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Level 6

Study shows there are two divorce seasons

25th August, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Couples might want to put a little extra effort into their marriage just before March and August every year. Sociologists have identified annual spikes in the number of divorces filed in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. state of Washington between 2001 and 2015. There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 alone. The scientists found that over the 14-year period of the study, divorce rates peaked in August, after the summer holidays, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces could be due to financial problems caused by the winter and summer holidays.

Researcher Julie Brines suggested that the anti-climax felt after the build-up to holidays, and the holidays themselves, may leave couples feeling stressed and deflated. She said: "People tend to face the holidays with rising expectations, despite what disappointments they might have had in years past." She added: "[Holidays] represent periods in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for a new beginning, a new start, something different, a transition into a new period of life. It's like an optimism cycle." Couples generally spend more time in closer proximity to each other during holidays, which may actually exacerbate tensions rather than rekindle romance.

Sources: <http://www.sciencealert.com/researchers-find-there-are-2-months-when-couples-are-most-likely-to-get-divorced>
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/312444.php>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3752624/Holidays-BAD-marriage-Divorce-rates-spike-summer-winter-breaks.html>

WARM-UPS

1. DIVORCE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about divorce. 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?

couples / effort / marriage / divorce / alone / summer holidays / financial problems / anti-climax / stressed / deflated / expectations / disappointments / start / optimism

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

3. MARRIAGE: Students A **strongly** believe marriage is forever; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PROBLEMS: What advice would you give to a married couple with the following problems? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What kinds of problems?	Advice
Money		
In-laws		
Different interests		
Romance gone		
Housework		
Boredom		

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

6. STRESSES: Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest stresses in a marriage at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- money
- housework
- cheating
- marrying too young
- children
- abuse
- in-laws
- different interests

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

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

- a. Researchers say divorce season is March and August every year. **T / F**
- b. Researchers looked at all the divorces in the USA between 2001 and 2015. **T / F**
- c. There were nearly 25,000 divorces in Washington state in 2014. **T / F**
- d. Summer holidays could be a reason that many couples get divorced. **T / F**
- e. A researcher said holidays can leave couples feeling down. **T / F**
- f. The researcher said people have low expectations of holidays. **T / F**
- g. The researcher said holidays do not represent anything new. **T / F**
- h. The researcher said holidays usually fire up lost romances. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. extra | a. submitted |
| 2. identified | b. positiveness |
| 3. filed | c. monetary |
| 4. due to | d. pinpointed |
| 5. financial | e. worsen |
| 6. anti-climax | f. additional |
| 7. expectations | g. nearness |
| 8. optimism | h. disappointment |
| 9. proximity | i. hopes |
| 10. exacerbate | j. because of |

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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Couples might want to put a little extra | a. in the number of divorces |
| 2. Sociologists have identified annual spikes | b. of the study |
| 3. 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 | c. climax felt after the build-up |
| 4. over the 14-year period | d. proximity to each other |
| 5. the divorces could be due to | e. effort into their marriage |
| 6. the anti- | f. romance |
| 7. leave couples feeling stressed and | g. tensions |
| 8. spend more time in closer | h. alone |
| 9. exacerbate | i. deflated |
| 10. rekindle | j. financial problems |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Couples might want to put a little (1) _____ effort into their marriage just before March and August every year. Sociologists have (2) _____ annual spikes in the number of divorces (3) _____ in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed (4) _____ for divorces filed in the U.S. state of Washington between 2001 and 2015. There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 (5) _____. The scientists found that over the 14-year (6) _____ of the study, divorce rates peaked in August, after the summer holidays, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces could be (7) _____ to financial problems (8) _____ by the winter and summer holidays.

alone
due
extra
caused
filed
period
identified
data

Researcher Julie Brines suggested that the (9) _____ felt after the build-up to holidays, and the holidays (10) _____, may leave couples feeling stressed and (11) _____. She said: "People tend to face the holidays with rising expectations, despite what disappointments they might have had in years (12) _____." She added: "[Holidays] represent periods in the year when there's the (13) _____ or the opportunity for a new beginning, a new start, something different, a (14) _____ into a new period of life. It's like an (15) _____ cycle." Couples generally spend more time in closer proximity to each other during holidays, which may actually exacerbate tensions rather than rekindle (16) _____.

