

## CHAPTER THREE

# DATING

CHOI SEONG HWAN



What's it like to date someone from another culture? In this chapter we discuss the uncertainties of dating, the connection between dating and marriage, and the role parents play in providing guidance.

**IN THIS CHAPTER, STUDENTS WILL**

- 1. EXAMINE THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.**
- 2. LEARN ABOUT THE KEY CONCEPTS IN THE CHAPTER—ARRANGED MARRIAGE, DATING, CHAUVINISM, COMMITMENT, EXPECTATIONS, AND SUPPORT.**
- 3. READ THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON DATING.**
- 4. REREAD THE DISCUSSION AND ANSWER READING TASKS.**
- 5. TAKE THE READING COMPREHENSION TEST.**
- 6. DISCUSS THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH THE KEY CONCEPTS AND ANALYZE REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS**
- 7. CONDUCT A SURVEY ON DATING ATTITUDES AND REPORT THE RESULTS IN CLASS.**
- 8. DO A ROLE PLAY AND A LISTENING EXERCISE.**
- 9. DO EXERCISES ON WORDS IN THE CHAPTER AND CROSS-REFERENCING.**
- 10. DO A CROSSWORD PUZZLE BASED ON WORDS IN THE CHAPTER.**

---

## LET'S START WITH YOU

Rate the following statements according to this scale.

- 5—strongly agree
- 4—agree
- 3—neither agree nor disagree
- 2—disagree
- 1—strongly disagree



1. \_\_\_\_ When women and men share dating expenses equally, it is a sign that they are equal and treat each other as equals.
2. \_\_\_\_ People who are in a relationship with each other should be honest and open about everything.
3. \_\_\_\_ A person should feel free to date someone from a different country, religion, or race.
4. \_\_\_\_ Dating is basically a way of finding a marriage partner.
5. \_\_\_\_ The “meeting” is on its way out. In five years it will be a thing of the past.
6. \_\_\_\_ A woman and a man should feel equally free to telephone the other and suggest going out.
7. \_\_\_\_ Parents should educate their children about sex.
8. \_\_\_\_ Sex is only meaningful inside a warm and loving relationship.
9. \_\_\_\_ Dating in high school is OK as long as the parents meet their children’s dates and set rules for their children’s behavior.
10. \_\_\_\_ Marriages based on love have a better chance for success than arranged marriages (see definition below).
11. \_\_\_\_ A romantic moment with someone should be like in the movies—with the right music, lighting and atmosphere.

---

## LET'S LOOK AT KEY CONCEPTS.

An **arranged marriage** is planned by the parents of the man and the woman and maybe a marriage broker. Often the main purpose of the marriage is not to insure the happiness of the couple, but to unite the two families or to make sure the family's money remains in the same social class. (neutral connotation)

The **marriages** of all the members of the royal family were **arranged**. (neutral)

A **date** is a meeting planned in advance between two people who are or might become romantic or sexual partners. Your **date** is also the person you are meeting. (neutral)

They **were dating** for several years before they got married. (neutral)

Actually, we met through a **computerized dating service**. (neutral)

That's **your date**? Is he cute! (neutral)

You have an "appointment" with your boyfriend? You mean a "**date**"? (neutral)

**Chauvinism** is the strong and unreasonable belief that your own country, sex or race is the most important. The name comes from Nicolas Chauvin, a character in a French play\* who displays excessive patriotism and devotion to Napoleon. (negative)

I'm tired of all the **male chauvinism** we see in the office. You'd think the men had hung the moon! (negative)

That was a really **chauvinistic remark**. How could he believe people from other countries would agree with him? (negative)

A **commitment** is a promise of loyalty to a person, cause, activity or belief. (neutral or positive connotation)

I'd like to become the club president, but I don't want to **make a commitment** until I see how busy I'll be with my new job. (neutral)

They have a very **committed relationship**; they are obviously devoted to each other. (positive)

After I bought all this exercise equipment, I realized I'd **committed myself** to using it. (neutral)

---

\* The play is the *La Cocarde Tricolore*, written in 1831 by Théodore and Hippolyte Cogniard.

Your **expectations** are what you think or believe will happen. (neutral)

In the nineteenth century, immigrants coming to America had **great/high expectations** which no country could have met—the dream was of a place where the streets were paved with gold. (neutral or positive)

I probably suffered less culture shock than my friends because I had **few expectations** of what I would find in Asia. (neutral)

After I quit drinking, my life turned around, and now I am happy **beyond all expectations**. (positive)

Someone who **supports** you gives you encouragement and approval because he or she wants you to succeed. (positive) You may also **support** someone financially. (neutral)

I have a very **supportive husband**. He expects me to follow my own dreams, not just stay in the background **being supportive of him**. (positive)

Note: In current usage, the term *lover* does not mean someone you love, it means someone you are having sex with. Similarly, a hundred years ago, “to make love” often meant to look in someone’s eyes while talking sweetly, but nowadays it means “to have sex, usually with someone you love.”

---

## LET’S TEST OURSELVES.

Exercise: Without looking at the previous section, fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word for the appropriate key concept.

