

# CELEBRATIONS

onestopenglish

## Wedding anniversaries

Teacher's notes

**Age:** Older teenagers / Adults

**Level:** Elementary–Pre-intermediate (A1–A2)

**Time:** 60–90 minutes

**Activity:** In this lesson, students will:

1. read short facts about wedding anniversaries and use some of the language and grammar points in a personalization task;
2. learn about the names given to different wedding anniversaries;
3. use wedding anniversary names to talk about people they know;
4. decide on an appropriate wedding anniversary gift.

**Language focus:** vocabulary related to wedding anniversaries, as well as the materials and elements used to describe wedding anniversaries by year and gifts from these materials; the verbs *to celebrate* and *to get married*

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student

## Procedure

### 1. Warmer

Give out the worksheet and draw students' attention to the first picture (the wedding). Find out if any students are married by asking, *Are you married? When did you get married?* Use their answers to find out how long they've been married, e.g. *I got married in 2005. I've been married for \_\_\_ years.*

Now read out the rubric and check understanding. Students fill in the gaps with the names given to wedding anniversaries, matching the words in the box to the pictures. Check answers, and point out that the gifts for the earlier year anniversaries are less expensive, whilst the gifts for the later anniversaries are more expensive.

#### Key:

- 1st – paper
- 10th – tin
- 25th – silver
- 40th – ruby
- 50th – golden
- 60th – diamond

### 2. Key words and expressions

Students read the words on the left and match them with the definitions on the right. They then read the text/facts and underline the words as they come across them. There is often more than one example of each key word. Tell the students they should underline all the examples that they find.

#### Key:

- anniversary: a date when you celebrate something that happened in a past year that is important to you
- such as: an expression we use when we want to give an example of something
- couple: two people
- moved to: started to live in a new place
- wreath: a circle of flowers or leaves that someone wears on their head
- Roman times: about 2000 years ago
- married: when two people are legally husband and wife

### 3. Mixed grammar – *to celebrate* and *to get married*

Students work together to complete the six sentences with the correct form of the verbs provided in the box. First they should decide whether the missing verb is *celebrate* or *get married*, then they should identify any signal words such as *next month*, *next year*, *in 1993* or *for 26 years* to help them decide which tense is needed to complete each sentence. The tenses are included in the key below, if the students are struggling and need a prompt.

#### Key:

1. are celebrating (present continuous for a planned future event)
2. celebrate (*to*-infinitive)
3. are getting married (present continuous + past participle for a planned future event)
4. got married (past simple + past participle for a completed action)
5. have been married (present perfect + past participle for an ongoing situation)
6. celebrated (past simple for a completed action)

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### 4. Me, my family and my friends

In this grammar and writing personalization task, students work on their own and change details in the sentences in exercise 3 to make them true for them, their family or their friends. An example sentence is given in which the details that have been changed are underlined.

Once they have written their sentences and you have checked that the grammar points are used correctly, they should read them out to others in the group.

### 5. Wedding anniversary gifts

In this communicative activity each student should first complete the text about a married couple they know. Provide an example for them to model their text on, e.g. *Robert and Carmen got married in 2005. They have been married for 14 years. Soon they will celebrate their crystal wedding anniversary.*

Then, in part b, the students sit together in pairs or small groups and read out their texts to each other, providing any further information they think might help to choose presents. For example, *Robert is my brother and Carmen is my sister-in-law. Robert is 45 years old, and Carmen is 43 years old.* The students then come up with gift suggestions for each couple, taking into account how long the couples have been married. They should make sure that their gifts are related to the name of the wedding anniversary, e.g. 15 years = crystal = possible gift of crystal wine glasses. They can look back to exercise 1 for the full list of anniversary names.

Finally, in part c, students read out their texts to the whole class and, using the language prompt, say what they decided to buy the couple for their wedding anniversary.

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### Worksheet

#### Exercise 1: Warmer



Each wedding anniversary has a different name. These names often help people to choose a wedding anniversary gift.

