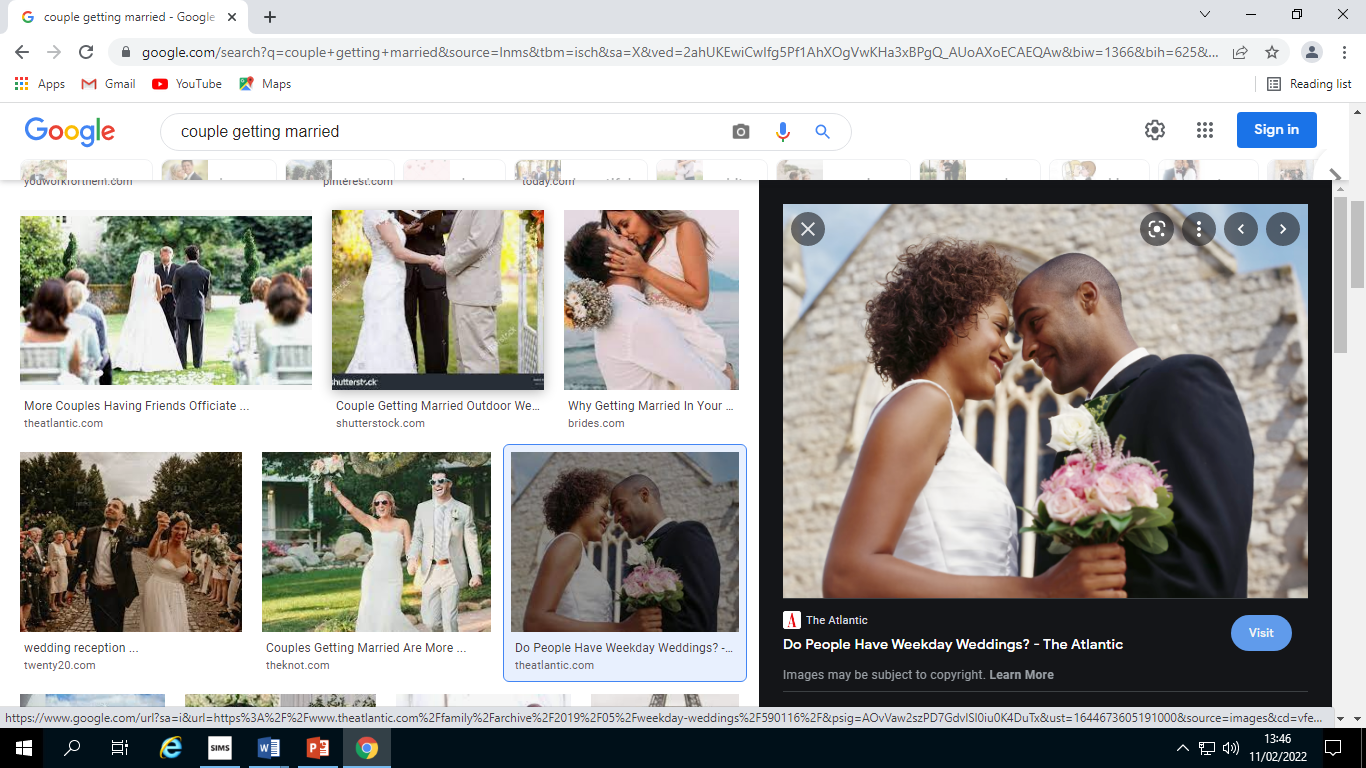
**Guided Reading Sheet**

**L.O: Why do some people choose to get married or be part of a Civil Partnership?**

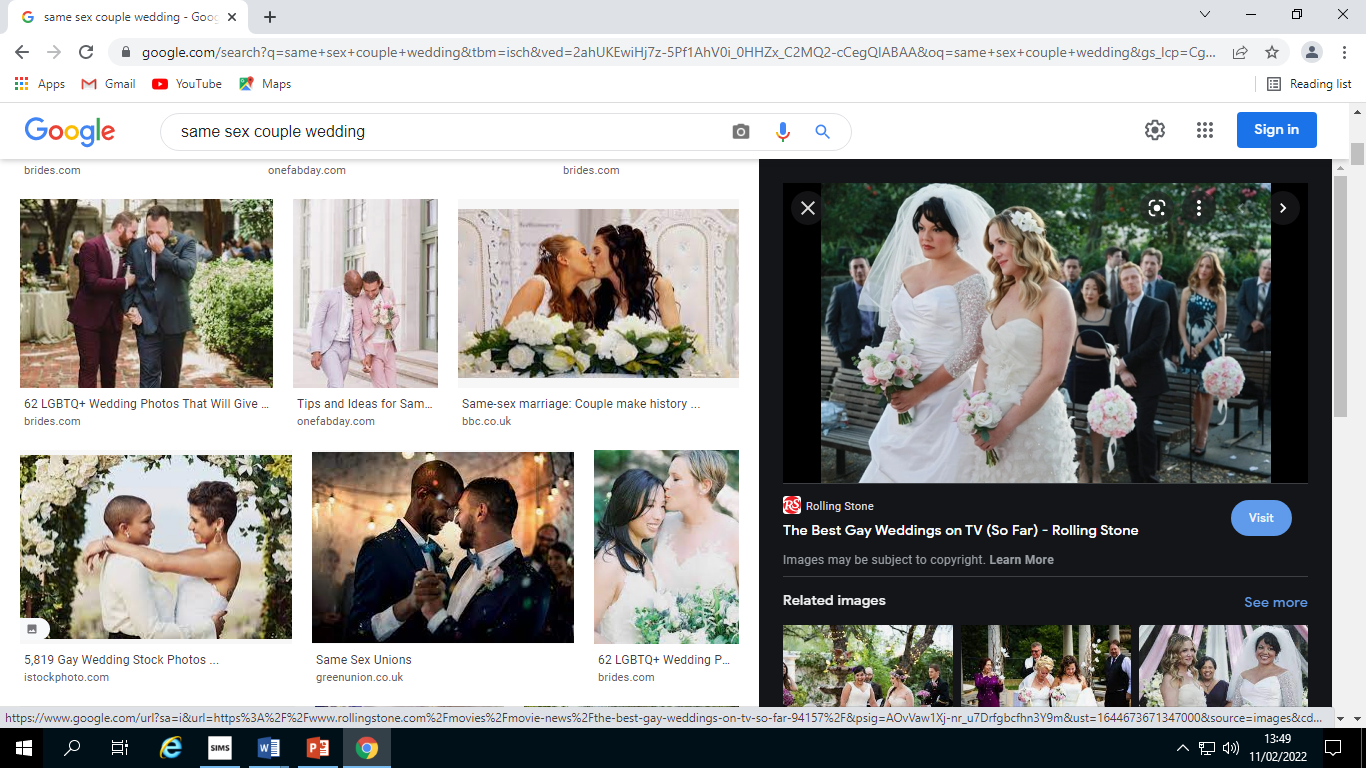
**Marriage and Civil Partnerships**

Marriage has taken place for thousands of years, you probably know lots of people who have made a commitment to get married or have a Civil Partnership. But what do these words actually mean and why do some people choose to make this commitment? Let’s find out.

Marriage takes place between two people who are in a romantic relationship and involves a wedding ceremony in which a promise is made out loud (vows) and documents are signed to show that they are united financially (money) and by the law. It can take place in any church or other registered venue.

A Civil Partnership is very similar to marriage but mainly involves the signing of a document to show that a couple are now financially and legally united. It can also involve a ceremony but must only take place in a venue that has been registered to do this, for example a registry office. They were originally created because same-sex (gay) couples were not allowed to get married in the UK, but they were allowed to have a Civil Partnership.

