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Level 5

Study shows there are two divorce seasons

25th August, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season-5.html>

Couples should put more effort into their marriage just before March and August each year. Sociologists have identified spikes in the number of divorces in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. between 2001 and 2015. The scientists found that over this 14-year period, 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 because of money problems caused by the winter and summer holidays.

Researcher Julie Brines suggested that couples felt stressed and down when the excitement of holidays was over. She said: "People tend to face the holidays with rising expectations." 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 usually spend more time together during holidays. This may actually make tensions worse rather than bring people closer together.

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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. put more effort | a. of divorces |
| 2. just before | b. peaked in August |
| 3. spikes in the number | c. filed in the U.S. |
| 4. divorces | d. by the winter |
| 5. over this | e. holidays |
| 6. divorce rates | f. into their marriage |
| 7. New Year | g. 14-year period |
| 8. money problems caused | h. March |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. couples felt stressed | a. tensions worse |
| 2. the excitement of holidays | b. face the holidays |
| 3. People tend to | c. beginning |
| 4. rising | d. closer together |
| 5. the opportunity for a new | e. of life |
| 6. a transition into a new period | f. and down |
| 7. This may actually make | g. expectations |
| 8. bring people | h. was over |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season-5.html>

Couples should (1) _____ into their marriage just before March and August each year. Sociologists have (2) _____ the number of divorces in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed (3) _____ filed in the U.S. between 2001 and 2015. The scientists found that over this 14-year period, divorce (4) _____ August, after the summer holidays, and in March, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Some researchers said the divorces (5) _____ of money problems (6) _____ winter and summer holidays.

Researcher Julie Brines suggested that (7) _____ and down when the excitement of holidays was over. She said: "People tend to face the holidays with (8) _____." She added: "[Holidays] (9) _____ in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for a new beginning, (10) _____, something different, a transition into (11) _____ of life. It's like an optimism cycle." Couples usually spend more time together during holidays. This may actually make tensions (12) _____ bring people closer together.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season-5.html>

Couples should put more effort into their marriage just before March and August each year. Sociologists have identified spikes in the number of divorces in these two months. Researchers from the University of Washington analysed data for divorces filed in the U.S. between 2001 and 2015. The scientists found that over this 14-year period, 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 because of money problems caused by the winter and summer holidays. Researcher Julie Brinnes suggested that couples felt stressed and down when the excitement of holidays was over. She said: "People tend to face the holiday with rising expectations." 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 usually spend more time together during holidays. This may actually make tensions worse rather than bring people closer together.

DIVORCE SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1608/160825-divorce-season-4.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

Study shows there are two divorce seasons – 25th August, 2016
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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