past
themselves
optimism
anticipation
romance
deflated
anti-climax
transition

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

- 1) Couples might want to put a little extra effort _____ marriage
 - a. on to their
 - b. until their
 - c. into their
 - d. unto their
- 2) Sociologists have identified annual spikes in the number of _____
 - a. divorce is filed
 - b. divorces fired
 - c. divorces filed
 - d. divorce is fired
- 3) analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. _____
 - a. state off Washington
 - b. state of Washington
 - c. states of Washington
 - d. stated off Washington
- 4) There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state _____
 - a. in 2014 lonely
 - b. in 2014 a lone
 - c. in 2014 a loner
 - d. in 2014 alone
- 5) Some researchers said the divorces could be _____ problems
 - a. dew to financial
 - b. due to financial
 - c. due too financial
 - d. dew two financial
- 6) Researcher Julie Brines suggested that the anti-climax felt _____
 - a. after a built-up
 - b. after the build-ups
 - c. after a build-up
 - d. after the build-up
- 7) She said: "People tend to face the holidays with _____"
 - a. rising expectations
 - b. rise in expectations
 - c. rising expectation
 - d. raising expectation
- 8) periods in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for _____
 - a. a new beginning
 - b. a news beginning
 - c. a newly beginning
 - d. a knew beginning
- 9) Couples generally spend more time in closer proximity _____
 - a. to each other
 - b. too each other
 - c. to each others
 - d. to each another
- 10) ... which may actually exacerbate tensions rather than _____
 - a. rekindle romances
 - b. rekindle bromance
 - c. rekindle romantic
 - d. rekindle Rome ants

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Couples might want (1) _____ extra effort into their marriage just before March and August every year. Sociologists have identified annual spikes (2) _____ divorces filed in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed (3) _____ filed in the U.S. state of Washington between 2001 and 2015. There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 alone. The scientists found that over the (4) _____ of the study, divorce rates peaked in August, after the (5) _____, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces could be due to financial problems (6) _____ winter and summer holidays.

Researcher Julie Brines suggested that (7) _____ felt after the build-up to holidays, and the holidays themselves, may leave couples feeling stressed (8) _____. She said: "People tend to face the holidays with (9) _____, despite what disappointments they might have had in years past." She added: "[Holidays] represent periods in the year when there's the anticipation or (10) _____ a new beginning, a new start, something different, a transition into a (11) _____. It's like an optimism cycle." Couples generally spend more time in closer proximity to each other during holidays, which may actually (12) _____ rather than rekindle romance.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

1. What did the article suggest couples put into their marriage before March?
2. What did sociologists identify regarding the number of divorces?
3. How many divorces were filed in Washington state in 2014?
4. How many years of divorces did the researchers look at?
5. What kind of problems did researchers say might be the cause for divorces?
6. How does the anti-climax of holidays leave couples feeling?
7. What did a researcher say people tended to face holidays with?
8. What did the researcher say holidays were an opportunity for?
9. What kind of cycle did the researcher say holidays were part of?
10. What tends not to get rekindled when tensions are exacerbated?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

- 1) What did the article suggest couples put into their marriage before March?
 - a) more conversations
 - b) spice
 - c) romance
 - d) a little extra effort
- 2) What did sociologists identify regarding the number of divorces?
 - a) every year
 - b) annual spikes
 - c) filings
 - d) data
- 3) How many divorces were filed in Washington state in 2014?
 - a) around 25,000
 - b) exactly 25,000
 - c) almost 25,000
 - d) just over 25,000
- 4) How many years of divorces did the researchers look at?
 - a) 14
 - b) 15
 - c) 16
 - d) 17
- 5) What kind of problems did researchers say might be the cause for divorces?
 - a) boredom
 - b) cheating
 - c) money
 - d) in-laws
- 6) How does the anti-climax of holidays leave couples feeling?
 - a) elated and inflated
 - b) stressed and deflated
 - c) poor and broke
 - d) happy and glad
- 7) What did a researcher say people tended to face holidays with?
 - a) a compass
 - b) disappointments
 - c) stress
 - d) rising expectations
- 8) What did the researcher say holidays were an opportunity for?
 - a) a new beginning
 - b) disappointments
 - c) years past
 - d) a cycle
- 9) What kind of cycle did the researcher say holidays were part of?
 - a) a fun bicycle
 - b) a racing cycle
 - c) an optimism cycle
 - d) a tandem
- 10) What tends not to get rekindled when tensions are exacerbated?
 - a) proximity
 - b) romance
 - c) barbecues
 - d) holidays