**The Law (rules in our country.)**

**Can same-sex (gay) couples get married in the UK?**

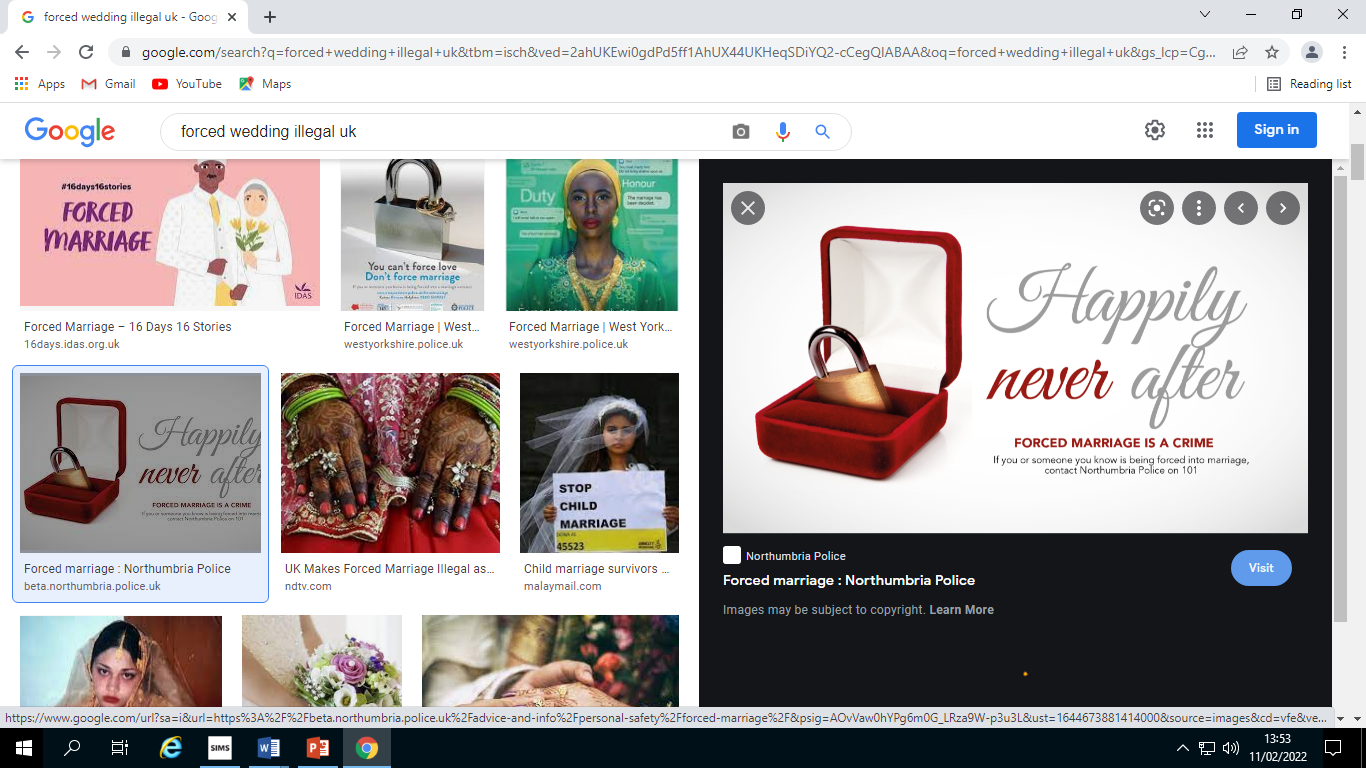
For many years same-sex (gay) couples were not allowed to get married in the UK, but in 2005 it was recognised as unfair by the Government so they created Civil Partnerships.

Then, in 2013, a new law was passed which meant that same-sex couples could now get married. However, there are some religions that do not agree with same-sex marriage and the Government do not force these religions to marry gay couples. This means that same-sex couples cannot get married in certain religious buildings, but they are allowed in many others. Ongoing debates are being held and the situation is changing frequently.

**What age can someone legally get married?**

Throughout the majority of the UK the law states that people have to be 18 years of age, or older, to get married. But, with parental permission, they would be allowed to marry at the age of 16 or 17 years. In Scotland you can get married from the age of 16 or above.