Westerners might think of Prince Charles and Princess Diana when they think of an \_\_\_\_\_ marriage, but in Korea this custom is fairly common, particularly if the single person has passed a certain age or if the family has a lot of money. In many countries, computerized \_\_\_\_\_ services have become fairly common. These companies offer to match you with someone of the right age, sex, interests and location. They show pictures of people who have formed long-term, \_\_\_\_\_ relationships through their service. Some people, however, don’t have great \_\_\_\_\_ of finding true love. Marcy, for example, says, “I see so much \_\_\_\_\_ among the men I know. They seem so proud of themselves. And they’re unable to make a \_\_\_\_\_. They just want to go out and have a good time. I’d like to find a man who can be \_\_\_\_\_ when I need him to be. I think all the good men must be taken already.”

---

## LET'S JOIN THE ROUNDTABLE.

**Reading task:**

1. Who goes on dates in the U.S.? What generalizations can be made?

“You know, I’ve always been curious about American dating,” Sun-ok says. “Is it anything like the movies?”

“I think that would depend on the movie,” Han-shin says, smiling.

Jane nods. “And also on the American. ‘Dating’ covers the social activities of heterosexual and homosexual people of all ages, from middle school students to people past retirement age.”

“You usually think of dating as something single people do,” and says with a smile, “but when my husband was alive we used to have a regular date on Saturday nights. We’d maybe have dinner and go to a movie in order to spend time with each other away from work, housework and the children. I think nowadays that’s pretty common for married couples.”

“That’s right,” Jane says. “People behave in very different ways, but you can make some generalizations.”

“For example?”

“Well, nowadays I think men and women usually share dating expenses—and probably share them about equally. Many people, maybe most people, are also looking for long-term, committed relationships.”

### *The search for a spouse*

“You mean marriage.”

“Well, marriage or something similar. People want to love and be loved. They want to take responsibility for their own happiness and the happiness of their partner, as much as they can. I know that in Korea at one time you could talk about one without the other, but in the U.S. they’re always linked—at least in people’s minds. Nowadays people might go out more for fun or companionship, but the thought of marriage is usually around somewhere. That’s because it’s the job of young people to find their own husbands and wives. And dating, in one form or another, is how it’s done.”

“I don’t know that it’s that much different in Korea,” Sun-ok says. “Of course, in Korea we also have arranged marriage, which you don’t, but all of the Korean men I’ve gone out with have talked about marriage. It’s as if dating is supposed to be marriage in training.”

**Reading task:**

2. According to Han-shin, what stereotypes do Western men have about Korean women? What stereotypes do Korean women have about Western men?
3. How does she describe her relationship with Bruce? How is he different than the Korean men she dated?



*One woman's opinion*

Han-shin smiles. “Well, some Western men think Asian women are obedient—until they find out differently—but I guess in general Asian women are still more obedient than Western women. Bruce isn’t like that, anyway. I’m pretty sure he doesn’t expect obedience from me. He can do everything around the house—he cooks, and he does dishes... everything. I think I’m pretty lucky.”

“Yeah,” he’s a good guy,” Anne says.

“Actually, I’ve never thought in terms of Western and Korean,” Han-shin says. “I haven’t had any difficulties because he’s a

foreigner. I’ve never felt under any pressure to understand him. He’s just like me—I don’t see any difference. Some Asian women date Westerners because they think they’re sexy, they’re different, they take care of women and they have good manners. That’s nonsense. It depends on the individual. I think Bruce is Bruce. But I don’t think I’m a typical Korean.”

“How’s that?” Jane asks.

“I’m more open, and Westerners can see that about me. So if I want to do something—like date this guy—I do it. I try to be honest, especially with myself. But one place where I do see a difference is that Koreans never talk about an ex-girlfriend or boyfriend with the present one, and Westerners do. We think it can hurt people’s feelings.”

“I think that’s a good idea—not to.”

“I felt jealous yesterday when he talked about the past, but what we are trying to do is express our feelings and talk to each other frankly and honestly. So I told him how I felt. I don’t want to hide my feelings from him. He always says, ‘Please don’t hide anything. Just tell me what you feel.’ I think that’s really cool.”

“Sure. Your real feelings are bound to come out sooner or later anyway.”

Han-shin looks thoughtful. “I’ve been out with Korean men, but it always ends the same way. They think I’m too independent or too imaginative. They’re afraid they won’t be able to control me. They were always pretending. I hate it. They say things like, ‘You’re like a flower, I should protect you from the rain.’ No. I don’t want to throw my dreams away. I want someone who can support me in the things I want to do. If I want to go to India, I’ll want him to say, ‘Go to India. You can do that.’ I want a friend near me. I want someone who doesn’t have to create a special mood before he can kiss me.”

Anne nods. “Now that was the U.S. in the 1950’s. All the boys followed a set procedure. About the middle of the movie, an arm would come creeping along the top of your chair. Then in about half an hour your shoulder would get a little squeeze.”

“I hate that,” Han-shin exclaims. “Be creative, and be honest. I don’t know exactly what Bruce thinks, but I don’t think he finds me very different from American women. Bruce and I are very much alike.”

“Are you thinking about the future?”

“Well, yes and no. He wants to go back to the States and try something different from teaching English. I want to go to graduate school. Maybe we’ll meet again, maybe not. Right now we’re just living in the moment.”

“Ultimately, I think that’s all people can do,” Anne says.

**Reading task:**

4. In the US, what problems can arise when someone suggests going out?

*Is it just lunch or is it a date?*

“You know,” Jane says with a thoughtful expression on her face, “in North America, people can’t be up-front about what they’re expecting to happen when they go out. You can arrange to have coffee, lunch or dinner and a movie and not know what the other person expects to happen. Is it the beginning of a relationship? Is it just lunch between friends or is it a first date?”

