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Intensive Listening

Unit **1** Love and Marriage

Objectives:

- Identify the main ideas and supporting details
- Understand the implied meaning in dialogues and monologues
- Improve understanding of the English spoken in movies
- Practice note-taking skills and learn to write a summary
- Learn words and expressions related to love and marriage
- Understand different customs and traditions related to love and marriage



Task 1 Do you want to marry him?

Olivia and Marcia are discussing a marriage proposal made by Donald. When you listen to the recording, identify the implied meaning in the conversation.

1. Listen to the conversation, make inferences, and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1) What is the “wonderful” thing that happens to Olivia?
 - A. Donald has proposed to her.
 - B. Donald has joined the army to fight for their country.
 - C. The war is over and Donald has come back from battlefield.
- 2) Why can't Olivia make up her mind to marry Donald?
 - A. She does not love Donald.
 - B. She has not had enough time to get to know Donald and be sure of her feelings for him.
 - C. Donald has a reputation for being a “ladies’ man.”
- 3) What does Olivia think of Donald's marriage proposal?
 - A. She thinks he loves her so much that he cannot wait until the end of the war.
 - B. Donald probably just wants to get married before he's killed in the war.
 - C. Donald's parents are pressurizing him to get married.

2. Listen again, understand the functions of fillers in conversation, and fill in the blanks.

- 1) _____...don't you think it is?
- 2) _____, it's...how shall I say it...? _____, I find it very difficult to explain!
- 3) _____, I think I'm beginning to understand now.

Task 2 One true love

Do you believe that true love exists? You may find in this story about an old couple. Glance at the exercises and predict the content of the story.

Listening aids

affection /ə'fekʃən/ *n.* the feeling of love or fondness for somebody or something 喜爱, 感情

chemotherapy /,ki:məθ'erəpi/ *n.* the treatment of disease, especially cancer, with the use of chemical substances (尤指对癌症的) 化学治疗, 化疗

hip /hɪp/ *n.* the area at either side of the body between the top of the leg and the waist 臀部, 髋

1. Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

- 1) His parents _____ when he was young and he didn't think that true love was able to _____ in today's world.
- 2) His grandparents were always _____ the kids and tried to help them when their parents divorced.
- 3) While in the hospital, the doctors discovered a(n) _____. They told him that he had lung cancer. Due to _____, they could not operate and he was too _____ for chemotherapy.
- 4) It was there he realized that true love _____ exist today and will survive _____. Every night as his grandfather grew _____, he would _____ sweet words to his grandmother, Madge.
- 5) It is the greatest gift _____ and it lasts beyond life because you never forget _____.

2. Listen again for the details and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

-] 1) His grandparents had been married for over thirty years, and he was sure that true love existed between them.
-] 2) His grandfather, Ralph, was struck ill and diagnosed with lung cancer.
-] 3) It was around Christmas and by the New Year that his grandfather's condition had worsened.
-] 4) Throughout his grandfather's long and painful battle with cancer, he realized how much it means to be loved and give love.

Task 3 Love is not like goods

Is love like goods that can be stolen? When you listen to the recording, try to identify the main arguments the speaker makes.

Listening aids

nickel /'nikəl/ *n.* a coin in the US or Canada that is worth 5 cents (美国或加拿大的)五分镍币
ripe for ready or suitable for something to happen (做某事条件)成熟的, 适宜的

1. Listen to the recording for the details and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

-] 1) It is universally acknowledged that love, unlike merchandise, cannot be stolen, bought or traded.
-] 2) When a husband or wife is "stolen" by another person, that husband or wife was ready for the stealing, and was already preparing himself or herself for a new partner.

- [] 3) Each person belongs to himself, but children “belong” to their parents because of their age.
[] 4) When a sweetheart is taken from us by somebody more attractive and more appealing, we tend to resent this intruder.

2. Listen again and fill in the blanks.

- 1) Love is not a(n) _____; the real thing cannot be bought, _____, _____ or stolen.
2) Love is an act of _____, a turning of the _____, a change in the _____.
3) This is always a(n) _____, for people are not the captives or _____ of others—they are free agents, working out their own _____ for good or for _____.

Task 4 Working honeymoon

In this task, you will hear a story about how a couple had a “working honeymoon.” Listen to the recording, paying attention to the details in the story.

