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**Divorce 离婚**

- Jo: Today on BBC Learning English Li and I are going to be answering another of your Ask About Britain questions on British life and culture. Hello Li.
- Li: Hi Jo. 是的, 今天的 BBC 英语教学栏目英国问答节目将回答有关英国文化与生活领域的一个新问题。提问者是中国的 Julie.
- Jo: Julie sent us a lovely long email with lots of questions in. Now I'm afraid we can't answer all of those questions in one programme but I have picked out a couple of interesting ones to answer for her. One thing she wanted to know is what is the divorce rate in the UK.
- Li: Divorce 离婚。Rate 比例。The divorce rate 就是离婚率。英国的离婚率有多高?
- Jo: And she also wants to know reasons why people get divorced. Well I spoke to Chris McIntosh from the Kingsley Napley law firm. He is a solicitor specialising in divorce.
- Li: A law firm 法律事务所, a solicitor 律师。嗯, 我想, 这是今天的两个关键词了, 那么针对英国的离婚率, 他都说了些什么呢?

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*The divorce rate at the moment is approximately 40% of marriages will end in divorce. The office of national statistics is saying that if trends continue, that is going to head towards 45%. I'm not sure of the exact reason for the increase but it has perhaps led to people choosing to cohabit rather than actually marrying. Certainly the rate of marriages has reduced at the same time as the rate of divorces.*

- Jo: So the divorce rate at the moment is approximately 40% of marriages will end in divorce. Approximately.
- Li: 大体上。有大约 40% 的婚姻将以离婚告终。克里斯引用的是国家统计局办公室的数字。
- Jo: The Office of National Statistics. They are saying that if trends continue. A trend.
- Li: 趋势。如果这种趋势持续下去, 那么离婚率将上升到 45% 的程度。这里动词 to head 意思是朝一个特定的方向发展。

Jo: If trends continue that figure of 40% is going to head towards 45%.

Li: Chris 认为这项预测导致人们选择只同居而不结婚。

Jo: It has perhaps led to people choosing to cohabit, to live together, without being married.

Li: 同居就是 cohabit.

Jo: Chris says that the rate of marriages has reduced at the same time as the rate of divorces. So because there are a lot of divorces, people are choosing to cohabit rather than get married.

Li: 这么说，很多人都因为离婚率之高而对结婚这件事感到担心。Let's listen to Chris again.

### Insert

*The divorce rate at the moment is approximately 40% of marriages will end in divorce. The office of national statistics is saying that if trends continue, that is going to head towards 45%. I'm not sure of the exact reason for the increase but it has perhaps led to people choosing to cohabit rather than actually marrying. Certainly the rate of marriages has reduced at the same time as the rate of divorces.*

Jo: Chris also told us how the divorce rate in the UK compares to the rates in other countries.

Li: 那么和其他国家相比有什么不同？

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*Well I haven't got statistics on this to hand I'm afraid but I was told yesterday that we have the highest rate in Europe. However I do know that in America the rate is approx 50%.*

Li: Chris 说，很遗憾的是他手头上没有现成的数字。To have something to hand. 不过他说英国与欧洲其他国家相比是离婚率最高的国家了，当然还比不上美国，那里的离婚率是 50%。

Jo: This is Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English and today we're finding out for Julie about divorce in the UK.

Li: 是的，这位同学想了解英国的离婚率和离婚的原因。我们专门采访了英国离婚事务律师 Chris McIntosh 他根据自己的从业经验介绍了人们离婚的几大主要原因。请大家注意听，他罗列的原因都有哪些？

### Insert

*I think people often grow apart, they forget to care for the relationship, other things come into their lives before they realise that they're not communicating with their spouse in the same way. It seems to me that often people come here and they start off by giving us the background and they would say well I went abroad to work for a while and my wife and children stayed behind and during that period*

*they grew apart. I think affairs are not necessarily the main reason and I do sometimes wonder if perhaps the affair is a symptom rather than the actual cause of the breakdown of the marriage.*

Jo: So lots of reasons. He said he thinks people grow apart.

Li: 渐渐疏远。他说人们渐渐地忘了要爱惜自己的情侣关系。关心和爱护 **to care about**. 由于生活中不断出现变化，一时间两人竟发现自己不再像以前那样和对方进行沟通了。配偶就是 **spouse**.

Jo: **Spouse is another word for husband or wife. Things come into their lives before they realise that they're not communicating with their spouse in the same way.**

Li: **Communicate** 交流沟通。

Jo: **Another common story Chris hears is people who go abroad to work for a while.**

Li: 出国。有些人到国外去工作，而他们的家属仍然留在国内。

Jo: **During that period or that time, they grow apart. Chris also mentions affairs.**

Li: 指情侣或婚姻关系之外的艳遇，偷情。

Jo: **He says affairs are not necessarily the main reason for divorce but he does wonder.**

Li: 他提出了一个疑问：婚外恋或偷情不一定是导致离婚的主要原因，而是婚姻有问题的一种征兆。

Jo: **He wonders if affairs are a symptom, or a sign that the marriage is breaking down rather than a cause of the breakdown.**

Li: **A symptom** 征兆，迹象， **a cause** 原因， **marriage breakdown** 婚姻破裂。Here's that clip from Chris again.

### **Insert**

*I think people often grow apart, they forget to care for the relationship, other things come into their lives before they realise that they're not communicating with their spouse in the same way. It seems to me that often people come here and they start off by giving us the background and they would say well I went abroad to work for a while and my wife and children stayed behind and during that period they grew apart. I think affairs are not necessarily the main reason and I do sometimes wonder if perhaps the affair is a symptom rather than the actual cause of the breakdown of the marriage.*

Jo: So thank you Julie for your question. We hope we've helped to answer it for you. And thanks to Chris for all the information on divorce.

Li: 虽然这次有关离婚率的讨论听上去好像是个负面话题，不过我们可以告诉大家的是，决定结婚和保持婚姻关系的英国人大有人在！

Jo: Now if you have a question you want to ask us, send us an email [chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:chinaelt@bbc.co.uk) or you can look at other programmes we make on our website [www.bbcchina.com.cn](http://www.bbcchina.com.cn).

Li: Thanks for listening. We'll see you next time.

Jo: Bye for now.

### Glossary

<b>divorce rate</b> 离婚率	<b>solicitor</b> 普通律师
<b>approximately</b> 大约/大体上	<b>a trend</b> 趋势
<b>to head somewhere</b> 超某个方向发展	<b>to cohabit</b> 同居
<b>to have something to hand</b> 现成的	<b>statistics</b> 统计数字
<b>spouse</b> 配偶	<b>affairs</b> (婚姻情侣关系之外的) 艳遇/偷情
<b>to wonder</b> (提出) 疑问	<b>marriage breakdown</b> 婚姻破裂