

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## Level 6

### Chinese couples asked to take divorce exam

5th June, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

## Contents

|                                |    |  |    |
|--------------------------------|----|--|----|
| The Article                    | 2  | Discussion (Student-Created Qs)        | 15 |
| Warm-Ups                       | 3  | Language Work (Cloze)                  | 16 |
| Vocabulary                     | 4  | Spelling                               | 17 |
| Before Reading / Listening     | 5  | Put The Text Back Together             | 18 |
| Gap Fill                       | 6  | Put The Words In The Right Order       | 19 |
| Match The Sentences And Listen | 7  | Circle The Correct Word                | 20 |
| Listening Gap Fill             | 8  | Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)      | 21 |
| Comprehension Questions        | 9  | Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals    | 22 |
| Multiple Choice - Quiz         | 10 | Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are | 23 |
| Role Play                      | 11 | Free Writing                           | 24 |
| After Reading / Listening      | 12 | Academic Writing                       | 25 |
| Student Survey                 | 13 | Homework                               | 26 |
| Discussion (20 Questions)      | 14 | Answers                                | 27 |

**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

Authorities in China are looking at a new way of halting the country's increasing divorce rate. In parts of China, couples who file for divorce are being asked to take an exam to ascertain how much they still might love each other and whether or not their marriage can be salvaged. Up to half of all Chinese marriages between those who were born in the 1980s have ended in divorce. China's rising divorce rate has been attributed to the increased empowerment of working women, who are more financially independent and less reliant on a partner. Media sources say the rise of social media and dating apps are adding to the problem, as there are increasing numbers of extramarital affairs.

The divorce tests have had a mixed reaction in China. Liu Chunling, the director of a marriage-registration office, told reporters that the test was aimed at reducing the divorce rate and preventing "impulsive divorces". She said: "Only the harmony of millions of family units can achieve the harmony of an entire society." Chinese Internet users were less enthusiastic about the 15-question test being used to determine a couple's love for each other. One post on the Weibo social media site asked: "So if you remember your wedding anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a case of amnesia." Another wrote: "They are adults and they have the right to divorce. This is interference in domestic affairs."

Sources: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/06/02/warring-chinese-couples-take-divorce-exams-reflect-marriage/>  
<http://www.businessinsider.com/china-makes-couples-take-exam-before-divorce-allowed-2018-5>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/30/world/asia/china-divorce-quiz.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. DIVORCE TESTS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about divorce tests. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

authorities / divorce / exam / love / marriage / working women / independent / dating impulsive / harmony / family / society / enthusiastic / social media / wedding / right

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. EXAM:** Students A **strongly** believe people should take an exam before their wedding and before a divorce; Students B **strongly** believe that's silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE:** What advice would you give people to have a successful marriage? Do people you know follow this advice? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

|               | Advice | People you know |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|
| Money         |        |                 |
| Love          |        |                 |
| Arguments     |        |                 |
| Housework     |        |                 |
| Communication |        |                 |
| Free time     |        |                 |

**5. COUPLE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "couple". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. REASONS FOR DIVORCE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest reasons for divorce at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- money
- cheating
- lazy partner
- boredom
- communication breakdown
- always arguing
- lack of equality
- domestic violence