Listening aids

airily /'eəri:li/ *adv.* done in a happy and confident way 轻松地，不在乎地

cure /kjʊə/ *v.* to preserve food or tobacco by drying them, or by using smoke or salt（用晒、熏、腌等方法）加工贮藏（食物或烟草）

exotic /ɪg'zɒtɪk/ *adj.* excitingly different, strange, or unusual, (as if) from a different country 异国的，外来的

incredulous /ɪn'kredjʊləs/ *adj.* unable or unwilling to believe something 不能相信的，不愿相信的

luxuriate in to relax and enjoy something 尽情享受

missus /'mɪsɪz/ *n. (informal)* a man's wife 太太

punchline /'pʌntʃlaɪn/ *n.* the last few words of a joke or story that give it meaning and cause amusement or surprise 画龙点睛的结尾语

shelve /ʃelv/ *v.* to slope downwards（海岸等）渐渐倾斜

stifle /'staɪfəl/ *v.* to prevent a feeling from being expressed 强忍住，压抑（感情）

tuberculin /tju:'bɜ:kjʊlɪn/ *n.* a sterile liquid used in the diagnosis of tuberculosis 结核菌素

tufted /'tʌftɪd/ *adj.* having a tuft or tufts; growing in tufts 簇状的，丛生的

1. Listen to the story, make inferences, and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1) Which of the following did the couple NOT do on the day they got married?
A. Have an enormous breakfast of home-cured ham and fresh eggs.
B. Go to see a film.
C. Drive through the darkness over the moors.

- 2) What does “Yorkshire fare” mean in the story?
- Unique dishes in Yorkshire.
 - The special landscape in Yorkshire.
 - Distinct handicraft in Yorkshire.
- 3) Which of the following is NOT correct in describing the cheese served by Mrs. Kilburn and her niece, Gladys?
- It was a foot high.
 - It was dry.
 - It was extremely delicious.
- 4) When Mrs. Allen asked about the speaker’s wedding ceremony, why did he give his answer “unemotionally”?
- He felt no passion for the marriage.
 - He wanted to tease Mrs. Allen.
 - He was matter-of-fact about the ceremony.

2. Listen again for the details and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 1) The speaker and his wife spent their honeymoon giving injections to local residents in various villages.
- [] 2) The couple spent their honeymoon with the Allen family.
- [] 3) “We’re coming here” was a “wonderful punchline,” for it gave Mrs. Allen a hint that she should make some preparations to receive the bride.
- [] 4) Though they did not stop working, the couple enjoyed their honeymoon—thanks to the idyllic beauty of the land and the local residents’ hospitality.

Task 5 David and Lilly

A romantic story occurred in a small local library. Listen to the recording, and tell your class what you have learned from the story.

Listening aids

avid /'ævɪd/ *adj.* marked by active interest and enthusiasm 渴望的，如饥似渴的

cardiovascular /,kɑ:diəʊ'væskjə'l/ *adj.* of or pertaining to or involving the heart and blood vessels 心血管的

clutch /klʌtʃ/ *v.* to hold firmly, usually with one’s hands 抓住，紧握

crutch /krʌtʃ/ *n.* a stick which someone with an injured foot or leg uses to support their weight when walking 拐杖，支柱

flutter /'flʌtə/ *v.* to move up and down or from side to side with a lot of quick, light movements 飘动

hysterically /hɪ'sterɪkli/ *adv.* in a state of uncontrolled excitement, anger, or panic 歇斯底里地

retrieve /rɪ'tri:v/ *v.* to get something back from the place where you left it 找回，取回

tenement /'tenəmənt/ *n.* a large, old building which is divided into a number of individual apartments (旧式、廉租) 公寓大楼

1. Listen to the story, make inferences, and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1) Why did David often go to the neighborhood library after his family moved there?
 - A. Because he was an avid reader.
 - B. Because he wanted to meet Lilly, the young librarian.
 - C. Because he went there to kill time.
- 2) How did Lilly feel about David?
 - A. She secretly had a crush on him.
 - B. She did not notice him at all.
 - C. She didn't like the look of him.
- 3) How did David's mother's plan work out?
 - A. It worked out exactly as they had planned it.
 - B. It worked out better than planned.
 - C. It didn't work out.

