

Height may be the key to a happy marriage

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Researchers have discovered what they believe is one of the keys to a happy marriage. A difference in height between the two partners could be a secret ingredient for marital bliss. Professor Kitae Sohn of Konkuk University in South Korea has discovered

that the taller a woman's husband is, the happier she is. Mr Sohn said: "A greater height difference in a couple was positively related to the wife's happiness." However, he said the attraction and benefits for a woman having a tall husband does not last forever and diminishes over time. Sohn said the appeal of a taller husband "gradually weakened over time". He said he was surprised to find that it took around 18 years of marriage for this appeal to disappear.

Professor Sohn said he was intrigued as to why women seemed to prefer taller men. He said: "Although it has been known that women prefer tall men in mating for evolutionary reasons, no study has investigated whether a taller husband makes his wife happier." His study included analysing data from 7,850 Indonesian women who expressed a preference for taller men. The women said they did not know exactly why they preferred a taller mate. Sohn wrote: "Women simply like tall men, while unable to say why." He added: "This is similar to people favoring fatty, salty and sugary foods without knowing exactly why." However, the BBC noted that shorter men can be more stable, better husbands.

Sources: MyFoxBoston.com / mic.com / voicetelegraph.com

Writing

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being tall? Would you like to be taller? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

researchers / happy marriage / secret ingredient / marital bliss / couple / forever / intrigued / evolutionary / investigated / preference / sugary foods / tall men / husband

True / False

- Researchers found a key that leads to a happy marriage. T / F
- The researcher in the article works at a university in South Korea. T / F
- The researcher said being tall helps a husband forever. T / F
- The researcher said people fall more in love after 18 years of marriage. T / F
- There have been many studies into why women prefer tall men. T / F
- The study only looked at women from Indonesia. T / F
- The researcher said women like husbands who prefer sugary foods. T / F
- The BBC said shorter men can be better husbands. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. keys | a. decreases |
| 2. bliss | b. appeal |
| 3. related | c. fascinated |
| 4. attraction | d. joy |
| 5. diminishes | e. reveal |
| 6. intrigued | f. secrets |
| 7. investigated | g. secure |
| 8. express | h. looked into |
| 9. exactly | i. connected |
| 10. stable | j. precisely |

Discussion – Student A

- Why do men grow taller than women?
- Why might it be important to know if a taller man makes a woman happier?
- Do you think the findings in this study are typical worldwide?
- What makes a great husband or wife?
- When is tall too tall?
- What is the perfect height for a partner, and why?
- What do you think of what the BBC said about shorter men?
- What questions would you like to ask the researcher?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- one of the keys
- a secret ingredient for marital
- A greater height
- does not last forever and diminishes
- gradually
- he was intrigued
- analysing
- women who expressed
- people favoring fatty, salty
- shorter men can
- weakened
- difference in a couple
- and sugary foods
- a preference
- over time
- be more stable
- to a happy marriage
- as to why
- bliss
- data

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think are the secrets to a happy marriage?
- Is height important to you in a partner?
- Who is the happiest couple you know? Why are they so happy?
- Why might a woman be happier with a taller man?
- Does it matter if the woman is much taller than the man?
- Why do you think it takes 18 years for the appeal of a taller husband to disappear?
- How happy are you with your height?

Spelling

- the keys to a happy raargiem
- a secret tniedigrne
- ysliteopvi related to the wife's happiness
- the irtntoact and benefits
- mhseidsnii over time
- udglllyraa weakened
- Professor Sohn said he was rteuindig
- for rialevoytnuo reasons
- expressed a ecpferenre
- did not know ecxylat why
- fatty, salty and auygrs foods
- more bltase, better husbands

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. a
6. c	7. h	8. e	9. j	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Flowers

You think flowers are the best things to keep a marriage happy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): shared hobbies, children or restaurant dinners.

Role B – Shared hobbies

You think shared hobbies are the best things to keep a marriage happy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): flowers, children or restaurant dinners.

Role C – Children

You think children are the best things to keep a marriage happy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): shared hobbies, flowers or restaurant dinners.

Role D – Restaurant dinners

You think restaurant dinners are the best things to keep a marriage happy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): shared hobbies, children or flowers.

Speaking – Happy marriage

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that most make a marriage happy at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- shared housework
- flowers
- saying "I love you"
- restaurant dinners
- children
- shared hobbies
- expensive presents
- separate bank accounts

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.