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. authorities  | a. Rescued something to see if it can be brought back to working condition.   |
| 2. halting      | b. Something regarded as being caused by someone or something.  |
| 3. file         | c. (Especially of sexual relations) occurring outside marriage.   |
| 4. ascertain    | d. The people or organization(s) having power or control in a particular, typically area (usually political or administrative). |
| 5. salvaged     | e. Submit a legal document, application, or charge to be placed on record by the appropriate authority.                         |
| 6. attributed   | f. Find something out for certain; make sure of.  |
| 7. extramarital | g. Stopping something or someone suddenly.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8. reaction      | h. Having or showing intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval.                   |
| 9. impulsive     | i. All of, with no part left out; whole.   |
| 10. harmony      | j. An action performed or a feeling experienced in response to a situation or event.       |
| 11. entire       | k. A partial or total loss of memory.  |
| 12. enthusiastic | l. Acting or done without thinking first.  |
| 13. amnesia      | m. Unwanted actions to get in the way of or block someone's life, plans, experiences, etc. |
| 14. interference | n. The quality of making or being a pleasing and agreeable whole.                          |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Every Chinese couple in China must now take an exam to get divorced. **T / F**
- b. Up to half of all marriages between people in their 80s end in divorce. **T / F**
- c. One reason for higher divorce rates is there are fewer working women. **T / F**
- d. More people are cheating on their partners because of social media. **T / F**
- e. The test is to stop people getting divorced on impulse. **T / F**
- f. There are 15 questions on the test. **T / F**
- g. A social media user suggested divorce wasn't about forgetfulness. **T / F**
- h. A social media user called the test an intrusion into national affairs. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>halting</b>       | a. intrusion   |
| 2. <b>file</b>          | b. put down to |
| 3. <b>salvaged</b>      | c. spontaneous |
| 4. <b>attributed</b>    | d. apply       |
| 5. <b>reliant</b>       | e. balance     |
| 6. <b>impulsive</b>     | f. decide      |
| 7. <b>harmony</b>       | g. stopping    |
| 8. <b>enthusiastic</b>  | h. dependent   |
| 9. <b>determine</b>     | i. keen        |
| 10. <b>interference</b> | j. saved       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. couples who file                 | a. an entire society |
| 2. whether or not their marriage    | b. to the problem    |
| 3. financially independent and less | c. anniversary       |
| 4. dating apps are adding           | d. divorces          |
| 5. extramarital                     | e. reliant           |
| 6. preventing impulsive             | f. for divorce       |
| 7. the harmony of                   | g. can be salvaged   |
| 8. determine a couple's love        | h. to divorce        |
| 9. wedding                          | i. affairs           |
| 10. they have the right             | j. for each other    |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

Authorities in China are looking at a new way of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the country's increasing divorce rate. In parts of China, couples who file for divorce are being asked to take an exam to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ how much they still might (3) \_\_\_\_\_ each other and whether or not their marriage can be (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Up to half of all Chinese marriages between those who were born in the 1980s have ended in divorce. China's rising divorce rate has been (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to the increased empowerment of working women, who are more financially independent and less (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on a partner. Media sources say the rise of social media and dating (7) \_\_\_\_\_ are adding to the problem, as there are increasing numbers of extramarital (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*ascertain*

*reliant*

*affairs*

*salvaged*

*halting*

*apps*

*love*

*attributed*

The divorce tests have had a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ reaction in China. Liu Chunling, the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of a marriage-registration office, told reporters that the test was aimed at reducing the divorce rate and preventing "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ divorces". She said: "Only the harmony of millions of family units can achieve the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of an entire society." Chinese Internet users were less enthusiastic about the 15-question test being used to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ a couple's love for each other. One post on the Weibo social (14) \_\_\_\_\_ site asked: "So if you remember your wedding anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a case of (15) \_\_\_\_\_." Another wrote: "They are adults and they have the right to divorce. This is interference in (16) \_\_\_\_\_ affairs."