2. Listen for a second time for the details and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 1) The librarian in the local library was a pretty, warm-hearted young woman called Lilly.
- [] 2) Lilly never had a conversation with David in the library only because she was much too shy.
- [] 3) One evening, when Lilly was ready to close up the library, she bent down near the desk to retrieve an unopened envelope off the floor.
- [] 4) Lilly was really surprised that the address of the letter's recipient was for a building right next to hers.
- [] 5) Lilly said "David, you were a terrible actor," because Lilly had already known there was nothing but a blank piece of paper in the envelope, even before she went to deliver the letter.

3. Listen for a third time and fill in the blanks.

- 1) David was an avid reader so he spent most of his _____ in the library.
- 2) She _____ the lights, finished locking the library and _____ home, where she quickly _____ her bags. _____ the envelope, she ran across the way, entered the front _____ next door and scanned the mailboxes.
- 3) Upon seeing that he was the young man she had admired so long, Lilly felt her heart _____. David looked at Lilly _____. "Gosh, you're from the library? Thank you. I was looking _____ for that letter."

Task 6 Weddings

In this task, you will hear about different ways to celebrate a marriage in various countries. Skim the exercises, and predict the content of the report.

Listening aids

aerobics /eə'rəʊbɪks/ *n.* a form of exercise which increases the amount of oxygen in human blood, and strengthens heart and lungs 有氧健身

festivity /fe'stɪvɪ'ti/ *n.* events that are organized in order to celebrate something 活动, 庆典

garland /'gɑ:lənd/ *n.* a circular decoration made from flowers and leaves 花环, 花冠

lunatic /'lu:nətɪk/ *adj.* extreme or crazy 极端的, 疯狂的

Shinto /'ʃɪntəʊ/ (日本的) 神道教

Siberia /saɪ'bɪəriə/ 西伯利亚 (俄罗斯的一个地区)

1. Listen to the report for the details and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 1) The host has brought his fiancée, Catherine, to the program.
- [] 2) People have been having various kinds of marriage ceremony ever since they first lived on earth.
- [] 3) The Ouchi is a tribe in Syria.
- [] 4) Lady Diana wore a veil in her wedding because she was modest.
- [] 5) A couple in Australia decided to dive under water to celebrate their marriage.
- [] 6) The host also thinks it's great fun to turn a marriage ceremony into a fitness display.

2. Listen for a second time. Summarize different ways of celebrating marriage in different places by completing the following table.

Place	Traditional weddings
Japan	The bride has her _____ taken to the place of her _____. She also says _____ at her altar before leaving home. The wedding is usually attended by _____.
India	On the wedding day, _____ blesses the groom by putting a red mark on his _____, meaning that he is now ready to _____. The groom then rides to the bride's home on _____. At the wedding, the bride and groom place garlands of _____ on each other to show that they now _____ to each other.

(To be continued)

(Continued)

Place	Traditional weddings
Siberia	The wedding ceremony for the tribe of Ouchi is also a celebration of their main occupation—_____. Normally it will not be held until _____. At the wedding ceremony, women dance with bowls of _____, which represent _____ that _____ will have many children. And the bride and groom travel to _____ by boat.

3. Listen for a third time and answer the following questions.

- 1) When and where did the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana take place?

- 2) What does a traditional Christian wedding usually include?

Task 7 Friendship in marriage

In this task, the speaker will give you some advice on how to build a great marriage. What do you think the speaker's advice will be?

 Listening aids

- apt** /æpt/ *adj.* having the natural or habitual tendency to do something 有……倾向的, 易于……的
- cohabitation** /kəʊ,hæbɪ'teɪʃən/ *n.* the state of living together and having a sexual relationship without being married 同居
- compound** /kəm'paʊnd/ *v.* to make a difficult situation worse by adding more problems 使严重
- contrive** /kən'traɪv/ *v.* to succeed in doing something in spite of difficulties 设法做到
- impediment** /ɪm'pedɪmənt/ *n.* something immaterial that interferes with or delays action or progress 障碍
- relapse** /rɪ'læps/ *v.* to fall back into a bad state again after an improvement 再度陷入, 故态复萌
- reproach** /rɪ'prəʊtʃ/ *n.* criticism 责备
- suffrage** /'sʌfrɪdʒ/ *n.* the right to vote in national elections 选举权

1. Listen to the recording, make inferences, and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1) What is the meaning of “Friendship in its usual sense is not tested by the strain of daily, yearlong cohabitation”?
A. Friendship does not need to be tested.

