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ЛЮБОВЬ И БРАК = LOVE AND MARRIAGE

МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ УКАЗАНИЯ
к практическим занятиям
по дисциплине
«Практический курс английского языка»
для студентов 1-2 курсов
направления 6.020303 «Филология»
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Любовь и брак: методические указания к практическим занятиям по дисциплине «Практический курс английского языка» для студентов 1-2 курсов направления 6.020303 «Филология» специальности 7.02030304 «Перевод» дневной формы обучения /Сост. Л.А.Тархова. – Севастополь: Изд-во СевНТУ, 2012. – 28 с.

Цель: методические указания предназначены в дополнение к учебнику английского языка Г.М.Фроловой по теме «Семья. Брак». Могут быть использованы как для самостоятельной отработки материала, так и на практических занятиях по дисциплине «Практика английского языка».

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1. LESSON 1. THE HIGHEST OF HUMAN VALUES

1.1. Read the text

...there are philosophers who, thinking that it (love) embraces every other, have accepted it as the highest of human values... Goodness in comparison is a trifle dull. But love has two meanings: love pure and simple, sexual love, namely; and loving-kindness. I do not think that even Plato distinguished them with exactness. He seems to me to ascribe the exultation, the sense of power, the feeling of heightened vitality which accompany sexual love to that other love which he calls the heavenly love and which I should prefer to call loving-kindness; and by doing so infects it with the ineradicable vice of earthly love. For love passes. Love dies. The great tragedy of life is not that men perish, but that they cease to love. Not the least of the evils of life, and one for which there is small help, is that someone whom you love no longer loves you; when La Rochefoucauld discovered that between two lovers there is one who loves and one who lets himself be loved he put in an epigram the discord that must ever prevent men from achieving in love perfect happiness... They (people) deceive themselves that they can accept it with complacency when their love dwindles into what they describe as a solid and enduring affection. As if affection had anything to do with love! Affection is created by habit, community of interest convenience, and the desire of companionship. It is a comfort rather than an exhilaration. We are creatures of change, change is the atmosphere we breathe, and is it likely that the strongest but one of all our instincts should be free from the law? We are not the same persons this year as last; nor are those we love. It is a happy chance if we, changing, continue to love a changed person. Mostly, different ourselves, we make a desperate, pathetic effort to love in a different person the person we once loved. It is only because the power of love when it seizes us seems so mighty that we persuade ourselves that it will last for ever. When it subsides we are ashamed, and, duped, blame ourselves for our weakness, whereas we should accept our change of heart as a natural effect of our humanity. The experience of mankind has led them to regard love with mingled feelings. They have been suspicious of it. They have as often cursed as praised it. The soul of man, struggling to be free, has except for brief

moments looked upon the self-surrender that it claims as a fall from grace. The happiness it brings may be the greatest of which man is capable, but it is seldom, seldom unalloyed. It writes a story that generally has a sad ending. Many have resented its power and angrily prayed to be delivered from its burden. They have hugged their chains, but knowing they were chains hated them too. Love is not always blind, and there are few things that cause greater wretchedness than to love with all your heart someone who you know is unworthy of love.

But loving-kindness is not coloured with that transitoriness which is the irremediable defect of love... Loving-kindness is the better part of goodness. It lends grace to the sterner qualities of which this consists and makes it a little less difficult to practise those minor virtues of self-control and self-restraint, patience, discipline and tolerance, which are the passive and not very exhilarating elements of goodness. Goodness is the only value that seems in this world of appearances to have any claim to be an end in itself. Virtue is its own reward ... I have gone a long way round to discover what everyone knew already.

From *The Summing Up*, LXXVII by W.S.Maugham

1.2. Scanning

Answer the questions:

1. Is love regarded by philosophers as something of importance?
2. What meanings does S.Maugham single out in the word “love”?
3. What states and feelings did Plato ascribe to the so called “heavenly love”?
What is wrong with it in S.Maugham’s opinion?
4. What does the author call “the great tragedy of life”?
5. Why does S.Maugham think that perfect happiness cannot be achieved?
6. How do people react when love dwindles into “an enduring affection”?
7. What is the author’s definition of affection? Is “affection” synonymous with the author’s “loving-kindness”? How is affection created?
8. Does S.Maugham believe in the eternity of love? Why or why not?
9. What do people feel when their love subsides?