*impulsive*

*determine*

*domestic*

*mixed*

*harmony*

*amnesia*

*director*

*media*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

- 1) In parts of China, couples who \_\_\_\_\_...
  - a. file for divorce
  - b. fill for divorce
  - c. vile for divorce
  - d. vial for divorce
- 2) and whether or not their marriage \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. can be savaged
  - b. can be salvaged
  - c. can be salve aged
  - d. can be solved aged
- 3) working women, who are more financially independent \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and less radiant
  - b. and less reliant
  - c. and less rely ant
  - d. and less really ant
- 4) Media sources say the rise of social media and \_\_\_\_\_ ...
  - a. date-in maps are
  - b. dating naps are
  - c. day tin gaps are
  - d. dating apps are
- 5) adding to the problem, as there are increasing numbers of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. extra marry tall affairs
  - b. extra mar-it-all affairs
  - c. extramarital affairs
  - d. ex tram are it all affairs
- 6) the test was aimed at reducing the divorce rate and preventing " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - a. impulsive divorces
  - b. compulsive divorces
  - c. repulsive divorces
  - d. in pulse sieve divorces
- 7) millions of family units can achieve the harmony \_\_\_\_\_ society
  - a. of all entire
  - b. of an entry
  - c. of an entire
  - d. of end entity
- 8) if you remember your wedding anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. case of ambrosia
  - b. case of amnesia
  - c. case of magnesium
  - d. case of Indonesia
- 9) Another wrote: "They are adults and they have \_\_\_\_\_ divorce."
  - a. the light too
  - b. the fight to
  - c. the right to
  - d. the trite two
- 10) This is interference in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. domestics affairs
  - b. domestically affairs
  - c. domesticity affairs
  - d. domestic affairs

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

Authorities in China are looking at (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of halting the country's increasing divorce rate. In parts of China, couples who file for divorce are being asked to take an exam (2) \_\_\_\_\_ much they still might (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and whether or not their marriage can be salvaged. Up to half of all Chinese marriages between those who were born in the 1980s have (4) \_\_\_\_\_. China's rising divorce rate has been attributed to the increased empowerment of working women, who are more financially independent and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a partner. Media sources say the rise of social media and dating apps are adding to the problem, as there are increasing numbers (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The divorce tests have had (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in China. Liu Chunling, the director of a marriage-registration office, told reporters that the test (8) \_\_\_\_\_ reducing the divorce rate and preventing "impulsive divorces". She said: "Only (9) \_\_\_\_\_ millions of family units can achieve the harmony of an entire society." Chinese Internet users were (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the 15-question test being used to determine a couple's (11) \_\_\_\_\_ other. One post on the Weibo social media site asked: "So if you remember your wedding anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a case of amnesia." Another wrote: "They are adults and they have the right to divorce. This is interference (12) \_\_\_\_\_."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

1. What are couples in China filing for?
2. How many Chinese couples born in the 1980s have got divorced?
3. Who are China's working women less reliant on?
4. What kind of apps have added to the rise in divorce rates?
5. What kind of affairs are people having more of?
6. What kind of reaction have the divorce exams had in China?
7. What kind of divorces is the test aimed at preventing?
8. How many questions does the test have?
9. What did a social media user say divorce wasn't a case of?
10. What did a social media user say the test interfered with?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

- 1) What are couples in China filing for?
  - a) in line
  - b) nails
  - c) divorce
  - d) papers
- 2) How many Chinese couples born in the 1980s have got divorced?
  - a) up to half
  - b) over half
  - c) 20 million
  - d) 200 million
- 3) Who are China's working women less reliant on?
  - a) themselves
  - b) their parents
  - c) the state
  - d) partners
- 4) What kind of apps have added to the rise in divorce rates?
  - a) news apps
  - b) dating apps
  - c) financial apps
  - d) legal advice apps
- 5) What kind of affairs are people having more of?
  - a) current affairs
  - b) internal affairs
  - c) extramarital affairs
  - d) national affairs
- 6) What kind of reaction have the divorce exams had in China?
  - a) a chain reaction
  - b) a mixed reaction
  - c) an allergic reaction
  - d) a delayed reaction
- 7) What kind of divorces is the test aimed at preventing?
  - a) immersive divorces
  - b) repulsive divorces
  - c) compulsive divorces
  - d) impulsive divorces
- 8) How many questions does the test have?
  - a) 12
  - b) 15
  - c) 30
  - d) 75
- 9) What did a social media user say divorce wasn't a case of?
  - a) amnesia
  - b) ambrosia
  - c) Indonesia
  - d) easier
- 10) What did a social media user say the test interfered with?
  - a) internal affairs
  - b) international affairs
  - c) national affairs
  - d) domestic affairs

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

## **Role A – Money**

You think money is the biggest reason to get divorced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as bad. Also, tell the others of these is the worst reason to get divorced (and why): cheating, a lazy partner or boredom.