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Role A – Money

You think money causes the biggest stress in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as stressful. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): housework, in-laws or cheating.

Role B – Housework

You think housework causes the biggest stress in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as stressful. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): money, in-laws or cheating.

Role C – In-laws

You think in-laws cause the biggest stress in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as stressful. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): housework, money or cheating.

Role D – Cheating

You think cheating causes the biggest stress in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as stressful. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): housework, in-laws or money.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

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

divorce	season
----------------	---------------

- 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">• extra• annual• 2001• 2014• 14• due	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• anti-• build• tend• start• cycle• romance
---	--

DIVORCE SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Write five GOOD questions about divorce 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 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
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 DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'divorce'?
3. Why do so many marriages end in divorce?
4. What do you think about what you read?
5. Should couples make an extra effort around divorce season?
6. Should engaged couples take a test to see if their marriage will last?
7. Who suffers the most from a divorce?
8. How can we prevent divorce?
9. What do you think of making divorce illegal?
10. What do you think of the idea that marriage is forever?

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DIVORCE DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. Do you always feel an anti-climax after holidays?
13. What makes couples stressed?
14. Are family holidays always fun?
15. What stresses are there associated with holidays?
16. Why is a holiday "the opportunity for a new beginning"?
17. What is your advice for a successful marriage?
18. Why do couples need to spend some time apart?
19. Would it be better for couples to go on separate holidays?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Couples might want to put a little extra (1) _____ into their marriage just before March and August every year. Sociologists have identified annual (2) _____ in the number of divorces filed in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. state (3) _____ Washington between 2001 and 2015. There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 (4) _____. The scientists found that over the 14-year period of the study, divorce rates (5) _____ in August, after the summer holidays, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces could be (6) _____ to financial problems caused by the winter and summer holidays.

Researcher Julie Brines suggested that the anti-climax felt after the build-up to holidays, and the holidays (7) _____, may leave couples feeling stressed and deflated. She said: "People (8) _____ to face the holidays with rising expectations, despite what disappointments they might have had in years (9) _____." She added: "[Holidays] represent periods in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for a new (10) _____, a new start, something different, a transition into a new period of life. It's like an optimism cycle." Couples (11) _____ spend more time in closer proximity to each other during holidays, which may (12) _____ exacerbate tensions rather than rekindle romance.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) effort | (b) affront | (c) offend | (d) efface |
| 2. | (a) spokes | (b) speaks | (c) spikes | (d) specks |
| 3. | (a) for | (b) from | (c) of | (d) off |
| 4. | (a) a lone | (b) loner | (c) lonely | (d) alone |
| 5. | (a) peaked | (b) poked | (c) pealed | (d) pecked |
| 6. | (a) around | (b) due | (c) as | (d) for |
| 7. | (a) them | (b) serves | (c) itself | (d) themselves |
| 8. | (a) trend | (b) tend | (c) extend | (d) attend |
| 9. | (a) by | (b) gone | (c) past | (d) ago |
| 10. | (a) beginner | (b) begins | (c) begin | (d) beginning |
| 11. | (a) genetically | (b) genuine | (c) genial | (d) generally |
| 12. | (a) actual | (b) actually | (c) actuary | (d) actuality |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Paragraph 1

1. fentiddei annual spikes
2. daynales (UK) / Idaanyze (USA) data for divorces
3. 25,000 divorces ldefi in the state
4. the 14-year oriped of the study
5. divorce rates apdeke in August
6. divorces could be due to Inianiacf problems