- B. Friendship is not usually judged by whether two people are living together.
 C. It is not easy for two people who have been living together for years to develop a strong friendship.
- 2) Which of the following things must one NOT do if one is to develop friendship with his or her partner?
 A. Try to interest each other.
 B. Spend the maximum amount of time together.
 C. Spend some time separately and develop different interests.
- 3) Which of the following should NOT exist in an industrial society?
 A. Universal education. B. Birth control. C. Gender discrimination.
- 4) Which of the following statements does NOT agree with the theme of this recording?
 A. Learning to make friends with your marital partner is impossible.
 B. Friendship between husband and wife is a necessary component of marriage.
 C. Learning to make friends with your marital partner is extremely rewarding.

2. Listen again for the details and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 1) If a husband and a wife are not friends, they cannot treat their guests very well.
 [] 2) A husband and a wife will often stop talking with each other when their guests are gone if they have exerted themselves in looking after their guests.
 [] 3) If a couple want to be interested in each other, they should not develop their own interests.
 [] 4) Some intelligent working women are reluctant to spend time at home, as their husbands would like them to be housewives rather than career women.
 [] 5) A housewife might also criticize her husband, who works to support the family.
 [] 6) Parental responsibility means everything in the life of many couples, because all their time and energy are devoted to raising children.

Task 8 A war correspondent's family

In this task, you will hear a story about the struggle of a wife whose husband is on the front lines in Iraq. Identify the features of a monologue.

Listening aids

heap /hi:p/ *v.* to put a lot of things on top of each other in an untidy way (杂乱地) 堆积

huddle /'hʌdl/ *v.* to crowd together 紧靠着

toll /təʊl/ *n.* a very bad effect that something has on something else or somebody over a long period of time
 严重的不良影响

youngest daughter always huddled against me at night. My son _____. The elder daughter never said anything but she would _____ every morning. But as days went by, I got my answer for the question. I would certainly _____ and those reporters like him, who risk their lives to _____—a fact we tend to ignore. I wouldn't stop my husband from leaving home for his work, for he just _____.

Task 9 *Jane Eyre* (An excerpt)

In this task, you will watch an excerpt from the classic movie *Jane Eyre*. See if you can identify some of the famous quotes.

Listening aids

cord /kɔ:d/ *n.* a piece of strong, thick string 绳索

exert /ɪg'zɜ:t/ *v.* to use power or influence to affect somebody or something 行使, 施加

obscure /əb'skjʊə/ *adj.* not well known 无名的, 鲜为人知的

petrify /'petrɪfaɪ/ *v.* to make somebody feel extremely frightened 使吓呆, 使惊呆

trample /'træmpəl/ *v.* to ignore somebody's feelings or rights and treat them as if they are not important 践踏, 摧残 (人权、心灵等)

1. Watch the movie excerpt and fill in the blanks.

And become nothing to you? Am I a machine without feelings? Do you think that because I am poor, _____, plain and little that I am _____ and _____? I have as much soul as you and full as much heart. And if God had blessed me with _____ and _____, I could make it as hard for you to leave me, as it is for I to leave you. I'm not speaking to you through _____. It is my spirit that _____ your spirit, as if we'd _____ and stood at God's feet, _____, as we are. I am a free human being with _____, which I now _____ leave you.

2. Watch the movie excerpt again for the details and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 1) Jane confesses her love for Mr. Rochester, and to her surprise, he asks her to be his wife.
- [] 2) Mr. Rochester only brings up marrying Miss Ingram in order to arouse Jane's jealousy.
- [] 3) Mr. Rochester has a notion that he would bleed inwardly if Jane left him.
- [] 4) Though Jane has a full life at Mr. Rochester's home, it does not strike her with anguish to be torn from him.
- [] 5) In Mr. Rochester's eyes, Miss Ingram is a girl without feelings and passions.

Task 10 Mature love

Dictation: Listen to the following passage about mature love. Altogether the passage will be read to you four times.