## **Role B – Cheating**

You think cheating is the biggest reason to get divorced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as bad. Also, tell the others of these is the worst reason to get divorced (and why): money, a lazy partner or boredom.

## **Role C – Lazy Partner**

You think a lazy partner is the biggest reason to get divorced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as bad. Also, tell the others of these is the worst reason to get divorced (and why): cheating, money or boredom.

## **Role D – Boredom**

You think boredom is the biggest reason to get divorced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as bad. Also, tell the others of these is the worst reason to get divorced (and why): cheating, a lazy partner or money.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'divorce' and 'exam'.

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| <b>divorce</b> | <b>exam</b> |
|----------------|-------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• new</li><li>• asked</li><li>• half</li><li>• working</li><li>• less</li><li>• apps</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mixed</li><li>• aimed</li><li>• millions</li><li>• 15</li><li>• asked</li><li>• adults</li></ul> |
|--|--|

# DIVORCE TESTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

Write five GOOD questions about divorce tests in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# **DIVORCE TEST DISCUSSION**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'divorce'?
3. What do you think of the divorce exam?
4. Would it be better to have a marriage exam before weddings?
5. Can an exam ascertain how much love there is between a couple?
6. What questions would you put in the exam?
7. What's the divorce rate like in your country?
8. What are the biggest reasons for divorce?
9. What kind of mess is left after a divorce?
10. What do you think of extramarital affairs?

*Chinese couples asked to take divorce exam – 5th June, 2018*  
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# **DIVORCE TEST DISCUSSION**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'exam'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think about divorce?
15. Why would someone get divorced on an impulse?
16. Is it harder to stay married these days?
17. Should the authorities get involved with divorcing couples?
18. What damage does divorce do to society?
19. What would happen if divorce was made illegal?
20. What questions would you like to ask the Chinese authorities?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2018

---

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

Authorities in China are looking at a new way of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the country's increasing divorce rate. In parts of China, couples who (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for divorce are being asked to take an exam to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ how much they still might love each other and whether or not their marriage can be (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Up to half of all Chinese marriages between those who were born in the 1980s have ended in divorce. China's rising divorce rate has been attributed to the increased empowerment of working women, who are more financially independent and less reliant (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a partner. Media sources say the rise of social media and dating apps are adding to the problem, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ there are increasing numbers of extramarital affairs.

The divorce tests have had a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ reaction in China. Liu Chunling, the director of a marriage-registration office, told reporters that the test was aimed (8) \_\_\_\_\_ reducing the divorce rate and preventing "impulsive divorces". She said: "Only the harmony of millions of family units can (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the harmony of an entire society." Chinese Internet users were less enthusiastic about the 15-question test being used to determine a couple's (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for each other. One post on the Weibo social media site asked: "So if you remember your wedding anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a case of (11) \_\_\_\_\_." Another wrote: "They are adults and they have the right to divorce. This is interference (12) \_\_\_\_\_ domestic affairs."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |              |                |                 |
|-----|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) exalting  | (b) vaulting | (c) halting    | (d) salting     |
| 2.  | (a) file      | (b) case     | (c) folder     | (d) document    |
| 3.  | (a) ascertain | (b) retain   | (c) entertain  | (d) contain     |
| 4.  | (a) salvaged  | (b) savaged  | (c) suave      | (d) assuaged    |
| 5.  | (a) in        | (b) on       | (c) to         | (d) at          |
| 6.  | (a) is        | (b) has      | (c) was        | (d) as          |
| 7.  | (a) tonic     | (b) clean    | (c) mixed      | (d) frame       |
| 8.  | (a) by        | (b) to       | (c) on         | (d) at          |
| 9.  | (a) achieve   | (b) archive  | (c) archery    | (d) reprieve    |
| 10. | (a) love      | (b) lovely   | (c) loveliness | (d) lovey-dovey |
| 11. | (a) magnesium | (b) amnesia  | (c) forget     | (d) old photos  |
| 12. | (a) at        | (b) by       | (c) in         | (d) as          |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. routeiisaht in China
2. take an exam to rsceaitan how
3. their marriage can be deglasav
4. tdtiubtaer to the increased empowerment
5. more incailfanly independent
6. extramarital iaffsra