Paragraph 2

7. the aitn-ilacmx felt after the build-up
8. feeling stressed and ftededla
9. It's like an imiompst
10. in closer yxpoiirmt to each other
11. rxeaebctae tensions
12. lirnkdee romance

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () year. Sociologists have identified annual spikes in the number of divorces filed in these
- () two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. state
- () other during holidays, which may actually exacerbate tensions rather than rekindle romance.
- () alone. The scientists found that over the 14-year period of the study, divorce rates peaked in August, after the
- () be due to financial problems caused by the winter and summer holidays.
- () summer holidays, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces could
- () rising expectations, despite what disappointments they might have had in years past." She added: "[Holidays]
- () optimism cycle." Couples generally spend more time in closer proximity to each
- () start, something different, a transition into a new period of life. It's like an
- () themselves, may leave couples feeling stressed and deflated. She said: "People tend to face the holidays with
- () of Washington between 2001 and 2015. There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014
- (**1**) Couples might want to put a little extra effort into their marriage just before March and August every
- () represent periods in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for a new beginning, a new
- () Researcher Julie Brines suggested that the anti-climax felt after the build-up to holidays, and the holidays

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

1. their into effort extra little a put to want might Couples marriage.
2. have spikes number Sociologists annual the divorces identified in of .
3. were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state There.
4. study period 14- peaked , of Over divorce the year the rates .
5. could to Researchers divorces due problems the be financial said .
6. the after felt climax anti- The holidays to up build- .
7. tend with to rising face expectations the People holidays.
8. beginning opportunity The for anticipation a or new the.
9. closer in time more spend generally Couples proximity.
10. tensions Exacerbate romance rekindle than rather.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Couples might want to *add / put* a little extra *effort / affront* into their marriage just before March and August every year. Sociologists have *identity / identified* annual *spikes / sparks* in the number of divorces filed in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. state *of / as* Washington between 2001 and 2015. There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 *alone / lonely*. The scientists found that over the 14-year period of the study, divorce rates *poked / peaked* in August, after the summer holidays, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces could be *due / dew* to financial problems *caused / causing* by the winter and summer holidays.

Researcher Julie Brines suggested that the anti-climax *felt / touched* after the build-up to holidays, and the holidays *itself / themselves*, may leave couples feeling stressed and *inflated / deflated*. She said: "People *tend / trend* to face the holidays with *risen / rising* expectations, despite what disappointments they might have had in years *passed / past*." She added: "[Holidays] represent periods in the year when there's the *constipation / anticipation* or the opportunity for a new beginning, a new start, something different, a *contrition / transition* into a new period of life. It's like an optimism *bike / cycle*." Couples generally spend more time in closer proximity to each other during holidays, which may actually exacerbate tensions rather than *rewind / rekindle* romance.

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

C__pl_s m_ght w_nt t_ p_t _ lttl_ _xtr_ _ff_rt _nt_ th__r
m_rr__g_ j_st b_fr_ M_rch _nd __g_st _v_ry y__r.
S_c__l_g_sts h_v_ _d_nt_f__d _nn__l sp_k_s _n th_
n_mb_r _f d_v_rc_s f_l_d _n th_s_ tw_ m_nths.
R_s__rch_rs fr_m th_ _n_v_rs_ty _f W_sh_ngt_n _n_lys_d
d_t_ f_r d_v_rc_s f_l_d _n th_ .S. st_t_ _f W_sh_ngt_n
b_tw__n 2001 _nd 2015. Th_r_ w_r_ _lm_st 25,000
d_v_rc_s f_l_d _n th_ st_t_ _n 2014 _l_n_. Th_ sc__nt_sts
f__nd th_t _v_r th_ 14-y__r p_r__d _f th_ st_dy, d_v_rc_
r_t_s p__k_d _n __g_st, _ft_r th_ s_mm_r h_l_d_ys, _nd
_n M_rch, _ft_r th_ Chr_stm_s _nd N_w_Y__r h_l_d_ys.
S_m_ r_s__rch_rs s__d th_ d_v_rc_s c__ld b_ d__ t_
f_n_nc__l pr_bl_ms c__s_d by th_ w_nt_r _nd s_mm_r
h_l_d_ys.

