

Interviewing a Married Couple

Guidelines for Conducting the Interview

- Invite a married couple that you admire to take part in an interview, giving them several choices of times for the interview.
- Conduct the interview as though you were a news reporter. You are trying to learn what the married couple thinks. Be friendly, but avoid giving your opinions.
- Decide in advance whether you will take notes during the interview or write a “verbatim” of the couple’s comments immediately after the interview. It is usually better to take some notes unless you are confident that you can accurately remember the entire interview.
- Prepare for the interview. Reflect in advance about the things you already know about this couple. If they feel more comfortable, you will have a better interview.
- Advise the couple that they should feel free to answer only questions they feel comfortable answering.
- Begin with more general questions, and move toward the more personal or difficult questions.
- Ask only one question at a time.
- Always be conscious that the married couple has a story. Your interview will go better if your questions follow a pattern of “beginning, middle, and end.”
- Thank the couple for allowing you to interview them.
- Immediately write down the interview or review your notes for accuracy. Make additions or corrections at this time.
- Be sure to include essential understandings from unit 4 in your report.

Note: You may want to share a draft of your report with the couple before finalizing it to be sure you are not inadvertently including something they would rather not share publically.



Suggested Questions for the Interview

1. How and when did you meet each other?
2. Were you attracted to each other from the beginning?
3. What personal qualities did you begin to notice in your future spouse?
4. At which point did your relationship become more seriously romantic?
5. Had you ever experienced being in love before you met your future spouse?
6. When did you know for sure that you wanted to marry?
7. Did religion play a role in the type of person you were interested in marrying?
8. Can you describe what it was like for you to begin talking about getting married?
9. When did you tell other people about your engagement, and whom did you tell first?
10. What did you do to begin preparing for the wedding ceremony and married life?
11. Did your marriage preparation involve meeting with a priest, a minister, or another married couple?
12. Did you talk about the possibility of having children and raising a family before you married? Did you both agree on the timing and number of children?
13. Did you feel that you were ready for marriage at the time you got married?
14. Can you describe your wedding? How did you decide where it would be, who would officiate, who would be invited, where the wedding reception would be, and so on?
15. What is most rewarding about being married?
16. What is most difficult about being married?
17. What kind of support system do you have for your marriage (family, friends, etc.)?
18. What role does the Church play in your marriage today?
19. If you could relive one moment during your dating period, engagement, or marriage, which moment would you choose?
20. In your opinion, what is the most important thing that every person should think about before getting married?