10. What are those mingled feelings mankind regard love with?
11. What causes the greatest wretchedness to people?
12. Why does S. Maugham consider loving-kindness to be the better part of goodness?
13. How does the author define goodness?
14. What is considered by the author to be the only value?

1.3. Vocabulary

1. Look up the meanings of the following words and learn them by heart.

- complacency
- to dwindle
- to embrace
- to subside
- vice and virtue
- to perish
- to be duped
- exhilaration
- exultation
- claim
- affection
- resentment
- to affect
- to cease
- to persuade

2. Fill in the blank spaces, using the vocabulary words above. Choose words with meanings suggested by the words in brackets:

1. When she had ascertained that I (was less strong) _____ she loosened her hold of me.

2. Human nature will shrink from the splendour of Tolstoi's "War and Peace" to turn with (self-satisfaction) _____ to Voltaire's Candide.
3. Until last week the press could cover John McCain as a charming long shot, without much (assertion of the right) _____ on the presidency.
4. The EU (includes) _____ a set of values that makes it unacceptable to have someone who practices the politics of hate.
5. (Evil contact) _____ is duly punished and (goodness) _____ rewarded in the fifth act.
6. Where there is no vision, the people (die) _____.
7. And then suddenly the plain lies before you. Your heart exults; there it stretches wide and sunny; the oppression of the mountains is lifted from your shoulders and with (gaiety) _____ you breathe the more spacious air.
8. I (stopped) _____ travelling because I felt that travel could give me nothing more.
9. I pictured to myself the surprise of the boys when they found that I no longer stammered. I woke full of (triumph) _____ and it was a real, terrible shock, when I discovered that I stammered as badly as ever.
10. Exports are (gradually diminishing) _____.
11. They were not bound to regard with (a warm, tender feeling) _____ a thing that could not sympathize with one amongst them.
12. I proceeded forthwith to pour out, in my own way, the tale of my sufferings and (bitter feelings at having been injured) _____.

3. Word Selection

Love (for smb/ of smth) implies intense fondness or deep devotion and may apply to various relationships or objects, e.g. sexual love, brotherly love, love of one's work.

Affection (for/ towards smb/ smth) suggests warm, tender feelings, usually not as powerful or deep as those implied by love, e.g. I don't ask your love – I will content with your affection.

Attachment (for/ to smb or smth) implies connection by ties of affection, attraction, etc. and may be felt for inanimate as well as for people, e.g. one's attachment to an old hat, attachment to one's pupils, attachment to one's profession.

4. Choose the right word: affection or attachment

1. I had meant to be so good and to do so much at Lowood: to make so many friends, to earn respect and win _____.
2. In every part of London's busy and complex life there is to be found a very genuine _____ for her traditions, her fortunes and her prosperity.
3. He looked at her curiously out of his wise old eyes, a light of sympathy and _____ shining in them.
4. He knew it was only _____, but not love.
5. Wales and Welsh people have always held a high place in my _____ which are few and not lightly given.
6. I respect him for the _____ to his profession.
7. She'd never imagined that a dress could be so alive, almost like another person in the room. She had an _____ to a certain red dress herself, she'd never throw it away.
8. She kept him at distance in a rather earnest way, and submitted only to those tender tokens of _____ which better become the inexperienced lover.
9. He suddenly saw that what he had done in the past months had been chiefly done from personal _____ to rather common and ignorant man.
10. Weren't you surprised at his _____ to the principles of the constitution which he displayed in his speech on Tuesday?

5. Insert the right preposition where it is necessary:

1. I was duped _____ signing the contract.
2. And Dr.Crain was very much impressed _____ Mr. Mason's solemn, legal manner.
3. It had taken a long time to persuade the readers _____ the truth of this.

4. The thought touched _____ my imagination strongly and perhaps had strong influence _____ my future.
5. Intermarriage would not greatly affect _____ the native tongue, though the native tongue absorbed many Latin words.
6. The Forsytes were resentful _____ something, not individually, but as a family.
7. The policeman felt suspicious _____ the man near the bank.
8. Though he tried to convince me _____ his sincerity I didn't believe him.
9. The group of thirty men has dwindled _____ fifteen after the accident.
10. The poem consists _____ three stanzas.