## Paragraph 2

7. had a mixed ecaotirn
8. aimed at rncugdei the divorce rate
9. preventing svmeiulpi divorces
10. users were less iteunictsahs
11. used to ritemdeen a couple's love
12. interference in stmoidec affairs

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) The divorce tests have had a mixed reaction in China. Liu Chunling, the director of a marriage-registration
- ( ) China, couples who file for divorce are being asked to take an exam to ascertain how much they still might love
- ( ) born in the 1980s have ended in divorce. China's rising divorce rate has been attributed
- ( ) adults and they have the right to divorce. This is interference in domestic affairs."
- ( ) couple's love for each other. One post on the Weibo social media site asked: "So if you remember your wedding
- ( ) society." Chinese Internet users were less enthusiastic about the 15-question test being used to determine a
- ( ) anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a case of amnesia." Another wrote: "They are
- ( ) independent and less reliant on a partner. Media sources say the rise of social media and dating apps are
- ( ) to the increased empowerment of working women, who are more financially
- ( ) office, told reporters that the test was aimed at reducing the divorce rate and preventing "impulsive
- ( ) divorces". She said: "Only the harmony of millions of family units can achieve the harmony of an entire
- ( ) each other and whether or not their marriage can be salvaged. Up to half of all Chinese marriages between those who were
- ( ) adding to the problem, as there are increasing numbers of extramarital affairs.
- ( **1** ) Authorities in China are looking at a new way of halting the country's increasing divorce rate. In parts of

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

1. divorce who Couples for are file being asked .
2. an to Take exam much . ascertain how
3. can marriage their Whether not salvaged . or be
4. the working Attributed to increased of women . empowerment
5. of numbers increasing extramarital affairs . are There
6. mixed have tests a had divorce The reaction .
7. the reducing test aimed rate . was The at
8. the test . less about 15-question were Users enthusiastic
9. love for a determine each couple's To other .
10. have They and are they the adults right .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

Authorities in China are looking at a *newly* / *new* way of halting the country's increasing divorce rate. In parts of China, couples who *file* / *pile* for divorce are being asked to take an exam to *concertina* / *ascertain* how much they still might love *each* / *one* other and whether or not their marriage can be *salvaged* / *savaged*. Up to half of all Chinese marriages between those who were born in the 1980s have ended *on* / *in* divorce. China's rising divorce rate has been *attribution* / *attributed* to the increased empowerment of working women, who are more *financially* / *finance* independent and less reliant on a partner. Media sources say the *rise* / *raise* of social media and dating apps are adding to the problem, as there are increasing numbers *by* / *of* extramarital affairs.

The divorce tests have had a *mixture* / *mixed* reaction in China. Liu Chunling, the director of a marriage-registration office, told *reports* / *reporters* that the test was aimed *by* / *at* reducing the divorce rate and preventing "impulsive divorces". She said: "Only *a* / *the* harmony of millions of family units can achieve the harmony of an entire *social* / *society*." Chinese Internet users were *less* / *lesser* enthusiastic about the 15-question test being used *to* / *for* determine a couple's love for each other. One post on the Weibo social media site asked: "So if you *remembrance* / *remember* your wedding anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a case of *ambrosia* / *amnesia*." Another wrote: "They are adults and they have the right to divorce. This is interference *in* / *at* domestic affairs."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

