

Ring the divorce lawyer! 没戒指：婚姻失败？

Vocabulary: Love, marriage and divorce 词汇：爱情，婚姻和离婚

Does the removal of a wedding ring mean that **marital bliss** has gone or even that divorce is looming? That seems to be the message people are sending when they **take off** their **wedding band**. Actress Katie Holmes was seen in New York without hers after **filing for divorce** from Tom Cruise.

As soon as the newspapers suggest that a celebrity relationship is **on the rocks**, the couple will be **scrutinised** for real signs the marriage is over - the "noticeably **bare finger**".



Not everyone **wears a ring** after they get married, but for those who do it is usually deeply **symbolic**, a sign of **commitment**. There's a painful contrast between the **joyous** ceremony involved when people **tie the knot**, and the loneliness when things haven't **worked out**.

For some couples, the ring comes off and goes back on as the relationship goes through its **ups and downs**. "Taking it off does help one psychologically," says **agony aunt** Virginia Ironside. "But it's a pretty emotional decision."

If the separation appears to be **amicable**, some people might not rush to remove the ring. Singer Seal said in an interview that he'd wear his ring, even after it had been announced that he and wife Heidi Klum were **to split**. "It's **a token of** how I feel about this woman," he said.

But on the other hand, the divorce process can be lengthy and many people get anxious over the right time to remove the ring - when lawyers are taken on, or when the **decree absolute** comes through. Many will feel they are living a lie wearing it, but are worried in case it looks like they are back on the **dating scene**.

The ring was supposedly worn on fourth finger of the left hand because of a belief in ancient times in a vein running from there directly to the heart, which the Romans called "vena amoris" - "vein of love". Archaeologists found evidence of brides' **wedding bands** in hieroglyphics of ancient Egyptians, for whom a circle symbolised eternity.

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. What happens when newspapers say that a relationship is not going well?
2. Look at the article. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Seal decided to wear his wedding band because his wife was still in love with him.*
3. What is the name of the final legal step to end a marriage?
4. What expression is used in the article that means 'to get married'?
5. According to the article, what other two civilizations used a ring to represent marriage?

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. The Finance minister has justified the high rate of inflation by saying that all the economies have their _____.

on and offs	more or less	ups and downs	down and outs
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2. Mary was very tearful this morning. Her relationship with her boyfriend was _____.

in the woods	on the rocks	by the sea	out of sight
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3. As soon as he's moved to France, John wanted to find a girlfriend and was checking out the _____ scene.

meeting	finding	kissing	dating
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4. When my sister's husband left her after two years of marital _____ she gave up on love and marriage.

bliss	boss	rocks	knot
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5. I'm very good at counselling people on their problems. Maybe I should look for a job as an agony _____.

mother	sister	aunt	teacher
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What happens when newspapers say that a relationship is not going well? The couple is scrutinised for signs that the marriage is really over.
2. Look at the article. Is this statement true, false or not given: *Seal decided to wear his wedding band because his wife was still in love with him?* It's not given. All we know is that he sees it as a symbol of how he feels about his wife.
3. What is the name of the final legal step to end a marriage? A decree absolute.
4. What expression is used in the article that means 'to get married'? To tie the knot.
5. According to the article, what other two civilizations used a ring to represent marriage? Ancient Romans and Ancient Egyptians.

Exercise 练习

1. The Finance minister has justified the high rate of inflation by saying that all the economies have their ups and downs.
2. Mary was very tearful this morning. Her relationship with her boyfriend was on the rocks.
3. As soon as he's moved to France, John wanted to find a girlfriend and was checking out the dating scene.
4. When my sister's husband left her after two years of marital bliss she gave up on love and marriage.
5. I'm very good at counselling people on their problems. Maybe I should look for a job as an agony aunt.

Glossary 词汇表

marital bliss	婚姻之幸福
to take off (a ring)	摘下（戒指）
a wedding band	结婚戒指
to file (for divorce)	提出（离婚）
on the rocks	关系（触礁）紧张
to scrutinise	仔细的查看
a bare finger	光手指（什么都没戴）
to wear (a ring)	戴上（戒指）
symbolic	象征性的
commitment	承诺
joyous	欢乐的
to tie the knot	结婚，联姻
to work out	解决（问题）
ups and downs	起伏
an agony aunt	一个读者来信专栏
amicable	友好的
to split	分离，分道扬镳
a token of (something)	一种表示
a decree absolute	法庭离婚判决书
dating scene	约会场景