6. Match the words describing love on the left with their definitions on the right:

blind		very pleasant and enjoyable
Platonic		typical of a kind mother
unrequited		happening in the material world
profound	<i>love</i>	not based on reason
earthly		very strong and unlikely to change
heavenly		very great and intense
undying		without a desire for physical love
material		not returned or rewarded

7. Match the words describing affection on the left with their definitions on the right:

warm		that exists between a son or a daughter and his or her parents
enduring		friendly
fatherly		lasting
deep	<i>affection</i>	very serious and intense
tender		like that of a kind father
filial		gentle

1.4. Conversation. Discussion

1. Retell the text using the following words and expressions:

To embrace, in comparison, to ascribe, exultation, heavenly/ earthly love, to infect, an ineradicable vice, to perish, to cease, affection, there is small space, to achieve perfect happiness, to deceive, complacency, to dwindle into, enduring, community of interests, exhilaration, it is likely that, to persuade, to subside, to dupe, one's change of heart, to look upon, a fall from grace, to claim, to resent, to be delivered from the burden, to hug, to lend grace to, self-restraint, in the world of appearances.

2. Summarize the text in three paragraphs specifying the following themes:

- 1) love has two meanings;
- 2) we are creatures of change;
- 3) goodness is the only value.

3. Answer the questions:

1. Do you accept love as the highest of human values? Explain why or why not.
2. What do people call "goodness"? Why does the author say that goodness is "a trifle dull"? Is he right? Why?
3. Why do you think Plato mingles heavenly and earthly love?
4. Do you think the end of love the greatest tragedy of life? Give your reasoning.
5. Do you agree with La Rochefoucauld's epigram? Can you give examples to illustrate your point of view?
6. Can perfect happiness be achieved? If yes, how?
7. Should we accept our change of heart as a natural effect of our humanity? Why?
8. Comment on S. Maugham's words:
 - "Loving-kindness is the better part of goodness."
 - "Goodness is the only value that seems in this world of appearances to have any claim to be an end in itself. Virtue is its own reward."

4. Read the text:

Charles Hamilton, a rich, handsome, but not very clever boy, has just proposed marriage to Scarlett:

“I must tell you something. I – love you,” he says. “You are the most – the most beautiful girl I’ve ever known and the sweetest and the kindest, and you have the dearest ways and I love you with all my heart. I cannot hope that you could love anyone like me but if you can give me any encouragement, I will do everything in the world to make you love me. I want you to marry me. Will you?”

How a person will behave in the situation like this depends on what kind of person she is.

As to Scarlett, she has been thinking of marriage with another man. She is used to men asking her to marry them and she is taught to say in the emergencies:

“Mr. Hamilton, I’m not unaware of the honour you have bestowed on me in wanting me to become your wife, but this is all so sudden that I do not know what to say!”

From *Gone with the Wind* by M. Mitchell

Certainly Scarlett’s manner of speech differs from ours.

5. Say what a girl might say in the situation like this

- if she is romantic and idealistic;
- if she is ambitious and materialistic;
- if she is cold and polite;
- if she is dashing and full of fire;
- if she is tactless and unkind;
- if she is sympathetic and gentle.

These phrases may be of help:

- I’m genuinely sorry...
- Let’s have a heart to heart talk.
- Don’t you think that you’re sometimes too much for my feeling?

- I hate to say this, but ...
- Oh, come, listen to reason.
- You're carrying it too far.
- You're always butting in where you don't belong.
- Let's be realistic about your proposal.
- I think you're being rather unrealistic saying that...
- I think it would be more reasonable if we discussed your proposal.
- What has got into you? (What's come over you?)
- For Heaven's sake, don't.
- It's enough to make a cat laugh.
- It's not the end of the world.
- That's the last thing I feel like doing.
- We are friends.
- I could wish for nothing better but...
- It's your false imagination.
- Don't be downhearted.
- You indulge in illusions.

6. Speak as long as you can on one of the proverbs:

1. Love makes the world go round.
2. Love is malady without cure.
3. Love does much, but money does everything.
4. One cannot love and be wise.
5. Love sees no fault.
6. Love is blind.
7. Love lasts as long as money endures.
8. Never rely on love or the weather.
9. Old love does not rust.
10. Long absent, soon forgotten.

11. Looks breed love.
12. Love delights in praise.

LESSON 2. ON MARRIAGE

2.1. Read the text

Marriage is different from love. It is a good institution but I must add that a lot depends on the person you are married to.