R_s__rch_r J_l__ Br_n_s s_gg_st_d th_t th_ _nt-cl_m_x
f_lt _ft_r th_ b__ld-p_t_ h_l_d_ys, _nd th_ h_l_d_ys
th_ms_lv_s, m_y l__v_ c__pl_s f__l_ng str_ss_d _nd
d_fl_t_d. Sh_ s__d: "P__pl_ t_nd t_ f_c_ th_ h_l_d_ys
w_th r_s_ng _xp_ct_t__ns, d_sp_t_ wh_t d_s_pp__ntm_nts
th_y m_ght h_v_ h_d _n y__rs p_st." Sh_ _dd_d:
"[H_l_d_ys] r_pr_s_nt p_r__ds _n th_ y__r wh_n th_r_'s
th_ _nt_c_p_t__n _r th_ _pp_rt_n_ty _f_r _n_w
b_g_nn_ng, _n_w st_rt, s_m_th_ng d_ff_r_nt, _
tr_ns_t__n _nt_ _n_w p_r__d _f l_f_. _t's l_k_ _n
_pt_m_sm cycl_." C__pl_s g_n_r_lly sp_nd m_r_t_m_ _n
cl_s_r pr_x_m_ty t_ __ch_ th_r d_r_ng h_l_d_ys, wh_ch
m_y _ct__lly _x_crb_t_ t__ns__ns r_th_r th_n r_k_ndl_
r_m_nc_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

couples might want to put a little extra effort into their marriage just before march and august every year sociologists have identified annual spikes in the number of divorces filed in these two months researchers from the university of washington analysed data for divorces filed in the us state of washington between 2001 and 2015 there were almost 25000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 alone the scientists found that over the 14-year period of the study divorce rates peaked in august after the summer holidays and in march after the christmas and new year holidays some researchers said the divorces could be due to financial problems caused by the winter and summer holidays

researcher julie brines suggested that the anti-climax felt after the build-up to holidays and the holidays themselves may leave couples feeling stressed and deflated she said "people tend to face the holidays with rising expectations despite what disappointments they might have had in years past" she added "[holidays] represent periods in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for a new beginning a new start something different a transition into a new period of life it's like an optimism cycle" couples generally spend more time in closer proximity to each other during holidays which may actually exacerbate tensions rather than rekindle romance

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Couples might want to put a little extra effort into their marriage just before March and August every year. Sociologists have identified an annual spike in the number of divorces filed in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. state of Washington between 2001 and 2015. There were almost 25,000 divorces filed in the state in 2014 alone. The scientists found that over the 14-year period of the study, divorce rates peaked in August, after the summer holidays, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces could be due to financial problems caused by the winter and summer holidays. Researcher Julie Brinnes suggested that the anti-climax felt after the build-up to holidays, and the holidays themselves, may leave couples feeling stressed and deflated. She said: "People tend to face the holidays with rising expectations, despite what disappointments they might have had in years past." She added: "[Holidays] represent periods in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for a new beginning, a new start, something different, a transition into a new period of life. It's like an optimism cycle." Couples generally spend more time in closer proximity to each other during holidays, which may actually exacerbate tensions rather than rekindle romance.

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season.html>

Write about **divorce** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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 divorce. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. MARRIAGE: Write a magazine article about marriage being forever. 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. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how couples can stay together. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. extra | a. additional |
| 2. identified | b. pinpointed |
| 3. filed | c. submitted |
| 4. due to | d. because of |
| 5. financial | e. monetary |
| 6. anti-climax | f. disappointment |
| 7. expectations | g. hopes |
| 8. optimism | h. positiveness |
| 9. proximity | i. nearness |
| 10. exacerbate | j. worsen |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A little extra effort
2. Annual spikes (in March and August)
3. Almost 25,000
4. 14
5. Financial problems
6. Stressed and deflated
7. Rising expectations
8. A new beginning / start
9. An optimism cycle
10. Romance

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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