Han-shin nods. “That’s because in America women and men can be friends.”

“Partly,” Jane agrees, “and partly because they hide their emotions. Both people are nervous and neither wants to reveal that he or she may want or expect more than the other person. We often put a lot of effort into trying to figure out little social signals.”

**Reading task:**

5. What was Tom’s experience dating a Korean woman in 1972?

*Three Steps Behind*

“Can a man join you?” Tom inquires, as he stands leaning over the table.

Han-shin stands up. “You can have my chair. I have to go.”

“You can join the conversation if you don’t act like a man and monopolize it,”

Anne jokes.

“Or interrupt,” Anne adds.

“Not that anyone’s stereotyping,” Tom responds with a smile. “Let me get my coffee, and I’ll be right back.”

After everyone has said goodbye to Han-shin, Sun-ok asks Tom, “Didn’t you date Korean women when you first came to Korea?”

“Before I met Betty, yes. I dated a girl at Ewha. She was a really nice girl, but there were a lot of things I found strange.”

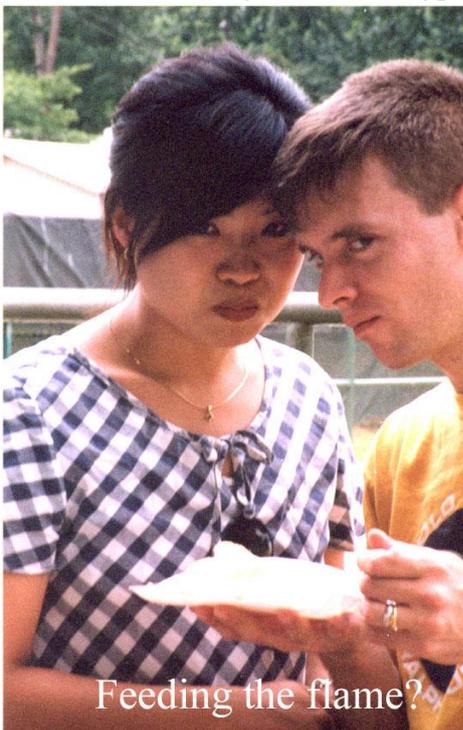
“Like what?”

“Well, like—in 1972 nobody had a car. You had to walk or ride the bus. We would walk down the street, but never side by side. She would walk several paces behind me.”

“What?”

“Remember, this was 1972. At first I thought, ‘What kind of male chauvinism is this? This is ridiculous.’ But it was explained to me that she was not really deferring to me...”

“I’m not so sure about that,” Anne counters.



“At least not to me personally,” Tom continues. “It was a matter of saving face. Since I was a Westerner, if she had walked with me, people on the street might have been rude to her and called her a prostitute.”

“That still happens,” Jane asserts.

“Yes, but nobody walks behind you on the street. People are either willing to date a foreigner or they’re not. And, male ego aside, it’s really hard to try to carry on a conversation with someone behind you—hard on the neck. Eventually, we started going separately. We’d meet in a coffee shop, say, ‘Should we have dinner? Fine, where should we meet?’ Then she’d leave, and I’d leave a few minutes later.”

“What else was different from dating an American woman?” Sun-ok asks.

“Well, on the first date she hit me with questions about all aspects of my life. She would not let up. I was stunned, and when she noticed that I was not firing questions back at her, she said, ‘What’s the matter? Have I done something wrong?’ Particularly since we were speaking English at the time, she was often uncertain about what was going on. But Betty and I got to know each other in the usual American way. We went out twice for dinner, a movie and small talk, and on the third date there was a mutual outpouring of our hopes and dreams for the future. That’s when we really clicked.”

**Reading task:**

6. How did people pair off at a “meeting”?

*The so-called “meeting”*

“Didn’t you go to some ‘meetings’ with other students?”

“Sure, Anne. I told you about that. When I first arrived, I lived in a *hasuk-chip*, a boarding house, and I became good friends with some of the other guys living there. We lived together, ate together, drank together, and sometimes we went out on dates together. Occasionally they took me along to a ‘meeting,’ which is sort of a group blind date.”

“How does that work?” Jane asks.

“Traditionally, the reason these social gatherings was not to find a marriage partner, because traditionally that’s arranged. It was a way of learning how to talk to the opposite sex. I guess university freshmen still have them, although people used to complain about how boring they were. The girls and boys show up at the place, which might be in the large back room of a coffee house, and then there’s some way of pairing them off. Maybe the guys each take some personal item, like a pen, and put it on a table. The girls are all watching, and each one picks up the object of the boy she likes. Sometimes they arrange this among themselves. ‘Okay, I’ll take that one, and you take that one...’ It can also happen that all the girls reach for the same pen. That makes the guy feel great, but the others just want to go home. I’m laughing because I’ve seen it happen. So people pair off and then sit around talking to each other. You have to be polite, even if you don’t like each other. It’s extremely awkward, people are very nervous, and usually they’re disappointed because their expectations were much too high.”

“So this is like a blind date?” Jane asks.

Sun-ok nods. “But nowadays it’s likely to be much more informal. Six people may just meet someplace and pair off.”

“It’s easier to meet people in the U.S., partly because of co-educational schools,” Jane says to Sun-ok, “although it’s clear that some of my *hakwŏn* classes are just an informal dating bureau.”