A\_t h\_r\_t\_\_ s \_n C h\_n\_ \_r\_ l\_\_ k\_n g \_t \_ n\_w w\_y  
\_f h\_l\_t\_n g th\_ c\_\_ n\_t\_r\_y 's \_n c\_r\_\_ s\_n g d\_v\_r\_c\_  
r\_t\_. I n p\_r\_t\_s \_f C h\_n\_, c\_\_ p\_l\_s w h\_ f\_l\_ f\_r  
d\_v\_r\_c\_ \_r\_ b\_\_ n g \_s k\_d t\_ t\_k\_\_ n \_x\_m t\_ s\_c\_r  
t\_\_ n h\_w m\_c h t h\_y s t\_l\_l m\_g h t l\_v\_\_ \_c h  
\_t h\_r \_n d w h\_t h\_r \_r n\_t t h\_\_ r m\_r r\_\_ g\_ c\_n  
b\_ s\_l\_v\_g\_d. U p t\_ h\_l\_f \_f \_l\_l C h\_n\_s\_ m\_r r\_\_  
g\_s b\_t w\_\_ n t h\_s\_ w h\_ w\_r\_ b\_r n \_n t h\_ 1 9 8  
0 s h\_v\_ \_n d\_d \_n d\_v\_r\_c\_. C h\_n\_'s r\_s\_n g  
d\_v\_r\_c\_ r\_t\_ h\_s b\_\_ n \_t t\_r\_b\_t\_d t\_ t h\_ \_n c\_r\_\_  
s\_d \_m p\_w\_r m\_n t \_f w\_r k\_n g w\_m\_n, w h\_ \_r\_  
m\_r\_ f\_n\_n c\_\_ l\_l y \_n d\_p\_n d\_n t \_n d l\_s s r\_l\_\_ n t  
\_n \_ p\_r t\_n\_r. M\_d\_\_ s\_\_ r\_c\_s s\_y t h\_ r\_s\_ \_f  
s\_c\_\_ l m\_d\_\_ \_n d d\_t\_n g \_p p\_s \_r\_d d\_n g t\_ t  
h\_ p\_r\_b\_l\_m, \_s t h\_r\_ \_r\_ \_n c\_r\_\_ s\_n g n\_m b\_r s  
\_f \_x\_t\_r\_m\_r\_t\_l \_f f\_\_ r\_s.

T h\_ d\_v\_r\_c\_ t\_s t\_s h\_v\_ h\_d \_ m\_x\_d r\_\_ c\_t\_\_ n  
\_n C h\_n\_. L\_\_ C h\_n\_l\_n g, t h\_ d\_r\_c\_t\_r \_f \_  
m\_r r\_\_ g\_ - r\_g\_s t\_r\_t\_\_ n \_f f\_c\_, t\_l\_d r\_p\_r\_t\_r\_s t  
h\_t t h\_ t\_s t w\_s \_\_ m\_d \_t r\_d\_c\_n g t h\_ d\_v\_r  
c\_ r\_t\_ \_n d p\_r\_v\_n t\_n g " \_m p\_l\_s\_v\_ d\_v\_r\_c\_s ".  
S h\_ s\_\_ d: " O\_n\_l\_y t h\_ h\_r m\_n y \_f m\_l\_l\_\_ n s  
\_f f\_m\_l\_y \_n\_t\_s c\_n \_c h\_\_ v\_ t h\_ h\_r m\_n y \_f \_n  
\_n t\_r\_ s\_c\_\_ t\_y. " C h\_n\_s\_ I n t\_r\_n\_t \_s\_r\_s w\_r\_  
l\_s s \_n t h\_s\_\_ s\_t\_c \_b\_\_ t t h\_ 1 5 - q\_\_ s\_t\_\_ n t\_s  
t b\_\_ n g \_s\_d t\_ d\_t\_r m\_n\_\_ c\_\_ p\_l\_'s l\_v\_ f\_r  
\_\_ c h \_t h\_r. O n\_ p\_s t \_n t h\_ W\_\_ b\_ s\_c\_\_ l  
m\_d\_\_ s\_t\_ \_s k\_d: " S\_ \_f y\_\_ r\_m\_m b\_r y\_\_ r  
w\_d d\_n g \_n n\_v\_r s\_r y y\_\_ c\_n 't d\_v\_r\_c\_? D\_v\_r  
c\_ s\_n 't \_c\_s\_ \_f \_m n\_s\_\_ . " A n\_t h\_r w\_r\_t\_: "   
T h\_y \_r\_ \_d\_l\_t\_s \_n d t h\_y h\_v\_ t h\_ r\_g h t t\_  
d\_v\_r\_c\_. T h\_s \_s \_n t\_r\_f\_r\_n\_c\_ \_n d\_m\_s\_t\_c \_f f\_\_  
r\_s. "