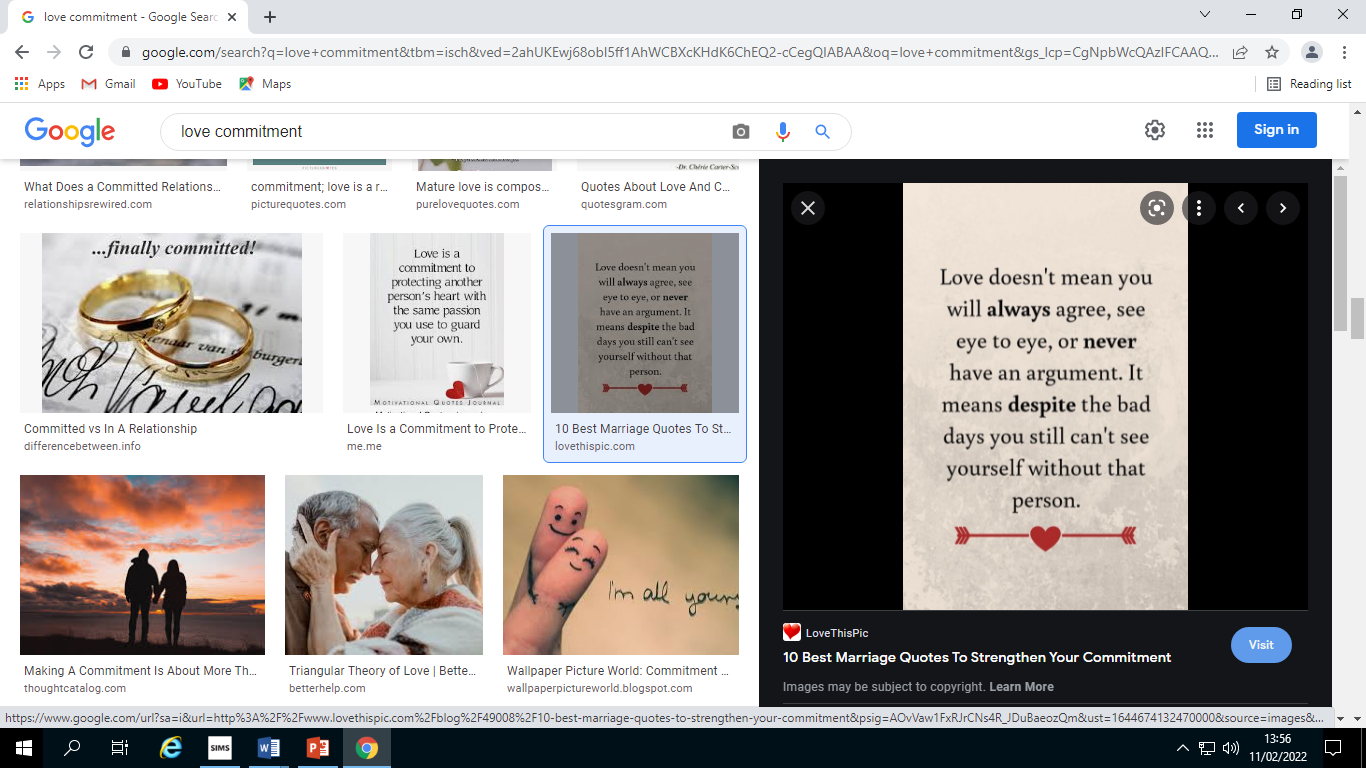
**Can you arrange, or force, someone to get married in the UK?**