There is no such thing as a good wife and a good husband – there is only a good wife to Mr. A. or a good husband to Mrs. B.

If a credulous and gullible woman marries a pathological liar, they may live together happily to the end of their days – one telling lies, the other believing them.

A man who cannot live without constant admiration should marry a “God, you are wonderful” type of woman. If he is unable to make up his mind, he is right in wedding a dictator. One dictator may prosper in a marriage: two are too many.

The way to matrimonial happiness is barred to no one. It is all a matter of choice. One should not look for perfection, one should look for the complementary half of a very imperfect other.

If someone buys a refrigerator, it never occurs to him that it is a bad refrigerator because he cannot play gramophone records on it; nor does he blame his hat for not being suitable for use as a flower-vase. But many people who are very fond of their stomach marry a cook – and then blame her for being less radiantly intelligent and witty than George Sand. Or a man may be anxious to show off his wife’s beauty and elegance, marry a mannequin and be surprised to discover in six months that she has no balanced views on the international situation. Another marries a girl only and exclusively because she is seventeen and is much surprised fifteen years later to find that she is not seventeen any more. Or again if you marry a female book-worm who knows all about the gold standard, Kepler’s laws of planetary motions, you must not blame her for being somewhat less beautiful and temperamental than Marylin Monroe. And if ladies marry a title or a bank account,

they must not blame their husbands for not being romantic heroes of the Errol Flynn type.

You should know what you are buying. And as long as you do not play records on your refrigerator and do not put bunches of chrysanthemums into your hat, you have a reasonable chance of so-called happiness.

By G.Mikes

Notes

1. Sand, George (pseud. of Amandine Aurore Lucile Dupin Dudevant, 1804-1876), French novelist
2. Kepler, Johann (1571-1630), German astronomer and mathematician
3. Flynn, Errol (1909-1959), Hollywood actor

2.2. Scanning

There are a number of unfinished statements about the text above, each with three suggested answers. Give one answer to complete the statements.

1. A happy marriage depends on
 - a) the bridal party;
 - b) the person you are married to;
 - c) whether it was a civil or a church marriage.
2. A good wife (or a good husband)
 - a) does not exist in the abstract;
 - b) is a midwife;
 - c) is a grate talker.
3. To live together happily, a pathological liar should marry
 - a) his like;
 - b) a scolding woman;
 - c) a credulous woman.
4. A man who cannot live without constant admiration should marry
 - a) a woman who finds everything he does or says wonderful;

- b) a widow and two children;
 - c) a she-devil.
5. If a man is unable to make up his mind, he is right in wedding
- a) a mamma's pet;
 - b) a woman of character, who commands her husband;
 - c) in haste.
6. The way to matrimonial happiness
- a) is barred to everyone;
 - b) is barred to no one;
 - c) lies through long misery.
7. When you make your choice you should
- a) look for perfection;
 - b) find your ideal half;
 - c) look for the complementary half of a very imperfect other half.
8. People who are fond of their stomach usually marry
- a) a cook;
 - b) a mannequin;
 - c) a female book-worm.
9. People who marry a mannequin usually blame her for
- a) being as radiantly intelligent and witty as George Sand;
 - b) knowing all about Kepler's laws of planetary motions;
 - c) having no balanced views on the international situation.
10. If ladies marry a title or a bank account, they mustn't blame their husbands for
- a) being romantic heroes;
 - b) not being romantic heroes;
 - c) not playing gramophone records on a refrigerator.

2.3. Vocabulary

1. Look up the meanings of the following words and learn them by heart:

- gullible
- credulous
- pathological
- reasonable
- to bar
- balanced views
- matrimonial
- intelligent
- admiration
- to the end of one's days

2. Replace or paraphrase the italicized words and expressions with the vocabulary words:

1. The article fully *expresses what he thinks of* the new reforms suggested by the government.
2. These questions are too *clever* for a child of his age.
3. He will be blind *for the rest of his life*.
4. What *hinders* the economic development of the region?
5. This politician presented his *judgement in a fair and reasonable way*.
6. Now, if you have any *common sense*, I would be glad to hear it.
7. The people *accept easily* all the promises of the politicians before the elections.
8. She speaks English so well that her friends are filled *with respect* for her.
9. He was *easily cheated* out of his money.
10. The girl couldn't control herself. She felt an almost *incorrigible* fear of spiders and rats.

