



# MARRIAGE

## Learning outcomes:

To **describe** key terms

To **explain** the importance of  
marriage

To **evaluate** if the purpose of  
marriage has changed

## Starter:

Complete the  
crossword.

Complete agree or  
disagree sheet

# Key Terms

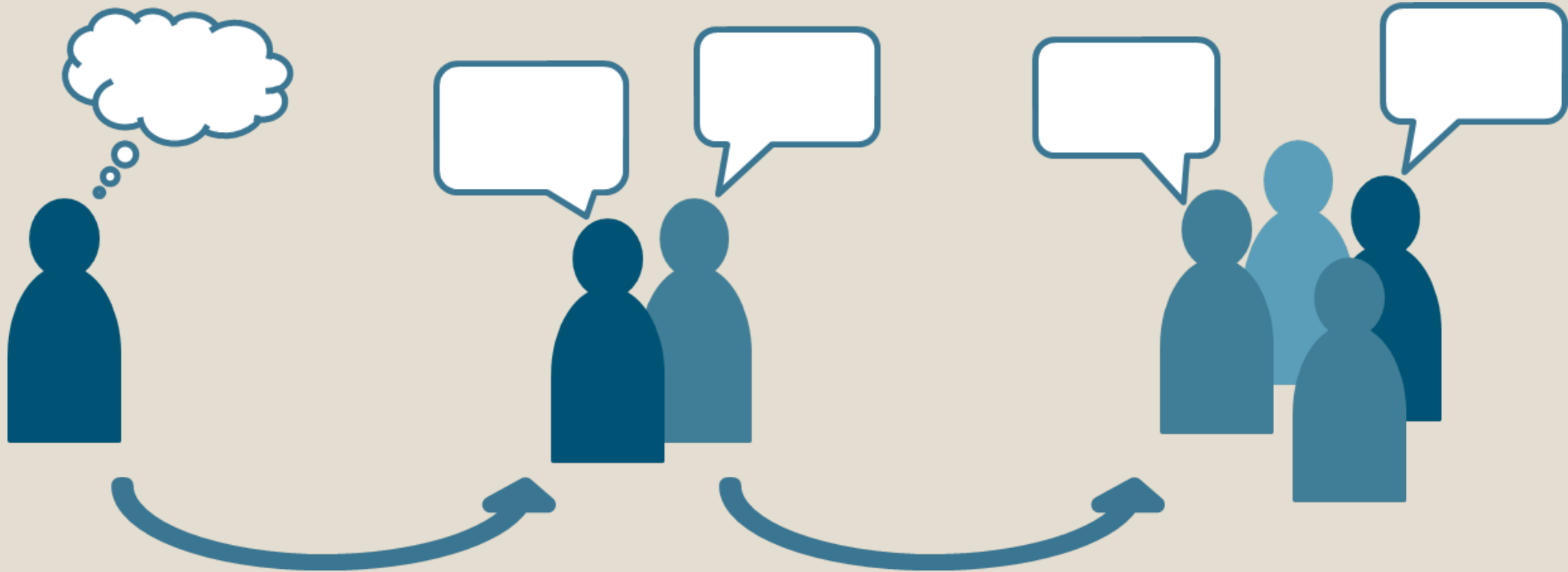
- **Marriage:** a legal union between a man and a woman (or in some countries, including the UK, two people of the same sex) as partners in a relationship.
- **Civil partnership:** a legal union of a same-sex couple.
- **Same-sex marriage:** marriage between partners of the same-sex.
- **Cohabitation:** a couple living together and having a sexual relationship without being married to one another.
- **Sex before marriage:** sex between two single unmarried people.



## Challenge!

Do you agree or disagree with cohabitation? Why?

# Is marriage important to you? Why?



## Challenge!

Is marriage important to religious people? Why?

