

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Level: B2/C1

**Ex.1. What comes to your mind when you think about Valentine's Day? Is it an occasion that you enjoy celebrating? What are the most popular ways of celebrating it? Have you ever celebrated it in an unconventional way?**



**Ex.1.a. Match the words with definitions.**

- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. medieval times    | a) zaangażować się                 |
| 2. chivalric suitors | b) przyzwoitka                     |
| 3. to woo            | c) wpływowy                        |
| 4. a courtship       | d) średniowiecze                   |
| 5. a chaperone       | e) odłożyć na bok                  |
| 6. affluent          | f) rycerski/szarmancki zalotnik    |
| 7. to set aside      | g) zalecać się; zabiegać o względy |
| 8. to commit         | h) zaloty                          |

**Ex.1.b. Fill in the gaps. Use the vocabulary from Ex.1.a.**

1. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ our differences and let's work together on finding the best solution.
2. Alex decided to settle down and \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife.
3. Most people believe that \_\_\_\_\_ were full of and knights on white horses \_\_\_\_\_ the ladies.
4. As society becomes more \_\_\_\_\_ in cash terms, time becomes more precious.
5. In the past, when a woman wanted to go on a date, she needed to take \_\_\_\_\_ with her.
6. In the times of Tinder, \_\_\_\_\_ is not such an obvious thing, even at the beginning of the relationship.

**Ex.2. You are going to read an excerpt from the article „How romance has changed over the centuries” by Sonia Constant. Pay attention to the yellow vocabulary.**

For the vast majority of people, it is probably still true to say that love and marriage go together, though the horse and carriage have mostly disappeared from the equation! But it would be equally true to say that our attitudes towards love, marriage, and dating have changed greatly over time.

## So how have love, romance, and marriage changed over the years?

In ancient times, romance was not necessarily high on the agenda, and a wife was often obtained by capture or arrangement to promote gaining property, money, or political advantage. In **medieval times** love and romance became important with the emergence of **chivalric suitors** **wooing** their beloved with romantic serenades and poetry. Great value was placed on honor and chastity.

In Victorian times **courtship** became even more formalized and was hedged about with strict rules and regulations to ensure propriety and respectability. Gentleman ‘called’ on ladies and a **chaperone** assured that nothing unaccepted happened! However, with the emergence of ‘dating’, courtship became a much more informal affair, with men and women mixing freely and entirely according to their own choices.

Many factors contributed to this radical social shift. The two World Wars challenged all sorts of social attitudes, particularly with the empowerment of women. Improved and longer education was very important in this regard, as men and women mixed informally at school and college. The emergence of a more **affluent** society also played a role as people had more leisure time and money to spend on having fun.

## Sex

Few areas of societal norms have shown more dramatic change over the past century than the ideas and perceptions surrounding sex. Most societies in the world have an extremely complex relationship with sex. The Victorian era seems almost synonymous with sexual repression.

In the 1950s, however, the Kinsey report turned many people's perceptions about sex upside down. But it was really the 1960s that started a true sexual revolution with Second Wave Feminism and the liberation of successful birth control that induced the most dramatic changes.

Suddenly sex was being talked about and written about. Long-held sexual beliefs were questioned, and in many instances **set aside** – sex was not just for procreation anymore!

## Dating and the Baby Boomers

The Baby Boomers, born between 1944 and 1964, were hugely influential on society. They launched the sexual revolution of the 1960s that in essence freed sex from marriage and said emphatically that sexual pleasure was a right of all human beings. And apparently, they are continuing enthusiastically right along the same lines today! The Boomers have adopted online dating with gusto, stating that they feel more sexually liberated and positive about life nowadays. One in ten Americans dating online today is reputed to be a Baby Boomer!

## Dating – Millennials and Gen Z

Millennials, born between the 1980s and the early 2000s, are rewriting the rule books about dating, sex, and marriage. In 1980, the average age for getting married was only 22 for women, and less than 25 for men. In 2018, the average age for men was well over 28, and well over 27 for women. And studies also show that Millennials are taking the 'slow road' to love – they date less frequently and have

sex less frequently. And this is an age when dating apps like Tinder, Plenty of Fish, and Bumble put dating opportunities literally at your fingertips.

Millennials are also more open to interracial and interfaith relationships. Premarital sex is not an issue for them and more Millennial couples are likely to live together before marriage.

And Gen Z (those born after 1995) are taking this scenario even further – they are basically not dating at all, and are said to personify a lack of commitment. This is blamed on them growing up in an overwhelmingly technological age when boredom can be instantaneously averted by a single swipe of a smartphone.

Romantic interaction has been replaced by instant online communication through Instagram, Snapchat and Tinder. Internet dating sites create the impression that there is an endless supply of romantic partners available, thus making it more difficult **to commit** to only one person. Unfortunately, biology hasn't quite kept pace with the rapid advance of technology – and many worry that this lack of “true” social engagement is to blame for increasing numbers of Gen Z members who report feelings of isolation, demotivation, and even depression. If there's one thing we can learn from history, however, it's that every generation forges its own brave new path through the world of romance!

Source: <https://mummyconstant.com/how-romance-has-changed-over-the-centuries/>

**Q: How did romance look like in the past?**

**Q: How about current times?**

**Q: Is it safe to say that romance has been dying over the decades?**

**Q: What's the future of love and relationships?**

**Ex.2.a. You will watch a TEDx Talk in which social anthropologist Jean Smith talks about flirting.**

**„The Science of Flirting: Being a H.O.T. A.P.E.” |**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cQoGNEcc5Q>



**Ex.2.b. Based on the video write down what H.O.T. A.P.E. stands for.**

**H. -**

**O. -**

**T. -**

**A. -**

**P. -**

**E. -**

**Ex.2.c. After watching the video decide if the sentences are true or false.**

1. People have always flirted in the same way.
2. We should try to attract only the people who match us.
3. When we want to flirt with someone we should have an open posture. Our shoulders and feet should be pointed in our partner's direction.
4. Flirting should be seen as strangers evaluating our worth.
5. If you are a female, you shouldn't be proactive. It's better to wait for a second person to do the first move.
6. If you want to let a person know that you are interested in them, you should lightly touch their hand.

**Ex.2.d. Jean Smith said that she's been teaching people how to flirt for over a decade.**

- a) Are you surprised that a person can make a career out of it?
- b) What do you think about taking flirting lessons? Do people really need them?
- c) Are you good at flirting? How do you know?
- d) Do you consider flirting a pleasant activity or is it a necessary evil?

#### Extra Activity

You will watch an introduction by Kate Winslet to a movie „The Holiday.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGrSRXL7mYc>



1. She mentions two citations by Shakespeare:

- „Journeys end in lovers meeting”
- „Love is blind”

What do these quotations mean? Do you agree with them? Which one makes more sense to you?

- 2. What is unrequited love? Have you ever experienced it? How did you deal with it?**
- 3. What are the usual symptoms of love according to Iris?**
- 4. What may happen with love? Does it always end well?**