“Yeah, so are the ‘circles,’ or clubs on university campuses.”

**Reading task:**

7. How does a typical date begin with American high school students?

*Among young people*

Jane continues, “At home, a young person is likely to meet someone at school. Maybe they talk during or between classes, and then one of them calls the other one up and suggests going to a movie or a ball game. The boy has to meet the girl’s parents and has to agree to certain rules, like when to bring her home. If the girl and the boy see each other very long, the boy’s parents probably get to know the girl too. But everything is much more casual than it is here.”

“Attitudes are changing rapidly, but many Koreans still wouldn’t approve of people dating when they’re still in high school,” Sun-ok says, “or even younger. In Korea young people have to concentrate on their studies.”

“That’s one place where I really agree,” Anne interjects. “I can’t say I approve of all the pressure that’s placed on Korean young people to study as hard as Koreans do, but I really don’t approve of the pressure placed on American middle school children to develop socially.”

Tom interrupts, “In both cases, children are robbed of their childhood.”

“That’s right,” Sun-ok agrees. “And I don’t like to see Korea become more ‘Western’ in a way that some Westerners don’t approve of.”

**Reading task:**

8. How is sex education handled by some American parents?

*Education begins at home*

Jane shakes her head. “Hmm, to be honest, when I look at my students—and sometimes my colleagues—I’m glad I was raised in a more casual environment. I think a lot of things in my life were easier because of it.”

“You and your mother seem to have been able to talk about dating and sex fairly easily,” Sun-ok says. “I think such discussions would be very difficult in a Korean family.”

“Mom and I had a lot of mother-daughter talks,” Jane agrees, “and Mom talked fairly freely with my grandmother, who wanted my mother to feel good about herself as a woman.”

Anne looks at Sun-ok. “When I was raising my three boys, I tried to treat sex like any other problem. For example, my oldest son could read when he was five years old. When we were at the playground one day, he came up and asked me about some things he’d seen written on the restroom walls. I had to make a decision about what to do with his questions, and I thought it would be better if the children heard about sex from me than from someone else.”

“Like more dirty words on the playground,” Jane interrupts.

“That’s right. There was another mother of boys in the neighborhood, and we found a super little book with pictures.”

“Written for children,” Jane adds approvingly.

“Of course. My son and I read it together, and we talked about sex as a special part of a committed relationship. He was a very bright child, and he took it all in. All the boys—I’m not giving myself credit for this—but all of them are married and have good relationships with their wives. So I think it makes a big difference what you say and do in this whole area.”

“Not only with how people behave toward others, but with how they feel about themselves,” Jane adds.

Sun-ok shakes her head. “I don’t think most Korean parents are ready for that,” she says.

*Going out*

“Well, I have to go,” Jane says as she stands up and picks up her coffee cup. “I have to go home and get ready for a date.”

“Is that a coincidence?” Anne asks, somewhat amused. “Who’re you going out with?”

“Just another teacher at my *hakwŏn*. We’re going to an early movie and then have dinner someplace.”

“You don’t want us old folks to look him over and give our opinion of him, do you?” Tom asks jokingly.

“You’re right,” Jane says with a silly expression on her face, “I don’t.”

---

## LET’S TEST OURSELVES.

- 1. In the United States, the term *dating* is used for the social activities of**
  - a. unmarried young people
  - b. people of any age
  - c. people of many lifestyles
  - d. married couples who want to spend time with their spouses
  - e. all of the above.
- 2. In the United States, when someone asks you to go have coffee with him/her, it means**
  - a. the person is being honest and is only interested in discussing something over coffee.
  - b. he/she just wants to be friends—dates call for something more expensive, like dinner and a movie.
  - c. it may be a first date.
  - d. it could be any of the above.
- 3. In both the United States and Korea, dating is the way many people**
  - a. go out and have a good time before they have to get married.
  - b. find a marriage partner.
  - c. learn how to behave properly with the opposite sex.
  - d. all of the above.

- 4. Han-shin likes spending time with Bruce because he**
  - a. knows the most romantic things to say and do for a woman.
  - b. is sexy and has good manners.
  - c. is open and honest.
  - d. all of the above.
- 5. Tom found it difficult dating his friend from Ewha because she**
  - a. wouldn't walk down the street with him.
  - b. questioned him intensely about everything in his life.
  - c. didn't understand his reaction to her questions.
  - d. all of the above.
- 6. Tom describes how, many years ago, he**
  - a. went to "meetings" with his Korean friends.
  - b. went through preparations for an arranged marriage.
  - c. decided there were too many problems in intercultural dating.
  - d. all of the above.
- 7. Tom thinks Korean young people are often disappointed with blind dates because**
  - a. they are young and inexperienced.
  - b. they don't have the friends they need to meet the right people.
  - c. they expect too much.
  - d. nothing is as casual as it is in the West.
  - e. all of the above.
- 8. When she was young, Jane learned about dating and sex from**
  - a. sex education class.
  - b. books in the "adult" section of the public library.
  - c. discussions with her mother.
  - d. all of the above.
- 9. When Anne's oldest son was five, he learned about sex and relationships from**
  - a. the older boys on the playground.
  - b. a book he read with his mother.
  - c. sex education class in his kindergarten.
  - d. all of the above.
- 10. We can infer from the reading that many American parents**
  - a. feel they need to teach their children about sex.
  - b. set rules when their children start dating and get to know their friends.
  - c. want to help their children in this important area.
  - d. all of the above.