3. Insert the right preposition where it is necessary:

1. He that marries _____ wealth sells his liberty.

2. A young maid married _____ an old man is like a new house thatched with old straw.
3. Never marry _____ a widow unless her first husband was hanged.
4. May I have your view _____ the matter?
5. Any prospects of success are barred _____ me here.
6. _____ the end of his days he remained disillusioned and skeptical.
7. It's rumoured that Footle is engaged to be married _____ Miss Mae West.
8. She will never give her daughter _____ marriage _____ this man and the child will be born _____ wedlock.
9. If any of you know any cause or impediment why these two persons should not be joined together _____ holy Matrimony you are here to declare it.
10. I blame myself every damned day _____ being weak, but I couldn't help it, I'd been _____ love _____ you for too long.

4. In what situations might people say that:

1. ... she married off her daughter?
2. ... he married into money?
3. ... she remarried?
4. ... they intermarried?
5. ... she eloped?
6. ... they got engaged?
7. ... they had the banns called?
8. ... they are newlyweds?

5. Word Selection

If two people **wed** or **are wed** or if one person **weds** another, they are married.

The verb **wed** is nowadays falling into restricted use, but it is favoured by the popular press (it occurs in tabloid newspapers and informal broadcast news).

E.g.: Supermodel Claudia Schiffer has ditched her boy-friend to **wed** Prince Albert of Monaco.

Wedding is an official ceremony at which two people get married, especially one with a religious service and a party or a special meal afterwards.

Marriage and **wedlock** have the meaning of the state of being married.

But *wedlock* is old-fashioned, and applies to marriage as a legal relationship.

E.g.: a child born in/ out of wedlock.

Matrimony is a formal word. It applies to the religious sacrament of marriage and stresses the rights and obligations of the marriage state.

E.g.: the bonds of holy matrimony.

All the synonyms can be used in the constructions: *in marriage*, *in matrimony*, *in wedlock*.

E.g.: to be happy in marriage, to join in a holy matrimony, to be born in wedlock.

But unlike *matrimony* and *wedlock*, only *marriage* may be used with *by*.

E.g.: an aunt by marriage.

Matrimony and *wedlock* are used in the singular and without any article. *Marriage* can be used both in the singular and in the plural, with or without any article.

Marriage and wedlock may be preceded by a possessive pronoun, but matrimony cannot be.

E.g.: his marriage, her unhappy wedlock.

Most names of forms of this social institution are used with the word *marriage*.

E.g.: *cross marriage*, *plural marriage*, *marriage of convenience*.

Besides it is marriage that is widely used in most word combinations with verbs:

to contract

to annul

to take smb in

to make an offer of

to refuse an offer of

MARRIAGE

to propose
 to make
 to seek smb's hand in
 to announce
 to break up
 to dissolve

6. Choose the right word: matrimony, marriage or wedlock.

1. Henry had not lived twenty years in _____ with Jane without becoming an expert at reading her face.
2. The service began. The explanation of the intent of _____ was gone through.
3. The clergyman came a step further forward and went on: if either of you know any impediment why you may not lawfully be joined together in _____, you do now confess it.
4. I forgave the fellow, his crimes, of having been born in _____ and inheriting my estate.
5. There are good _____, but no delightful ones.
6. Two persons living in holy _____, must avoid slipping into blasphemy, despond and apathy.
7. I felt somewhat desolate. It made me think of my own _____.

7. Match these words on the left with their definitions on the right:

1. open marriage	a) one occasioned or precipitated by pregnancy
2. morganatic marriage	b) one performed by a government official
3. trial marriage	c) an arrangement by which a couple live together for a time to see if they are compatible for marriage

4. common-law marriage	d) one in which the parents choose the person who their son or daughter will marry
5. shotgun marriage	e) one in which the partners are free to have close friendships or sexual relationships with other persons
6. arranged marriage	f) a marriage without a civil ecclesiastical ceremony, usually based on a couple's living together continuously as husband and wife
7. civil marriage	g) one between a man of high rank (for example a prince) and a woman of lower rank, who remains in her lower social station, the children having no claim to succeed to the property, titles etc. of their father

8. Give the more colloquial translation of the words:

Left-handed, wedlock, to get hitched, spouse, better half, to pop the question, morganatic, maid of honour, matrimonial, hubby, squaw, bridesmaid.

