funny! Okay, so why didn't that happen?

LIA: I was so **jet-lagged** I didn't want to go out for dinner.

JAE: Just as well. You'd probably have eaten the ring. I can see you **choking** on your **engagement ring**. Help! Call 911! I've eaten an engagement ring!

LIA: Oh, very funny. Anyway, we ended up going out to a **bagel** place.

JAE: OH NO! Don't tell me he stuck the ring in the cream cheese, and then you couldn't find it!

LIA: Oh, just stop it. It may have been a little bagel place, but it could have been the fanciest, most elegant candlelit restaurant. He offered me the most beautiful ring and asked, "Will you be my wife?"

JAE: Did he get down on one knee? I hope he didn't **slip** on the cream cheese.

LIA: STOP IT! No, it wasn't on bended knee, but it was very romantic anyway. I'll never forget it. Okay, so how about you? What's your romantic proposal story?

JAE: You want a romantic story? Oh, I have a perfect romantic story.

LIA: Okay, I'm **all ears**.

JAE: Well, we were sitting next to a peaceful lake at sunset on a perfect summer day. The sky was **ablaze** with beautiful reds and orange, and some ducks went swimming by. Suddenly, on the dock below, a group of violins

began to play. Jim got down on one knee and said, "This is the most wonderful thing in my life. Will you marry me and be my princess?"

LIA: That is so perfect! It's almost like a **fairy tale**!

JAE: Ha, ha. I know. It *is* like a fairy tale! And, as you know, fairy tales are **make-believe**. You wanted a romantic story, that's what you got—a story! Okay, so it's *not* true, but the *real* story is pretty funny. I'll save it for when we have a lot more time.

TIP 3



Don't forget to **RSVP** to an invitation! The bride needs to know exactly how many people to plan for at the **reception**, so it's important to **reply** and let her know if you'll be coming.

TIP 4



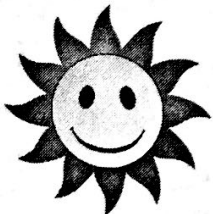
The invitation will usually say exactly who is invited. If the bride would like you to bring your boyfriend, the invitation will say "Miss Smith *and guest*."

VOCABULARY

- **ablaze:** on fire, or seeming so
- ① **all ears:** be listening very carefully
- **anniversary:** the date each year marking the wedding date (Your wife wants flowers!)
- **bachelor:** an unmarried man
- **bachelorette:** an unmarried woman
- **bagel:** a small, firm, circular bread (especially popular for breakfast in New York City)
- ① **beats:** is better than
- **begged:** asked in a very strong way
- **bended knee:** getting down on one knee; usually this means the person is asking for something
- ① **bff:** best friend forever (Find this and other fun text shortcuts in Unit 19.)
- ① **the big day:** a well-planned, exciting day
- ① **big time:** enthusiastically
- **billboard:** large advertisement signs near a highway
- **bridal registry:** a list of items the couple needs to start a home
- **bride:** the woman on her wedding day

- **budget:** a money plan
- ① **chip in together:** put money together to get a nice gift
- **choking:** getting something caught in your throat so that you're unable to breathe
- ① **de-stress:** relax
- **elope:** get married in secret
- **engaged:** promised to marry
- **engagement ring:** a traditional gift from a man to a woman when he asks to marry her (In the United States, this is often a diamond ring.)
- **exchanging vows:** making promises to each other at the wedding
- **fairy tale:** a children's story about beautiful people and happy endings
- ① **fallen for:** be in love with someone you've met
- **fiancé:** the man who will be married
- **fiancée:** the woman who will be married
- ① **get hitched:** get married
- ① **go solo:** do something alone
- **groom:** the man on his wedding day
- ① **grunt work:** the hard work that no one wants to do
- **hen:** a female chicken
- **honeymoon:** a special vacation right after the wedding ceremony
- **"I do":** the promise husbands and wives make to be faithful and good spouses
- **in-laws:** your spouse's family
- **jet-lagged:** the feeling of being tired after a long flight from another time zone
- ① **make-believe:** pretend; not real
- **old-fashioned:** traditional; not modern
- ① **only have eyes for someone:** be so in love that you can't think about anyone else
- ① **original plan:** what you decide to do in the beginning (before going to Plan B!)
- **overdo:** do something too much
- ① **pop the question:** ask someone to marry you
- **Propose:** ask someone to marry you
- **range:** from one spot on a list to the opposite