---

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

1. Are you married or do you expect to be sometime? What kind of marriage would you like to have? If not, what sort of relationship would you like to have?
2. How common is arranged marriage in Korea? Under what circumstances is a person likely to have an arranged marriage?
3. In your opinion, what is the purpose of dating in Korea?
4. Can you imagine yourself dating a foreigner? Explain.
5. If your sister or brother started dating a foreigner, how do you think you would feel about it? What, if anything, would your parents do?
6. When people are going out with each other for the first time, can they be open and honest with each other? Why or why not?
7. How are current dating rules different from Tom's description of 1972? Can women and men behave in about the same way? Why or why not?
8. Have you ever been to a "meeting"? Describe what happened.
9. Where is a good place to meet people of the opposite sex—that is, to get to know them for the first time?
10. What do you think is a good age for people to start dating? Explain.
11. How do Korean children learn about sex? Do you think this education is adequate? Explain.



---

## LET'S LOOK AT KEY CONCEPTS IN REAL LIFE.

1. Your Western friend needs advice. She or he has been thinking about marriage to the Korean s/he has been dating for some time. Now s/he has found out the person's parents don't know about this relationship. S/he is afraid that, when it's time to get married, the man/woman will break off the relationship and marry another Korean. You want to give your friend helpful advice. What do you say?
2. A Korean woman had gone out several times with a Western man. At the end of their last date, he said he really liked her and tried to kiss her. She got angry and said she wasn't that kind of girl. She said she'd only gone out with him because she wanted to improve her English. Now both people are upset. What do you think each person is feeling and why?

---

## LET'S FIND OUT.

Make copies of this questionnaire and ask people to fill it out. Then tabulate your results in percentages. Write a one-page summary. Bring your results to class with you.

1. What do you think is the purpose of dating while in the university?
  - a. to go out and have a good time
  - b. to find a marriage partner
  - c. to participate better in university activities
  - d. to learn how to get along with the opposite sex
  
2. Which of the following is most important to you in a date?
  - a. money
  - b. personality
  - c. intelligence
  - d. appearance
  
3. Of the choices below, which would be your favorite place to go on a first date with someone?
  - a. the movies
  - b. a coffee shop
  - c. a restaurant
  - d. the park
  - e. a singing room
  - f. a bar
  
4. After people have gone out together for a month or two, what do you think is the best way of taking care of expenses?
  - a. The man should pay.
  - b. Expenses should be shared equally.
  - c. Expenses should be paid by the person who has money at the time.
  
5. What do you think is a good total amount of money to spend on an average evening out?
  - a. 10,000 won or less
  - b. 30,000 won or less
  - c. 50,000 won or less
  
6. Would you consider dating someone five years younger than yourself?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know

7. Would you consider dating someone five years older than yourself?
  - a. yes
  - c. no
  - d. don't know
  
8. Would you consider chatting regularly with someone of the opposite sex on the Internet?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
9. Would you consider meeting that person in a coffee shop?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
10. Would you consider dating someone with the same last name and place of origin?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
11. Would you consider dating an Asian from another country?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
12. Would you consider dating someone of another race?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
13. Would you consider dating anyone your parents did not approve of?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
14. Would you consider going out with two people at the same time—for example, one person on Friday and someone else on Saturday?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
15. Would you break up with a dating partner if you discovered he or she was also dating someone else?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know

16. Would you break up with a dating partner if he or she seemed to have a drinking problem?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
17. Do you feel that young people should only engage in sexual relations if there is love and a strong feeling of commitment between them?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
18. Do you feel it is important to protect a young woman's virginity before marriage?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
19. Do you feel it is important for each partner to respect the other's wishes regarding sex?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
20. Do you feel it is okay for a young man to visit a prostitute before going into the army?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
21. Do you feel Korean university students need to protect themselves against the AIDS epidemic?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. don't know
  
22. Do you think it's okay for people of the same sex to date each other?
  - a. yes
  - d. no
  - a. don't know

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. In order to analyze our results, we also need this information about you. Please circle the correct response.

Sex:	Male	Female		
Age:	19-20	21-23	24-27	28 and over

## LET'S ACT IT OUT.

### *An invitation*

A: You are a university student. You think one of your classmates is very attractive, so after class you stop him or her for a minute and suggest going out for a cup of coffee. (Do this twice.)

B: (Respond in two different ways.)

1. You already have a girlfriend/boyfriend. You're not sure what your classmate has in mind, so you politely decline the invitation by making an excuse.
2. You think your classmate is cute and very interesting, so you accept.

C: Take one of B's roles.

---

## LET'S LISTEN.

*Invitation I (Bill first speaks to Susan, whose back is turned, as she leaves the classroom.)*

1. The first time the dialogue is played, do not look at your book. Just listen and try to pick up the main idea of the dialogue.
2. Before the dialogue is played a second time, read over these questions.
  - a. What does Susan's first response tell you about her relationship with Bill?
  - b. How does she decline the invitation? What does she really mean?
  - c. Do you think Susan is being polite, friendly or cold?
3. Listen to the dialogue a second time. Then discuss the answers to the questions with your partner.
4. Listen a third time. Discuss the answers with the class.