# What does this clip tell us about the purpose of marriage?



This clip tells us that the purpose of marriage is to...because...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PD7qi8VK\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PD7qi8VK_o)

# Marriage in coteremporary Britain

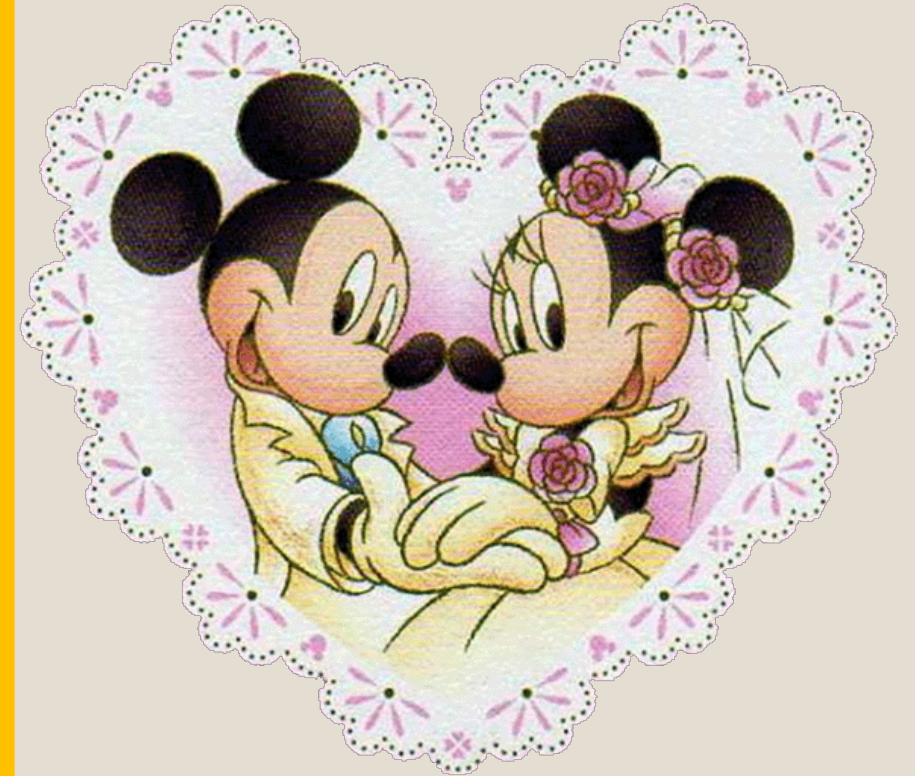
- **Marriage** is a serious, **lifelong, public commitment**. It is a **legal contract** that brings **security** to a **relationship** and **protects** the **rights** of each **partner**. Until recently, **marriage** in the **UK** was **defined** as the legal **union** of a **man** and a **woman**. In **2004**, **same-sex** couples were allowed to **register** their **union** in a **civil partnership** which gave them the same legal rights as married couples. **Same-sex marriages** became **legal** in **England, Wales** and **Scotland** in **2014**, and in **Ireland** in **2015**.



Explain in your own words, the changing of marriage in contemporary Britain.

# Marriage in contemporary Britain

- **Many Christians opposed same-sex marriage**, not because they were against equal rights, but **because it seemed to be changing the nature of marriage**. **Marriage** was being **redefined to mean simple a committed relationship between adults**, whereas many **Christians** consider it be a **unique relationship** between a **man** and a **woman** that **involved** their ability to **create new life** in the form of children. The **law does protect Churches** that **opposes homosexual marriage** and they are **not forced to conduct same sex marriages against their beliefs**.



Add further information to your explanation!

# How Do These Quotes Show The Importance Of Marriage For Christians?

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

“God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”

Genesis 1:28

“The Church sees marriage between a man and a woman, as central to the stability and health of human society.”

House of Bishops of the General Synod of the Church of England

## Challenge!

1. Find these quotes: Ephesians 4:2, 1 Peter 4:8, John 15:12
2. Write them down and explain how it shows the importance of marriage for Christians!