- **reception:** a special party held after a wedding ceremony; also a party for other important events
- **reply:** respond; answer
- **RSVP:** thanks once again to the French! This means: **Répondez, S'il Vous Plâit** (please reply)
- **running the risk:** making a bad result possible
- **skyline:** the view of a city's buildings from a distance
- **slip:** fall on something wet or oily
- ① **stag:** an animal with large antlers; a social gathering for men only
- **stepparents:** people who have married your biological parent
- ① **takes me back:** reminds me of the past
- ① **tie the knot:** get married
- **twinkling:** sparkling; lights blinking on and off
- **wedding planner:** someone whose job is to figure out all the details of the wedding
- **whirlwind:** a very fast, exciting time



Fun Fact!

Traditionally, an American bride wears "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue." Another tradition: a penny in the bride's shoe means good luck!

MORE FUN WITH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS: Love

- **a match made in heaven:** a perfect relationship
*Tony and Jane's marriage was a **match made in heaven**. They were perfect for each other.*
- **the love of one's life:** the one person you'll love forever
*Peggy and Russ celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary; they both said, "You're still **the love of my life**!"*
- **head over heels:** absolutely and completely in love
*Tina is **head over heels in love** with Jorge; she can't stop talking about him.*
- **love at first sight:** falling in love with someone the very first time you see them
*I knew Tom was the man I'd marry. It was **love at first sight** when we met in college.*

...something good...
...to know that son...
...was ready to kiss...
...Peggy.

Over!

Ah, i...
while...
coup...
enjoy...
Some...
come...
and d...
answe...

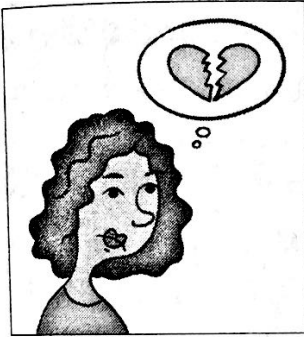
...out with your spous...
...pe. It's not only that...
...n't put up with those...
...but, but you can't sta...
...from any longer. Or...
...learned that your part...
...after talking through al...
...up. This is usually a...
...to give it a **second ch**...
...and the couple just c...
...and, sadly (or happily?),

LOGUE 3: TRACK

...what's the matter? Y...
...I guess I am. I just I...
...and Josep have broke...
...going really well...
...and no. He is such...
...really bow...
...me flow...

- **on the rocks:** when a relationship starts to have problems.
*I think our neighbors' marriage is **on the rocks**. All I do is hear them fighting.*
- **kiss something good-bye:** have no chance of getting or doing something; to know that something is over or gone forever.
*Russ was ready to **kiss his bachelor days good-bye** when he popped the question to Peggy.*

It's Over!



Ah, it was a beautiful relationship while it lasted. But not every couple is lucky enough to enjoy **wedded bliss** forever. Sometimes the problems that come up are too difficult to solve, and divorce seems like the only answer. So, after trying to **work**



things out with your **spouse**, you've decided that you're at the **end of your rope**. It's not only that the two of you have **grown apart**, it's that you just can't **put up with** those smelly feet any longer! You've **given it your best shot**, but you **can't stand the sight** of those dirty socks all over the bedroom floor any longer. Or maybe it's something more serious. Maybe you've learned that your partner has been **cheating on** you and **having an affair**. After talking through all your options, you decide that the only solution is to **split up**. This is usually a sad decision, and many times couples will decide to give it a **second chance** and **get back together**. If the problems remain, and the couple just can't work things out, it may be the **end of the road** and, sadly (or happily?), time to say good-bye and get a **divorce**.