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

authorities in china are looking at a new way of halting the countrys increasing divorce rate in parts of china couples who file for divorce are being asked to take an exam to ascertain how much they still might love each other and whether or not their marriage can be salvaged up to half of all chinese marriages between those who were born in the 1980s have ended in divorce chinas rising divorce rate has been attributed to the increased empowerment of working women who are more financially independent and less reliant on a partner media sources say the rise of social media and dating apps are adding to the problem as there are increasing numbers of extramarital affairs

the divorce tests have had a mixed reaction in china liu chunling the director of a marriage registration office told reporters that the test was aimed at reducing the divorce rate and preventing impulsive divorces she said only the harmony of millions of family units can achieve the harmony of an entire society chinese internet users were less enthusiastic about the 15question test being used to determine a couples love for each other one post on the weibo social media site asked so if you remember your wedding anniversary you cant divorce divorce isnt a case of amnesia another wrote they are adults and they have the right to divorce this is interference in domestic affairs

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180605-china-divorce.html>

Authorities in China are looking at a new way of halting the country's increasing divorce rate. In parts of China, couples who file for divorce are being asked to take an exam to ascertain how much they still might love each other and whether or not their marriage can be salvaged. Up to half of all Chinese marriages between those who were born in the 1980s have ended in divorce. China's rising divorce rate has been attributed to the increased empowerment of working women, who are more financially independent and less reliant on a partner. Media sources say the rise of social media and dating apps are adding to the problem, as there are increasing numbers of extramarital affairs. The divorce test has had a mixed reaction in China. Liu Chunling, the director of a marriage-registration office, told reporters that the test was aimed at reducing the divorce rate and preventing "impulsive divorces". She said: "Only the harmony of millions of family units can achieve the harmony of an entire society." Chinese Internet users were less enthusiastic about the 15-question test being used to determine a couple's love for each other. One post on the Weibo social media site asked: "So if you remember your wedding anniversary you can't divorce? Divorce isn't a case of amnesia." Another wrote: "They are adults and they have the right to divorce. This is interference in domestic affairs."







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. DIVORCE TESTS:** Make a poster about divorce tests. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SAVE MARRIAGES:** Write a magazine article about using divorce tests as a solution to saving marriages. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on divorce tests. Ask him/her three questions about divorce tests. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d    2. g    3. e    4. f    5. a    6. b    7. c  
8. j    9. l    10. n    11. i    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b F    c F    d T    e T    f T    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. halting       | a. stopping    |
| 2. file          | b. apply       |
| 3. salvaged      | c. saved       |
| 4. attributed    | d. put down to |
| 5. reliant       | e. dependent   |
| 6. impulsive     | f. spontaneous |
| 7. harmony       | g. balance     |
| 8. enthusiastic  | h. keen        |
| 9. determine     | i. decide      |
| 10. interference | j. intrusion   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Divorce
2. Up to half
3. Their partners
4. Dating apps
5. Extramarital affairs
6. A mixed reaction
7. Impulsive divorces
8. 15
9. Amnesia
10. Domestic affairs

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Couples who file for divorce are being asked.
2. Take an exam to ascertain how much.
3. Whether or not their marriage can be salvaged.
4. Attributed to the increased empowerment of working women.
5. There are increasing numbers of extramarital affairs.
6. The divorce tests have had a mixed reaction.
7. The test was aimed at reducing the rate.
8. Users were less enthusiastic about the 15-question test.
9. To determine a couple's love for each other.
10. They are adults and they have the right.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. d    4. b    5. c    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. a    10. d

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)