*Invitation II (Bill first speaks to Susan, whose back is turned, as she leaves the classroom.)*

5. The first time the dialogue is played, just listen.
6. Before the dialogue is played a second time, read over these questions.
  - a. What does Susan's first response tell you?
  - b. How does she decline the invitation? What does she really mean? Why do you think so?
  - c. How does the dialogue end?
7. Listen to the dialogue and discuss the answers to the questions with your partner.
8. Listen a third time. Discuss the answers with the class.

*Invitation III (Bill first speaks to Susan, whose back is turned, as she leaves the classroom.)*

9. The first time the dialogue is played, just listen.
10. Read over these questions.
  - a. How does Susan accept the invitation?
  - b. After Susan agrees to go out for coffee, what do Susan and Bill talk about?
  - c. What do the last three lines tell you?
11. Listen again and discuss the answers with your partner.

12. Listen a third time. Discuss the answers with the class.

*How not to ask someone out.*

13. The first time the dialogue is played, just listen.

14. Read over these questions.

- a. What is Bill's first mistake?
- b. What does Susan's first response tell you?
- c. What other mistakes does Bill make? What does this tell you about him?
- d. How does Susan feel at the end of the dialogue? How does she behave?

15. Listen again. Discuss the answers with your partner, then with the class.

---

## LET'S LOOK AT WORDS.

Exercise 1: For each item, replace the underlined phrase with one of the words or phrases below, keeping the same meaning.

click	emotional support	"meeting"
coeducational	expectations	obedient
commitment	firing	save face
date	male chauvinism	sex education

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I was disappointed because I had exaggerated beliefs about what would happen.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Women often claim that men are unable to make a promise to be loyal.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The majority of schools in the United States are set up to teach boys and girls together.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm sorry, I already have a meeting with a potential romantic partner.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ My boyfriend almost always offers me encouragement and approval without offering unwanted advice.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Where do Western men get the idea that a Korean wife will be willing to do what she has been asked or ordered to do, as if her husband were an authority figure?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ She pretended not to be with him in order to avoid embarrassment.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Why are you so sure that you and your email pal will suddenly become friendly when you meet face-to-face?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Along with economic factors, the belief that men are superior to women has been responsible for the worldwide oppression of women.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ In US schools teaching about human reproduction begins at an early age, usually in the home and at school.

Exercise 2: For each of the verbs on the left, find a direct object from the list of noun phrases on the right. Use each direct object only once.

- |                  |       |                        |
|------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 1. disapprove of | _____ | a marriage partner     |
| 2. create        | _____ | a set procedure        |
| 3. depend on     | _____ | a special mood         |
| 4. express       | _____ | dating practices       |
| 4. find          | _____ | feelings               |
| 5. fire          | _____ | her parents            |
| 6. follow        | _____ | how to talk with girls |
| 7. learn         | _____ | questions              |
| 8. meet          | _____ | responsibility         |
| 9. monopolize    | _____ | the conversation       |
| 10. take         | _____ | the individual         |

---

## LET'S LOOK AT CROSS-REFERENCING.

*What we can learn from this chapter*

In Chapter Three, you read this exchange.

Han-jin: But one place where I do see a difference is that Koreans never talk about an ex-girlfriend or boyfriend with the present one, and Westerners do. We think it can hurt people's feelings.

Jane: I think that's a good idea—not to.

Jane adds “not to” at the end of her sentence because she realizes her reference pronoun, *that*, isn't clear. Does she think it's a good idea to talk about previous relationships, or is she agreeing with Han-jin it's not a good idea?

Referencing is important in speech and writing as a means of tying words and ideas together. It can also be the source of confusion, both for native and non-native speakers. Obviously, confusion can create real problems. If you don't know exactly what is being talked about, how can you understand what is being said? In this section, we present some basic ideas about this important topic.

*Types of reference*

- In English we frequently tie the meaning of words together so that they make more sense. One way we do this is by pointing forward to something that is coming.

I need three things from the grocery store: milk, bread and toilet paper.



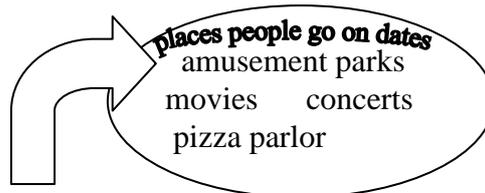
The *three things* refers to *milk, bread and toilet paper*. Or we can point back to something said before.



He said I said your idea was stupid, but that's not what I meant at all!  
*That* refers to *your idea was stupid*.

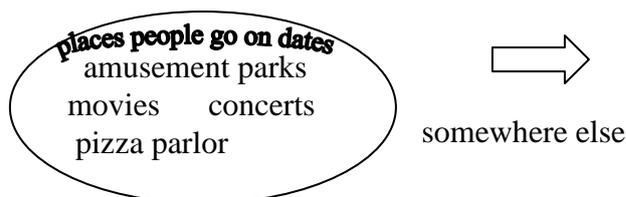
- In the two examples above, the relationship between the reference words and the words they point to is one of equivalence (they mean the same thing).  
three things = milk, bread and toilet paper  
your idea is stupid = that
- It is also possible to have a relationship of inclusion (one includes the other) or exclusion (one excludes the other).

**inclusion**



There are lots of places where people go on dates, like the movies, but he wanted to go somewhere else.

