

Talk a Lot

Intermediate Book 1

Love and Relationships – English Idioms and Slang

The Story of a Relationship

Abbreviations:

(v.)	<i>verb</i>	(n.)	<i>noun</i>	sby	<i>somebody</i>
(a.)	<i>adjective</i>	(phr.)	<i>phrase</i>	esp.	<i>especially</i>

STARTING A RELATIONSHIP

Stage 1: You find a partner

be attracted to sby (v.)

fancy sby
have a crush on sby

be *very* attracted to sby (v.)

fancy the *pants* off sby

when you are attracted to sby
the first time you see them (n.)

love at first sight

look at sby as a potential partner (v.)

check sby out
scope sby out

nightclub (n.)

meat market

a date when you haven't seen the
other person before (n.)

blind date

physically attractive (a.)

fit / hot

ugly person (n.)

minger

a suitable partner (n.)

good boyfriend material
a match made in heaven
made for each other
“the one”

talk to the potential partner (v.)

crack on to sby
make a move on sby
chat sby up

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enjoy each other's company (v.)	get on well with sby get on like a house on fire hit it off with sby
have strong feelings for sby (v.)	fall for sby
induce strong feelings in sby (v.)	steal someone's heart
say nice things to sby (v.)	whisper sweet nothings in sby's ear
find a partner soon after a relationship ends (v.)	be on the rebound

Stage 2: You become a couple

become sby's partner (v.)	get with sby
be in a relationship with sby (v.)	go out with sby see sby
develop a more serious relationship (v.)	go steady with sby get serious fall in love with sby

Stage 3: You decide to get married

get engaged (v.)	go down on one knee ask for sby's hand in marriage pop the question set the date
or stay single (v.)	be young, free, and single play the field

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DURING A RELATIONSHIP

Stage 4: You get married

find a long-term partner (v.)	find Mr. Right settle down together
long-term partner (n.)	life partner my other half / my better half
get married (v.)	tie the knot get hitched
husband (n.)	hubby old man
wife (n.)	missus 'er indoors the wife the old ball and chain

Stage 5: You get to know each other better

find out who is in charge (v.)	discover who wears the trousers
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Stage 6: But your relationship becomes boring and stale

annoy sby (v.)	get on sby's nerves
develop a boring routine (v.)	get stuck in a rut

Stage 7: One of you starts a relationship with sby else

your partner looks at other people (v.)	have a roving eye
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a former partner (n.)
have an affair (v.)

old flame
have a bit on the side
fool around
play away from home

Stage 8: Meanwhile, there is a pregnancy

be pregnant (v.)

be up the duff
be in the family way
be in the club
have a bun in the oven

Stage 9: The prospect of separation becomes real

try to make the relationship work (v.)

kiss and make up
sort things out
patch things up
work through a few issues
give sby (or the relationship)
a second chance / another go

ENDING A RELATIONSHIP

Stage 10: You argue non-stop

argue about a disputed issue (v.)

have it out with sby

be in a bad mood (v.)

have a bag on
have a face like a wet weekend

your partner is angry with you (v.)

receive an ear-bashing
be in the dog house

your relationship goes wrong (v.)

go pear-shaped

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Stage 11: You realise that it's not going to work out between you

your relationship is over (v.)

be through
be on the rocks

Stage 12: You separate

finish the relationship with sby (v.)

break up with sby
pack sby in
dump sby
chuck sby
finish with sby
call it a day
break sby's heart

separate (v.)

go your separate ways
split up

leave (v.) (esp. if there are kids)

walk out on sby

parting phrases (phr.)

It's over!
We're through!
Sling your hook!

EPILOGUE

Or, you might live together with your partner for many happy years

stay married / together (v.)

stick together through thick and thin
put up with each other
weather the storm
make it through the rain

phrases from wedding vows (phr.)

in sickness and in health
'till death us do part

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devoted couple (n.)

old timers
love birds

perfect couple (phr.)

made for each other

optimist's view (v.)

live happily ever after

pessimist's view (v.)

endure a life sentence