

An offer you can't refuse? 在公共场合求婚

英语学习点: 答应和拒绝 *Vocabulary: acceptance/refusal*

Recently a man **proposed** in front of 20,000 people at London's Olympic Stadium. Charity mascot Wendell Raphael, 40, was shown on the big screen at a test event saying: "Bindi Bhambra, will you marry me?"

She was shown in tears **nodding** her head to say yes.

The video website YouTube offers an array of **elaborate** and often very public proposals. Popping the question used to be a private occasion set in a restaurant or a peaceful garden. In 2011, a marriage proposal which featured a hired choir on a packed London train was viewed by millions online.

While that particular recipient of the proposal might be delighted, not everybody likes to be **put on the spot**. "You would either be **thrilled** or **mortified** by that," says celebrity wedding planner Siobhan Craven-Robins.

The increased level of **expectation** that surrounds weddings these days has led to people feeling that their proposal also has to be **out of the ordinary**, she says.

Glenn Wilson, a consultant psychologist, thinks public wedding proposals may sometimes be a **ploy** on the part of men. The woman may feel rather **constrained** in how she can respond.

"It's possible that some men think that this will **pile pressure upon** her and increase the **likelihood** of getting a **positive response**, that she must think that he really loves her if he goes to this extent of trouble and trickery."

"There is tremendous social and **public pressure** behind the woman to say 'yes'," says Wilson. "If she says 'no' so publicly it's difficult to revise that response later.

Jo Bryant, etiquette advisor, says: "A public proposal that could be particularly loud, **intrusive** or **embarrassing** for people to watch should be avoided."

One **refusal** cost a woman who said "no" dearly at a NBA basketball match in the US. She was **booed** by the crowd, while the **distraught** man was **consoled** by a giant cuddly mascot.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分



Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, what are the places where people used to propose marriage in a private way?
2. What are the reactions wedding planner Siobhan Craven-Robins expects from out of the ordinary proposals?
3. True, false or not given: *People who are not in love with their partner don't say 'yes' to public proposals.*
4. In the article, where did the refused marriage proposal take place?
5. Look at the article. Can you find the expression used when referring to putting pressure on people to make a decision?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Martha loves singing loudly. It's _____ when she does it in the library and people complain.

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| entangling | embarrassing | mortified | distraught |
|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|

2. Oh! You've just asked me if my salary is higher than yours? Now you've put me on _____.

| | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|------------|
| the dot | the wall | the spot | the circle |
|---------|----------|----------|------------|

3. A doctor's _____ to abandon thousands of refugees in the border area between Sudan and the new nation of South Sudan has left him in great danger.

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| refusal | constrained | recipient | intrusive |
|---------|-------------|-----------|-----------|

4. My team lost the match this weekend and had two players sent off the pitch for bad behaviour. It's no surprise they were _____!

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-------|
| consoled | recipient | thrilled | booed |
|----------|-----------|----------|-------|

5. Roger is very lazy and does not care about his studies. His father has low _____ for his future.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|--------|
| elaborate | pressure | expectations | dreams |
|-----------|----------|--------------|--------|

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. According to the article, what are the places where people used to propose marriage in a private way? A restaurant or a peaceful garden.
2. What are the reactions wedding planner Siobhan Craven-Robins expects from out of the ordinary proposals? That people feel either thrilled or mortified.
3. True, false or not given: *People who are not in love with their partner don't say 'yes' to public proposals.* False. According to the article, they might feel they have no choice but accept the proposal.
4. In the article, where did the refused marriage proposal take place? They were in the US, at a NBA basketball match.
5. Look at the article. Can you find the expression used when referring to putting pressure on people to make a decision? Put on the spot.

Exercise 练习

1. Martha loves singing loudly. It's embarrassing when she does it in the library and people complain.
2. Oh! You've just asked me if my salary is higher than yours? Now you've put me on the spot.
3. A doctor's refusal to abandon thousands of refugees in the border area between Sudan and the new nation of South Sudan has left him in great danger.
4. My team lost the match this weekend and had two players sent off the pitch for bad behaviour. It's no surprise they were booed!
5. Roger is very lazy and does not care about his studies. His father has low expectations for his future.

Glossary 词汇表

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| to propose | 求婚 |
| to nod (her/his) head | 点头同意 |
| elaborate | 夸张的, 复杂的 |
| a recipient | 接收者 |
| to put on the spot | 让人为难, 即刻作出决定 |
| thrilled | 使人兴奋 |
| mortified | 使人羞愧 |
| expectation | 期望 |
| out of the ordinary | 与众不同的 |
| a ploy | 一种策略 |
| constrained | 约束 |
| to pile pressure upon (somebody) | 给某人施加压力 |
| the likelihood | 可能性 |
| a positive response | 一个正面的答复 |
| public pressure | 公众压力 |
| intrusive | 侵扰 |
| embarrassing | 尴尬 |
| refusal | 拒绝 |
| to be booed | 被人嘘 |
| distraught | 心烦意乱的, 沮丧的 |
| to be consoled | 受人安抚, 安慰 |