**exclusion**



Exercise 1: With each of the underlined items, decide whether the speaker is referring forward to something or backward to something. Then decide whether the relationship between the two elements is one of equivalence, inclusion or exclusion. Circle the appropriate answers

1. The child has trouble with authority figures—parents, teachers, anyone in charge.
    - a. forward
    - b. backward
    - c. equivalence
    - d. inclusion
    - e. exclusion
  
  2. Koreans see individualism as a negative thing—as life without our traditional ways of helping and looking out for others.
    - a. forward
    - b. backward
    - c. equivalence
    - d. inclusion
    - e. exclusion
  
  3. When Westerners talk about individualism, you sound like you mean worship of the individual. There are all those movies of one man or one family against nature or some powerful enemy. Respect for the individual is also built into democracy because the individual is protected from the government. It even shows up in the way you avoid touching strangers on the sidewalk.
    - a. forward
    - b. backward
    - c. equivalence
    - d. inclusion
    - e. exclusion
  
  4. We also have the idea that the individual has to decide what's right or wrong because he or she is the one who has to live with whatever happens.
    - a. forward
    - b. backward
    - c. equivalence
    - d. inclusion
    - e. exclusion
  
  5. It's okay to make statements about the rules for behavior in two different societies; those are generalizations. They are very different from making statements about how an individual person will behave because the individual comes from a particular place. Those statements are stereotypes.
    - a. forward
    - b. backward
    - c. equivalence
    - d. inclusion
    - e. exclusion
- Now for the cold, hard truth. Probably all of the grammar you've learned in the past was 1) based on the written language, not the spoken language and 2) written specifically to teach you certain grammar points. That means the language was much simpler than the language spoken in real life.
  - As you have probably noticed already, the grammar of authentic spoken English is often more complicated than what you find in most grammar books, even those written by native speakers. In conversation, people can point to something, stop to explain or ask questions, or add something to make the meaning clearer. Instead of referring directly to specific words or ideas, they often refer vaguely to something mentioned before—maybe long before. If you expect people to speak the language of the grammar books, you'll find real conversation—and real writing—very confusing.

Exercise 2: In the following items, the underlined words refer forward to or back to words or ideas. Try to get as close as possible to what the speakers mean and write those words down. In several cases the wording will be somewhat different than what you see.

Example: I've always been curious about American dating. Is it anything like the movies? – I think that would depend on the movie.

it = *American dating*

that = *whether or not American dating is like the movies*

1. "Dating" covers anything from middle school students being taken to a movie by one of the parents to the activities of old folks—heterosexual and homosexual.

anything → \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. It's the job of young people to find their own husbands and wives. – I don't know that it's that much different in Korea.

job = \_\_\_\_\_

it = \_\_\_\_\_

3. Some Asian women date Westerners because they think they're sexy, they're different, they take care of women and they have good manners. That's nonsense. It depends on the individual.

That = \_\_\_\_\_

It = \_\_\_\_\_

4. One place where I do see a difference is that Koreans never talk about an ex-girlfriend or boyfriend with the present one, and Westerners do. We think it can hurt people's feelings. – I think that's a good idea—not to.

it = \_\_\_\_\_

that = \_\_\_\_\_

not to → \_\_\_\_\_

5. I've been out with Korean men, but it always ends the same way. They think I'm too independent or too imaginative. They're afraid they won't be able to control me.

it = \_\_\_\_\_

the same way = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. They were always pretending. I hate it. They say things like, ‘You’re like a flower, I should protect you from the rain.’

it = \_\_\_\_\_

things = \_\_\_\_\_

7. I want someone who doesn’t have to create a special mood before he can kiss me. – Now that was the 1950’s. All the boys followed a set procedure. About the middle of the movie, an arm would come creeping along the top of your chair. Then in about half an hour your shoulder would get a little squeeze. – I hate that. Be creative, and be honest.

that = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

that = \_\_\_\_\_

8. You can arrange to have coffee, lunch or dinner and a movie and not know what the other person expects to happen. Is it the beginning of a relationship? Is it just lunch between friends of the opposite sex or is it a first date? – That’s because in America women and men can be friends.

what the other person expects to happen = \_\_\_\_\_

it = \_\_\_\_\_

That = \_\_\_\_\_

9. She was a really nice girl, but there were a lot of things I found strange. We would walk down the street, but never side by side. She would walk several paces behind me. – At first I thought, what kind of male chauvinism is this? This is ridiculous.’ It was explained to me that she was not really deferring to me. – I’m not so sure about that. – At least not to me personally. It was a matter of saving face.

things → \_\_\_\_\_

male chauvinism = \_\_\_\_\_

this = \_\_\_\_\_

this = \_\_\_\_\_

It = \_\_\_\_\_

that = \_\_\_\_\_

It = \_\_\_\_\_

10. When I first arrived, I lived in a *hasuk-chip*, a boarding house, and I became good friends with some of the other guys living there. Occasionally, they took me along to a ‘meeting,’ which is a sort of group blind date. Traditionally, the reason for these social gatherings was not to find a marriage partner, because traditionally that’s

arranged. It was a way of developing the social polish of being able to talk to the opposite sex. I guess university freshmen still have them, although people used to complain about how boring they were.

boarding house = \_\_\_\_\_

they = \_\_\_\_\_

group blind date = \_\_\_\_\_

these social gatherings = \_\_\_\_\_

that = \_\_\_\_\_

It = \_\_\_\_\_

them = \_\_\_\_\_

11. At home, a young person is likely to meet someone at school. Maybe they talk during or between classes, and then one of them calls the other one up and suggests going to a movie or a ball game.

