

## 1.8\_1

### 1. Read and translate the following text:

#### *Marriage*



Marriage is an important religious ceremony in many of the world's religions. Certain religious groups add their own features to the traditional wedding ceremony. For example, different Protestant groups have their own versions of the ceremony. Many Roman Catholic weddings take place during a Mass, and the bride and groom receive Holy Communion. Marriage is a sacrament (important religious ceremony) in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.

Most Jewish weddings are held under a special canopy that represents the couple's future home. At the end of the ceremony, an empty glass or other breakable object is placed on the floor and the groom breaks it with his foot. This act symbolizes the destruction of the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and reminds the couple that a marriage can also break if it is not protected.

Mormon weddings are held privately in Mormon temples. Only church members in good standing can attend these ceremonies. Mormons believe that marriage and family life continue after death. A Quaker man and woman marry at a public gathering where they declare their commitment to each other. Quakers believe that God makes a couple husband and wife, and so a minister or other official is not required.

Many wedding customs have been popular since ancient times. For example, Roman brides probably wore veils more than 2,000 years ago. Bridal veils became popular in the United Kingdom and the New World during the late 1700's. The custom of giving a wedding ring dates back to the ancient Romans. The roundness of the ring probably represents eternity, and the presentation of wedding rings symbolizes that the man and woman are united forever. Wearing the wedding ring on the ring finger of the left hand is another old custom. People once thought that a vein or nerve ran directly from this finger to the heart. An old superstition says that it is bad luck for a bride and groom to see each other before the ceremony on their wedding day.

### 2. Answer the following questions. Write the answers in your notebook.

1. Are marriages in your country arranged by the parents, or do the young people decide themselves whom to marry?
2. How do you understand the expression "to come of age"? When do young people in your country come of age?
3. Starting with what age is it officially permitted to get married in your country?
4. Describe the wedding ceremony in your country.
5. What colour is considered to be lucky for the wedding outfit in your country?
6. What wedding superstitions do you know, which are observed in your country?