1. **Watch** the video below.

2. Take **notes** on the **importance** and **purpose** of **marriage** for **Christians.**

**Challenge!**

What quotes support the views from the clip?



1. **Watch** the video below.

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**Challenge!**

What quotes support the views from the clip?

A gift from God and part of the natural law.

The proper place to enjoy sex, raise children in a religious faith and provide a secure, stable environment for family life.

A spiritual bond of trust that reflects the love of Christ for the Church.

A covenant (agreement) before God in which the couple promises to live faithfully together till death.

## What are Christians views on marriage?

A unique relationship between a man and a woman that allows for the possibility of creating new life.

“God blessed them and said to them, “be fruitful and increase in number.”” Genesis 1:28

“The Church sees marriage between a man and a woman, as central to the stability and health of human society.” House of Bishops of the General Synod of the Church of England

# Task

1. **Complete** the **gap fill** on **Christian marriage ceremonies**.
2. **Explain two contrasting views** in **Christianity** on **marriage**. Refer to **religious teachings** in your answer. (5 marks)

## Challenge!

Do you think **kissing before a marriage** is a **sin**, okay or not wise? Why?

Is Kissing Before  
Marriage A ...  
Sin?  
Okay?  
Not Wise?



# Are these traditional marriages in Christianity? Why?

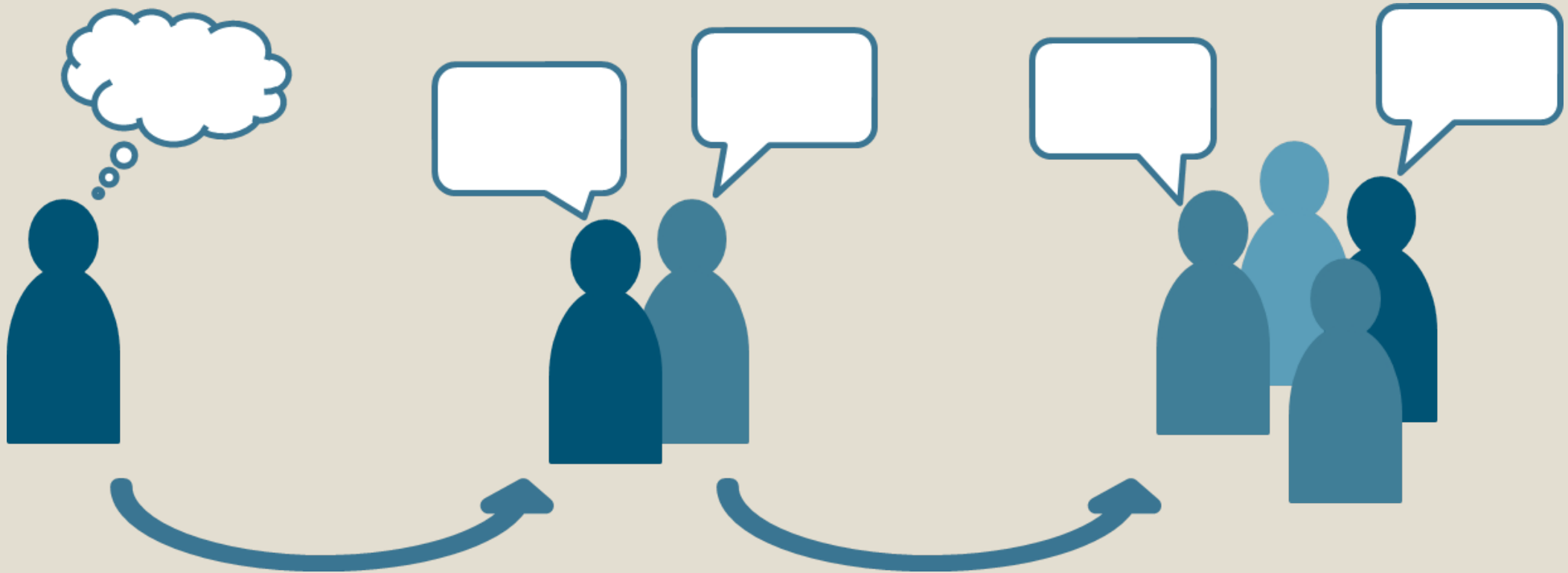
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEih8OaZ9s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Jhi4t8Os0M> or [https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6sj\\_s2h](https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6sj_s2h)

