

## EPISODE 62

### LEVEL B2

#### READING COMPREHENSION



#### BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH – CONFUSING WORDS

In this lesson we are going to look at a variety of commonly used expressions to do with birth, marriage and death that are often confused.

##### BE BORN

We say that **children are born**, e.g. according to some statistics, 100 **babies are born** every single minute. The most often used context for the verb is when you introduce yourself and say: '**I was born** in 1968, in Poland.'



##### BIRTH

is the moment when someone is born, so you can say, e.g. 'Albert's sister died **at birth**.' or '**The birth of a child** is always great news for the family'.

##### BIRTHDAY

is a celebration of the day of your birth, which you often spend with your friends and family. 'I'm giving a **birthday party** next weekend. Can you come?' 'His **birthday** is on March 5<sup>th</sup>. He will be 35 this year.'

##### BE MARRIED

describes a person who is someone's husband or wife: 'How long **have you been married**?' '**Married people** don't go out as much as they used to when they were single.'

##### MARRIAGE

Is a relationship between a husband and wife: 'Ted and Barbara have had a **long and happy marriage**.' 'More and more **marriages** end in divorce.'

##### MARRY

If someone **marries** someone else, they become the husband or wife of that person: 'Will **you marry me**?' 'The day **I married Greg** was the happiest day of my life.'

##### DEAD

is someone who does not live any more: 'The police don't know whether the suspect is still alive or **dead** already.' 'In autumn **dead leaves** fall down from trees.'

##### DEATH

is the state of being dead: 'The **cause of her death** was internal bleeding.' 'Hundreds of

children **starve to death** each day. They have absolutely nothing to eat.'

## DIE

means to stop being alive: 'My grandmother **died of cancer** (= cancer was the cause of her death).' 'Who is ready **to die** for their country these days?'



### EXERCISE 1

Match the conversation halves.

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. When is his birthday?                    | a. About one hundred. |
| 2. What was the cause of her death?         | b. For five years.    |
| 3. How many children are born every minute? | c. On March 5th.      |
| 4. Will you marry me?                       | d. In autumn.         |
| 5. When do dead leaves fall from the trees? | e. Yes!               |
| 6. How long have you been married?          | f. Cancer.            |



### EXERCISE 2

Complete each gap with one word, then answer the questions.

1. What is the recipe for a long and h..... marriage?
2. What is the best idea for a b..... party?
3. What is the most frequent cause ..... deaths in Poland?

## ENGLISH IN USE



Look at the following sentence from the lesson:

*'Albert's sister died at birth.'*

I'd like us to answer a question: 'Why do we say 'Albert's sister' and not 'the sister of Albert' in English?' Both are examples of a structure called '**saxon genitive**', used when **talking about possession**, someone/something belonging to someone/something else. A general rule here is that:

- we normally use '-s' for people and animals, e.g.

*'Where is the **manager's** office?'*

*'What colour is **Mark's** car?'*

- for things, ideas etc. we normally use 'of', e.g.

'He was sitting at the **back of the car** in complete silence.'

'What is the **name of the book** you got from Kate?'

Remember that:

- after a singular noun we use 's  
(my brother's room = one brother)
- after plural nouns we use an apostrophe after 's'  
(my brothers' clothes = more than one brother)

if a plural noun doesn't end in 's', we use 's (the children's books)

## IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ How is your mother?

B/ Not well, I'm afraid. She's **AT DEATH'S DOOR**.

If you're **at death's door**, you're very ill or likely to die.

## PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **MARRY somebody OFF**, you find a husband or wife for them.

They tried to **marry their daughter off** to a rich businessman.

She was **married off** to the mayor's son at the age of sixteen.

2. If you **MARRY INTO** something, you become a member of e.g. a family, religion, social group by becoming the wife or husband of another member.

All of their daughters **married into** important local families.

There is nothing wrong in **marrying into** money.

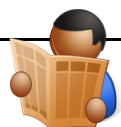


### EXERCISE 3

Choose the best option to complete each sentence.

1. Susan married *with/ in/ into* a Protestant family.
2. The Smiths wanted to marry all their kids *off/ out/ for* as soon as possible.
3. Jack is *on/ at/ in front of* death's door. I pray for his recovery.

## NEWS



## MISSING BODIES

The mystery of missing bodies in several Third World countries remains unsolved.

It has been rumoured for a few years that not all of the **deceased** get to receive a proper **burial**. Sometimes it is the case that the bodies mysteriously disappear just before the funeral ceremony, and the **bereaved** are unable to **pay their last respects**.

The authorities are well aware of the phenomenon, but are **at a loss** when asked to explain the cause of the events. They **stipulate** that the bodies might be stolen and transported to Europe and the USA, where they might be used for organ transplants, or for other medical procedures. Of course, the whole enterprise is highly unethical and **profoundly** illegal.

## GLOSSARY

- **deceased** – dead
- **burial** – funeral
- **the bereaved** – someone whose close friend or family member has just died
- **pay their last respects** – attend the funeral
- **at a loss** – unable to do sth
- **stipulate** – speculate
- **profoundly** - deeply

<b>KEY TO EXERCISES</b>
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### Ex.1

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. d
6. b

### Ex. 2

1. happy
2. birthday
3. of

### Ex.3

1. into
2. off
3. at