they = \_\_\_\_\_

12. The boy has to meet the girl's parents and has to agree to certain rules, like when to bring her home.

certain rules → \_\_\_\_\_

13. To be honest, when I look at my Korean students and sometimes my colleagues, I'm glad I was raised in a more casual environment. I think a lot of things in my life were easier because of it.

more casual environment → \_\_\_\_\_

It = \_\_\_\_\_

14. I was interested that you and your mother seem to be able to talk about dating and sex fairly easily. I think such discussions would be very difficult in a Korean family.

such discussions → \_\_\_\_\_

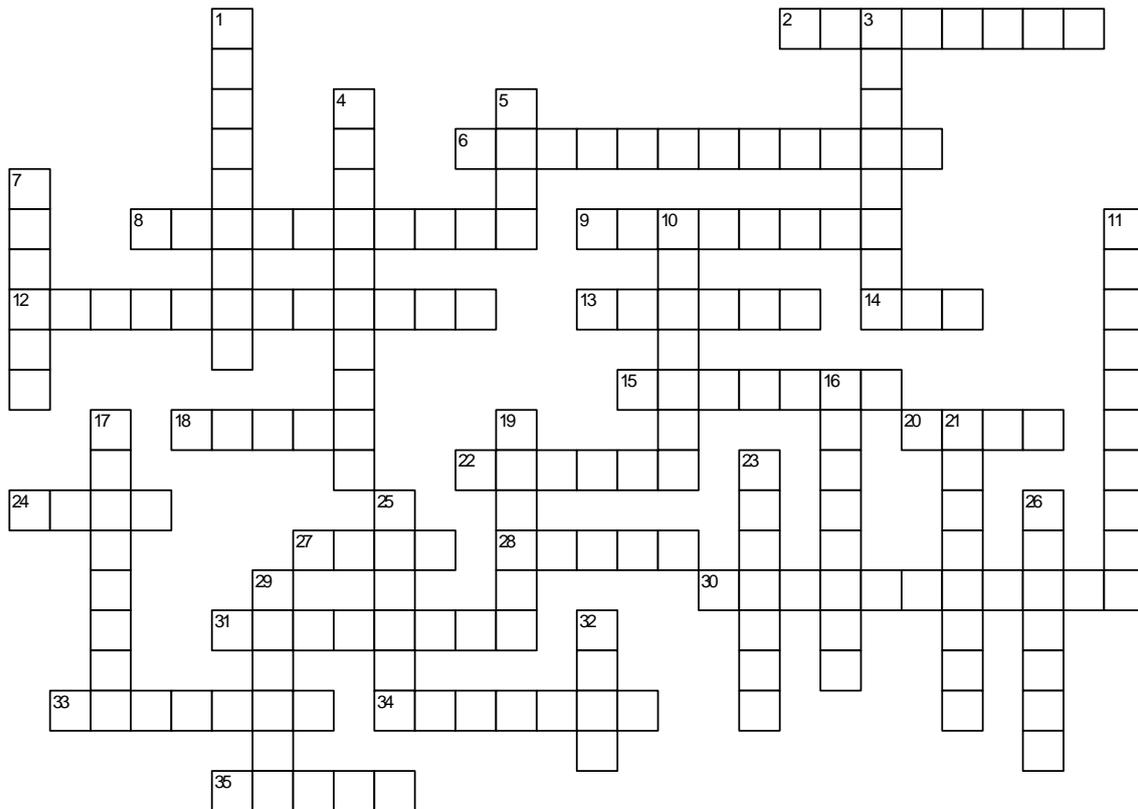
15. My son and I read the book together, and we talked about sex as a special part of a committed relationship. He was a very bright child, and he took it all in.

it all = \_\_\_\_\_

16. All the boys—I'm not giving myself credit for this—but all of them are married and have good, committed relationships with their wives. So I think it makes a big difference what you say and do in this whole area. – Not only with how people behave toward others, but with how they feel about themselves.

this whole area → \_\_\_\_\_

not ...themselves → \_\_\_\_\_



Constructed using Crossword Weaver(TM)

**ACROSS**

- 2 Willing to do what one is told
- 6 Dissatisfied that your expectations aren't met
- 8 Laughable
- 9 Relating to love
- 12 What you think or believe will happen
- 13 Hopes for the future
- 14 Male or female
- 15 Signs of someone's intentions
- 18 Requirements; behavior you are supposed to follow
- 20 Telephone
- 22 Uninteresting; no fun
- 24 Planned meeting for romance
- 27 Someone's feelings at a particular time; atmosphere

- 28 Steps
- 30 Not controlled by other people
- 31 Relationship between husband and wife
- 33 You might feel this way if "he" is talking with another woman.
- 34 Encouragement and approval
- 35 Sudden awareness or understanding between two people

**DOWN**

- 1 Arranged meeting between two people who don't know each other (two words)
- 3 Cost of doing something
- 4 Belief in the superiority of your own nation or sex
- 5 The lips of two people meeting

- 7 Truthful; open
- 10 Konglish term for a group social event
- 11 Promise of loyalty to a person, cause or belief
- 16 Lasting a long time (hyphenated)
- 17 Feelings and opinions as shown in someone's behavior
- 19 Pair
- 21 Marriage planned by people other than the future husband and wife
- 23 Polite behavior
- 25 Favorite place to go for entertainment
- 26 Act as if things are different than they are
- 29 Informal
- 32 Harm; damage