## Challenge!

What would a Christian say in response to these ceremonies? Why?



# Is marriage important for Buddhists?



# Importance of Marriage for Buddhists

- Buddhism does not view marriage as a religious duty or sacred act. This does not mean that Buddhism is against the idea of marriage, just that marriage is a personal choice that a couple make for themselves. Buddhist weddings are secular, not religious, occasions – the couple are expected to follow the civil laws for marriage for whichever country they are getting married in. Monks may bless the marriage after the wedding ceremony, but they cannot conduct the ceremony themselves.
- Unlike some religions, having children is not viewed as an important purpose of marriage in Buddhism. Buddhists are not expected to feel any religious obligation or pressure to have children; it should purely be the personal choice of the couple. This contrasts with Christianity for example, in Catholic Christianity, where marriage is seen as the starting point of raising a family.
- Buddhism teaches that everything is interrelated and interdependent. Buddhists believe this is true for people as well, and that strong, trusting relationships are important for the wellbeing of a community and society as a whole. Marriage is seen to play an important part in this, and for Buddhists it helps to cement the relationships that provide support, protection and happiness for the community.
- Same-sex marriage is currently illegal in Asia. However, Buddhist teachings are not against same-sex marriage, and traditional Buddhist cultures that might have condemned same-sex marriage some years ago now seem to be changing slowly. In places such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan, there have been recent challenges to the law, to promote the view that the right to marriage should be equally available for heterosexual and homosexual couples.

1. **Read** the information.
2. **Highlight** the key points.
3. What is a **Buddhists view on heterosexual marriage?**
4. What is a **Buddhists view on same-sex marriages?**
5. What **teachings support** their **views** on marriage?
6. Do **you agree or disagree** with **Buddhists views** on marriage?

**Challenge!**

**How** does it **contrast** with **Christianity?**

## Importance of Marriage for Buddhists

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# Cohabitation

In Britain many couples cohabit before they get married, or without ever getting married.

They may want to see if the relationship will work before getting married, or may not believe it is necessary to get married.

## Buddhism

- **Buddhist teachings do not go against sex before marriage or cohabitation.** As long as the persons are **not** causing **harm** to any **living** thing (breaking the **first moral precept**) then **cohabitation** is **deemed okay**.

## Christianity

- **Catholic and Orthodox Churches oppose cohabitation** as they believe **sex** should **only** take place **within marriage**.
- Many **Anglican** and **Protestant** Christians **accept** that although **marriage** is **best**, people may **cohabit** in a **faithful, loving** and **committed** way without being **married**.



Explain two religious beliefs about the nature of marriage. You must refer to religious teachings in your answer. (5 marks)

Firstly, in Christianity they believe...because...Evidence that supports their view is...Therefore...

Secondly, in Buddhism they believe...because...Evidence that supports their view is...Therefore...

Explain two religious beliefs about the nature of marriage. You must refer to religious teachings in your answer.  
(5 marks)

What would you give the following answer out of 5:

**Marriage is God's gift to human beings.**

**Marriage is a social contract between two consenting adults.**

1 mark for a simple explanation  
2 marks for a detailed explanation  
1 mark for correct use of reference to religious teachings.

After the lesson today,  
**where do your views  
stand on marriage?**  
You now **need to tick**  
**whether you agree or**  
**disagree** with the  
**statements on the sheet!**



# Is marriage only for religious people? Why?