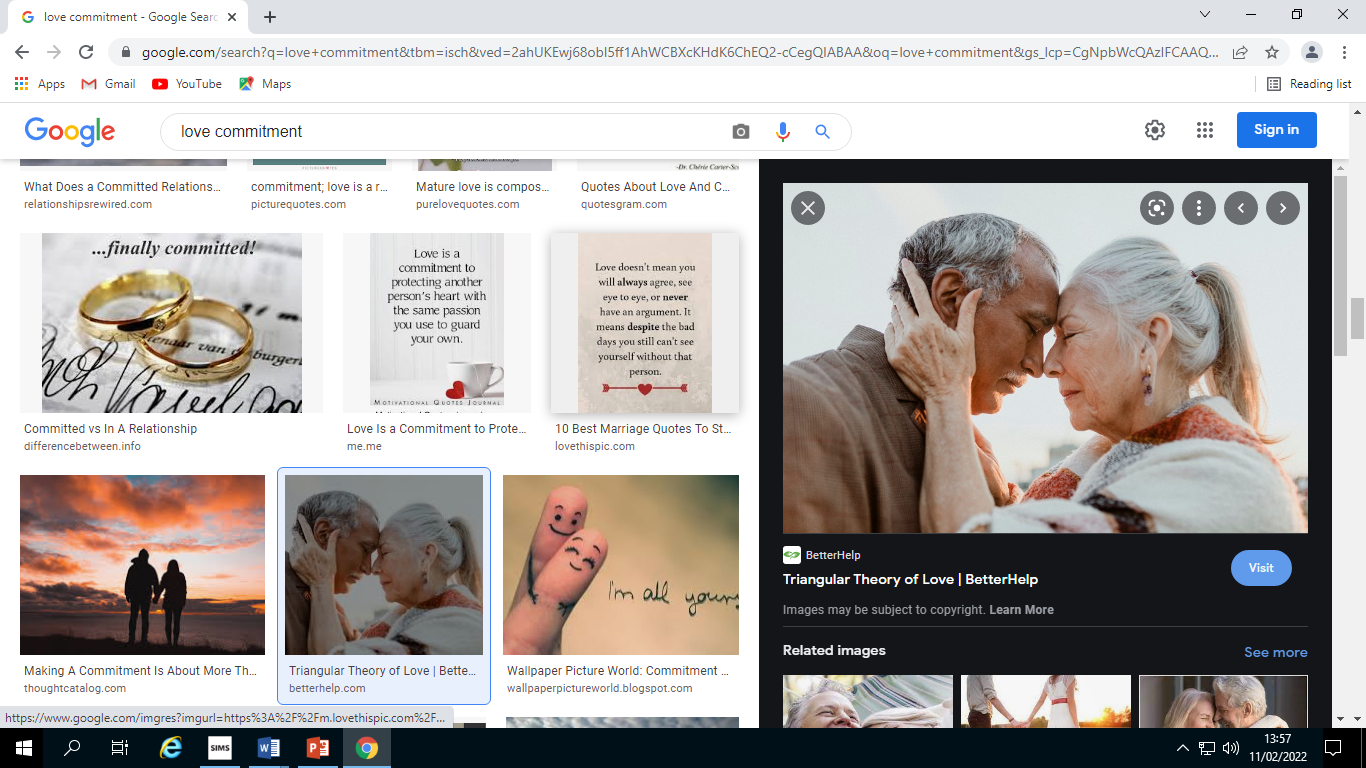
Arranged marriages are when family members, or others, arrange for two people to get married regardless of whether they are in love. They are very common in some cultures. The wedding can only take place if the couple agree to the marriage as well.

Forced marriages, however, are when family members, or others, force people to get married, even if they don’t want to. This is not allowed in the UK (it is illegal.)

**Reasons that People get Married or have a Civil Partnership.**

Many couples get married because they are in love and want to show each other, and the rest of the world, that they want to make a commitment to this person for the rest of their life.

Some couples may get married for the wrong reasons. This could include: getting married to please their family or friends; getting married because they think it will make a bad relationship better or because they want the financial (money) security. Many religions encourage couples to spend time exploring why they are getting married and if it is for the right reasons.



Some couples decide that they don’t want to get married, this can be for many reasons, such as: they don’t feel they need marriage to prove they love each other; they don’t like the idea of being legally and financially united; they do not want the level of commitment that marriage gives. These days most people respect each other’s decision to marry or not get married.

**Our Youtube Script (Marriage and Civil Partnerships)**

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