Work in pairs. Write the six missing wedding anniversary names in the box on the lines below.

	diamond	golden	paper	ruby	silver	tin
1st wedding anniversary		_____				
2nd wedding anniversary		cotton				
3rd wedding anniversary		leather				
4th wedding anniversary		fruit & flowers (UK), or linen & silk (US)				
5th wedding anniversary		wood				
6th wedding anniversary		sugar (UK), or iron (US)				
7th wedding anniversary		wool, copper				
8th wedding anniversary		salt (UK), or bronze and pottery (US)				
9th wedding anniversary		pottery				
10th wedding anniversary		_____				
11th wedding anniversary		steel				
12th wedding anniversary		silk				
13th wedding anniversary						lace
14th wedding anniversary						ivory
15th wedding anniversary						crystal
20th wedding anniversary						china
25th wedding anniversary						_____
30th wedding anniversary						pearl
35th wedding anniversary						coral
40th wedding anniversary						_____
45th wedding anniversary						sapphire
50th wedding anniversary						_____
55th wedding anniversary						emerald
60th wedding anniversary						_____

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## Wedding anniversaries

Worksheet

### Exercise 2: Key words and expressions

**Match the words and expressions from the article with their definitions. Then read the text and underline the words when you read them.**

anniversary	start to live in a new place
such as	a date when you celebrate something that happened in a past year that is important to you
couple	when two people are legally husband and wife
move to	about 2000 years ago
wreath	two people
Roman times	a circle of flowers or leaves that someone wears on their head
married	an expression we use when we want to give an example of something

### Wedding anniversary facts



- A married couple celebrates their wedding anniversary on the same date each year. For example, a married couple that got married on 25th July will celebrate their wedding anniversary on 25th of July every year that they are married.
- In many countries, married couples have a party to celebrate 'special' wedding anniversaries such as their silver or golden wedding anniversaries.
- Karam Chand and his wife Kartari celebrated their 90th wedding anniversary in 2015. They were the world's oldest married couple. They got married in India in 1925 and moved to England in 1965.
- Wedding anniversary celebrations started in Roman times.
- From the 18th century, a couple might get a silver wreath from their friends for their 25th wedding anniversary and a golden wreath for their 50th wedding anniversary.
- British couples get a message from the Queen on their 60th, 65th and 70th wedding anniversaries, and on every wedding anniversary after that.
- Couples in the US who have been married for 50 years or more get a message from the president on their wedding anniversary.

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### Exercise 3: Mixed grammar – *to celebrate* and *to get married*

Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

celebrate	are celebrating	celebrated
are getting married	got married	have been married

1. Zoe and Florian \_\_\_\_\_ their first wedding anniversary next month.
2. They plan to \_\_\_\_\_ their first wedding anniversary with their friends.
3. Angie and Tom \_\_\_\_\_ next year.
4. Karen and Werner \_\_\_\_\_ in a registry office in 1993.
5. They \_\_\_\_\_ for 26 years.
6. Last year they \_\_\_\_\_ their silver wedding anniversary.

### Exercise 4: Me, my family and my friends

Change the details in the sentences in exercise 3 to make them true for you, your family or your friends.

E.g. 1. My sister Anna and her husband Johann are celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary next week.

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### Worksheet

#### Exercise 5: Wedding anniversary gifts



**You need to choose a wedding anniversary gift for a couple.**

**a. Complete the text about a married couple you know.**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ got married in \_\_\_\_\_ (*year*). They have been married for \_\_\_\_\_ years. Soon they will celebrate their \_\_\_\_\_ (*name*) wedding anniversary.

**b. Work in pairs or groups of three or four. Read your texts. Think of a wedding anniversary gift for each couple.**

**c. Report back to the class. Read your texts out loud and say what gift you plan to buy each couple.**

We plan to buy Robert and Carmen two wine glasses for their crystal wedding anniversary next year.