DIALOGUE 3: TRACK 44

LIA: Hey, what's the matter? You **look down**.

JAE: Yeah, I guess I am. I just **broke up** with Josep.

LIA: You and Josep have broken up? Oh, no! What happened? I thought things were going really well.

JAE: Yes and no. He is such a nice guy in a lot of ways, but things just started getting really boring, you know. He stopped doing all the nice stuff like buying me flowers and saying nice things. He only wants to sit on the

couch and watch TV, and I want to do fun things with friends.

LIA: I know what you mean; Tony is the same. I'd just like him to be a little more . . . well, romantic or something.

JAE: Yeah, but it's not only that. We've just **gone in different directions**. He isn't interested at all in any of the things I like to do. I just feel he has really **let me down**. I just can't **count on** him anymore.

LIA: Wow, I'm so sorry to hear that. I hope you **get over** the **breakup** soon. But after all, maybe there's still a chance that you two can work things out and **make up**. Maybe you should **put off** the **separation**.

JAE: Well, we've been trying for a long time, so I think this is the **end of the road** for us. But thanks anyway.

TIP 5



Before a couple decides to separate or divorce, they will often try **counseling**. A professional counselor who helps couples resolve their differences is called a marriage **therapist** or family therapist.

VOCABULARY

- ① **break up** (verb): end a relationship
 - **breakup** (noun): the situation when two people end a relationship
- ① **can't stand the sight of**: hate something
- ① **cheating on**: being unfaithful to a husband or wife
 - **counseling**: talking with a professional about how to solve problems
- ① **count on**: depend on; rely on
 - **divorce**: a legal ruling that a marriage is officially over
- ① **end of the road**: the last part of an experience
- ① **end of your rope**: not having any more patience in a bad situation
- ① **get back together**: reunite after a separation
- ① **get over**: no longer be upset by a bad situation
- ① **give it your best shot**: try your hardest at something
- ① **go in different directions**: follow different interests; grow apart
- ① **grow apart**: no longer like the same things
 - **having an affair**: cheating on a husband or wife, usually with the same person and for a long time
- ① **let someone down**: disappoint someone

GRAMMAR REMINDER

Phrasal verbs are really complex particles (could be a preposition or a particle) meaning of the verb. It so many English speakers write that they're **words that w**

Some phrasal verbs are exactly what they say (like **go out** (which is, of **We go out to the m**

Others are trickier because mean just by knowing all **make up** in a good relationship a disagreement.

This is not to be confused with cosmetics. Isn't English fun?

Some phrasal verbs are separated from the particle: **let down** Tom is never around the **lets me down** all t

- ① **look down:** seem sad or unhappy
- ① **make up:** forgive and be friends again
- ① **put off:** postpone
- ① **put up with:** have patience; ignore something annoying
 - **second chance:** another try to make things work
 - **separation:** a time before a divorce when a couple isn't living together
- ① **split up:** separate; no longer be together
 - **spouse:** the person someone is married to
 - **therapist:** a professional who helps with problems
- ① **wedded bliss:** a fun way to talk about marriage as perfect happiness
- ① **work things out:** try to solve problems

GRAMMAR REMINDER 1: Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are really common in informal English. They are verbs and particles (could be a preposition or adverb) that work together to change the meaning of the verb. It sounds more complicated than it is, and there aren't many English speakers who can tell you what a particle is anyway! Just know that they're **words that work together to make one meaning**.

- Some phrasal verbs are pretty easy to understand because they mean exactly what they say (literal):
 - go out** (which is, of course, going out of the house somewhere)
*We **go out** to the movies every Friday night.*
- Others are trickier because there is no way you can figure out what they mean just by knowing all the words:
 - make up**
*In a good relationship, it's important to **make up** after a disagreement.*

This is not to be confused with the noun *makeup* (one word), which means cosmetics. Isn't English *fun*?!

- Some phrasal verbs are separable, which means you can separate the verb from the particle:
 - let down**
Tom is never around to help when I need him.
*He **lets me down** all the time.*