9. Which of these words would most likely replace the italicized ones? Choose between *wed*, *elope*, *break up*, *propose*, *get bitched*, *annul*, *left-band*, *out of wedlock*:

1. I don't think he has given any reason to *dissolve their marriage*.
2. Their marriage contract was *declared invalid* last month.
3. Yesterday he came to ask Julia *for her hand in marriage*.
4. Nowadays fewer couples *get married*.
5. She *secretly left her home* at midnight *to get married*.

6. And they contracted *morganatic* marriages after the princely fashion of those days.

7. Men are April when they woo, December when they *get married*.

8. The child was born *when they were not married*.

2.4. Conversation. Discussion

1. Discuss the problems that might concern:

- a husband who is a pathological liar;
- a dictator in a marriage;
- a wife who cannot live without constant admiration;
- a cook type of woman;
- a mannequin of a woman;
- a wife who is seventeen no more;
- a female book-worm;
- a husband being not romantic.

Think what type of a spouse they should have.

2. Answer the questions:

1. Does matrimonial happiness exist in the abstract? Give your reasons.
2. What is meant by saying that the way to matrimonial happiness is barred to no one?
3. Should a husband and his wife have similar personalities?
4. What rule should one be guided by when choosing a spouse?
5. What other types of husbands and wives could you name? Speak of their relationships.

3. Men and woman seeking long-term monogamous relations may place their personal ads in the newspaper. Their ads contain a self-description, age, life style and avocations. Here are some of them. Read the ads and say:

- 1) which advertiser you would respond to;

- 2) what features of character men /women appreciate in their own sex judging by the ads below;
- 3) what features of character men /women would like to see in their partners;
- 4) choose ten adjectives that would describe an ideal husband /wife.

Women seeking men

Attractive female

Warm, compassionate, caring, bilingual, slim female, 30s, educated to degree level, enjoys poetry, embroidery, creative writing, seeking attractive, warm, sincere, romantic, professional male, 35-45, for friendship, possibly more.

Gooseberry!

Independent, intelligent, attractive, witty, thoughtful, sporty, unbitchy female, seeks athletic, intelligent, professional, interesting and humorous, honorable man, 30-40ish, masculine, not Neanderthal, for friendship first. West Sussex based.

Partner for life

Slim, attractive, divorced, African lady, 35, with one son, varied interests, seeks genuine, kind, honest, romantic, family loving, businessman, 40+, for long-term commitment. No time-wasters, please. London area.

Fiery brunette

Attractive, intelligent female, 29, a little eccentric, very loving, adores animals, music, countryside, esoteric arts, having fun, seeks protective, humorous, intelligent, well-bred male, 35-42, to watch the stars.

First caller

Funny, sometimes outrageous, interesting, attractive woman, wonders if there is a man with guts, life and imagination. No under 50s. No smokes or bores need apply.

Blond Bombshell

Attractive, athletic, professional, brown-eyed female, 32, seeks extravagant male, to explore life in London.

Bubbly Redhead

Bubbly redhead, enjoys wine, cooking, cinema, gardening, seeks professional, adventurous, humorous, honest, lively male, 50-55. No drunks need apply!

The world is our toy

Attractive, fun-loving and caring, affectionate, warm, professional female, seeks that special, reliable, honest, professional male, 40-55, for companionship, friendship and possible romance.

South Somerset

Good-looking, intelligent lady, 39, with positive life attitude, seeks

Rural and mobile

Warm, responsive female, 50ish, seeks solvent, energetic, similar man,

strong, fearless, honest man, 35-49. Please be handsome please be kind, please call!

connected to his funny bone, and maybe with a wild streak to balance his groundedness.

Men seeking women

Log fires and ice-cream

Genuine, funny but sensitive, Northern, professional male, 36, enjoys deep conversation, music, travel, countryside, seeks intelligent, smart, chatty, bubbly female, 26-38, ethnicity unimportant, for lasting friendship/ relationship. East Midlands.

Cross country charms

Friendly, honest, warm, caring, intelligent male, 30s, occasional smoker, enjoys travelling, cinema, music, cross country driving, seeks kind-hearted, intelligent, preferably Asian female, 25-35, with similar interests, for friendship/ relationship.

Londoner

Well-adjusted, slim, tall, cultured, affectionate, sincere, mature gentleman, seeks a happy, intelligent and affectionate lady, to enjoy the simple pleasures of life, in a loving relationship.

Hopeless romantic

Sensitive, romantic male, 52, outrageous sense of humour, Berkshire country dweller, likes Africa in the winter, music, has everything in life except like-minded, special lady.

Uptown man

Professional, educated, Christian male, 40, part-time dad, slim, youthful, energetic, passionate, enjoys music, walking, cycling, swimming, seeks female companion, to share life and interests.

Hugs lost and found?

Caring, professional male, 43, part-time father, enjoys country walks, food, current affairs, log fires, music, seeks witty, warm, worldly-wise woman, 30s-40s, to share this and hugs too. Norwich area.

Irresistible zest

Creative, black male graduate, 39, enjoys art, history, politics, conversation, jazz, laughter and dance, seeks intelligent, warm, creative female, 30-40, with zest, for good times. London area.

Wonder at it all

Traveling, thinking, dreaming, reading, rock and blues loving, smoking, drinking, laughing, tall fit, lefty cyclist, late 30s, seeks bright, attractive female, to share laughter and romance. Bristol / SW area.

4. Role-play. Two students assume the roles of journalists. They prepare questions to interview the other students about their ideal of a man or a woman.

The rest of the students should be divided into two subgroups each representing the opposite sex and speaking of their ideals.

5. Read the text

Love is Fallacy

by Max Shulman

...I had long coveted Polly Espy. Let me emphasize that my desire for this young woman was not emotional in nature. She was, to be sure, a girl who excited the emotions, but I was not one to let my heart rule my head. I wanted Polly for shrewdly calculated entirely cerebral reason.

I was a freshman in law school. In a few years I would be out in practice. I was well aware of the importance of the right kind of wife in furthering a lawyer's career. The successful lawyers I had observed were almost without exception married to beautiful, gracious, intelligent women. With one omission Polly fitted these specifications perfectly.

Beautiful she was. She was not yet of pin-up proportions, but I felt sure that time would supply the lack. She had already had the makings.

Gracious she was. By gracious I mean full of graces. She had an erectness of carriage, an ease of bearing, a poise that clearly indicated the best of breeding. At table her manners were exquisite.

Intelligent she was not. In fact, she veered the opposite direction. But I believed that under my guidance she would smarten up. At any rate, it was worth the try. It is, after all, easier to make a beautiful dumb girl smart than to make an ugly smart girl beautiful.

My first date with Polly was in the nature of a survey; I wanted to find out how much work I had to do to get her mind up to the standards I required. I took her first to dinner.

"Gee, that was a delish dinner," she said as we left the restaurant. Then I took her to a movie. "Gee, that was a marvy movie," she said as we left the theatre. And

then I took her home. “Gee, I had a sensaysh time,” she said as she bade me good night.

I went back to my room with a heavy heart. I had gravely underestimated the size of my task. The girl’s lack of information was terrifying. Nor would it be enough merely to supply her with information. First she had to be taught to think. This loomed as a project of no small dimensions, and at first I was tempted to give her back to the boy who courted Polly. But then I got to thinking about her abundant physical charms and about the way she entered a room and the way she handled a knife and a fork, and I decided to make an effort.

Notes:

Max Shulman (b. 1919), an American author, playwright and journalist.

6. Answer the questions:

1. What are the young man’s standards required from his future wife?
2. Is he right to require these qualities?
3. Do you think one is able to teach his or her sweetheart to think?
4. Do you think the boy’s efforts were a success? Make up the end of the story.
5. Should the choice of a spouse depend in any way on his or her occupation?

Give your reasoning.

6. Are the standards required the same or are they different for husbands and for wives?

7. Describe the qualities of an ideal husband or wife for:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • a diplomat | • a sailor |
| • a composer | • a doctor |
| • a film star | • a farmer |

8. Speak as long as you can on one of these proverbs:

1. A young maid married to an old man is like a new house thatched with old straw.
2. Take a vine of a good soil, and the daughter of a good mother.

3. Choose a wife by your ear rather than by your eye.
4. Deeds are males, and words are females.
5. Women are as wavering as the wind.

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