



# Golden Talk Series

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***Marriage Material***

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## Part 1: What do we mean by marriage material?

Marriage material is a **colloquial term** often used to describe someone who possesses qualities that are considered **desirable** or suitable for a long-term committed relationship and, potentially, marriage. **It implies that** the individual exhibits traits such as **compatibility, trustworthiness, emotional maturity**, the ability to communicate effectively, **shared values**, and a commitment to building a future together.

What makes someone marriage material can vary **depending on personal preferences** and cultural norms. Some may **prioritize** qualities like ambition and **financial stability**, believing that a partner who demonstrates drive and **financial security** will contribute to a **fulfilling marriage** and a stable **marital life**. Others may **value** kindness, **empathy**, and a genuine willingness to **make compromises** and work through challenges together.

**Regardless of** personal preferences, compatibility always stands as a **fundamental aspect** when choosing **the perfect match**, Mr./Mrs. Right! Compatibility **refers to** the **natural alignment** between partners in terms of personality, interests, and lifestyle choices. Compatibility encompasses factors like shared values, religious or spiritual beliefs, and cultural background. It involves finding a partner with whom one can envision a harmonious life. For instance, someone who values **strong family bonds** and is committed to maintaining them would be seen as marriage material by an individual who shares the same feelings.

### Language note

Notice how an adjective or noun phrase can be used with “be considered.” In such structures, “as” is usually NOT used.

*These qualities are considered desirable. (not ~~e~~onsidered as desirable)*

*He is considered a husband material by Iranian standards. (not ~~e~~onsidered as a husband material)*

## Glossary

**desirable** (adjective): something that is highly wanted or sought after

**Example:** *Having a kind and understanding partner is highly desirable in a successful marriage.*

**Synonym:** appealing

**Word family:** desire (noun, verb), desired (adjective), undesired (adjective)

**Collocations:** desirable qualities, desirable traits, desirable partner

**compatibility** (noun): the state of two things or people being capable of existing or working together harmoniously

**Example:** *In a marriage, compatibility between partners is crucial for long-term happiness.*

**Word family:** compatible (adjective), compatibly (adverb), incompatibility (noun)

**Collocations:** high compatibility, achieve compatibility, sexual compatibility

**strong bond** (noun phrase): deep connections or close relationships between people

**Example:** *Through years of love and support, couples in a successful marriage develop strong bonds that withstand challenges.*

**Collocations:** strong bonds, family bonds, a close bond between..., the bonds of friendship/love

**make a compromise** (verb phrase): To reach an agreement by both parties giving up something in order to find a middle ground

**Example sentence:** *A successful marriage requires both partners to make compromises and find solutions that work for both of them.*

**Synonym:** reach agreement

**Collocations:** reach a compromise, come to/arrive at a compromise, find a compromise, an uneasy compromise, a satisfactory compromise

## Quick practice

compromise

compatibility

bond

1. After years of marriage, Anna and Tom have developed a strong ....., built on trust, love, and shared experiences.
2. .... in a marriage involves finding a middle ground that satisfies both partners.
3. *Their ..... makes them a great match for marriage.*

## Questions to think about

1. Do you agree that women tend to be naturally **drawn to** bad boys rather than nice guys?
2. Have you ever witnessed or experienced a situation where someone's niceness affected their **dating prospects**?
3. Have you ever **been dumped** because you were too nice?
4. Have you ever **dumped** a partner because they were too nice?
5. Do you believe that people's preferences in dating change over time, moving from **excitement-seeking** to seeking **stability** and **long-term commitment**?
6. What qualities do you think women look for in a long-term partner beyond initial attraction and excitement?
7. What **phase** are you currently in: Are you seeking excitement or are you ready to **settle down**?

## Part 2: Is he/she the one?

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Are you currently dating someone and **constantly contemplating** whether they have the potential to be your life partner? Here are some questions you should consider in order to find out whether the person you're dating aligns with your vision of a lasting marriage:

### 1. Do they respect and support you?

**Evaluate** how they treat you and others around them. When evaluating a potential partner, it's important to observe how they treat others. Are they **respectful** and considerate? Do they show kindness and **empathy**? For example, watch how they react in situations like a waiter making a mistake. Do they **handle it with patience**, understanding, and respect? Or do they become **impatient**, rude, or **dismissive**? Small everyday moments can reveal how they would treat you **in the long run**.

### 2. Are they compatible with you?

Look for compatibility in terms of interests, lifestyles, and long-term plans. Let's say you're passionate about traveling and have a strong desire to explore the world. Meanwhile, your potential partner prefers a settled lifestyle and **has no interest in** frequent travel. This **mismatch** in interests and lifestyles may create difficulties and conflicts in the future.

### 3. Do they tell you that they love you?

They often say "I love you" without hesitation and sincerity. They use **endearing terms** of affection, such as "sweetheart" or "darling," and frequently **compliment you on** your qualities and actions. They make an effort to express their emotions regularly, not just during **special occasions** or when prompted. Their words convey a deep emotional connection and a genuine desire to be with you.

### 4. Do they love you unconditionally?

If someone **loves you unconditionally**, their love is **consistent** and doesn't **waver** based on circumstances or external factors. They are there for you consistently, even during challenging times. They prioritize your happiness and

well-being, sometimes even **at the expense of** their own. They are willing to make sacrifices and compromises to ensure your relationship thrives.

### 5. Are they willing to listen and share?

One way to see if they truly love you is through their communication style. Notice how they actively listen, engage in deep conversations, and express genuine interest in your thoughts, dreams, and feelings. Their willingness to have open and honest conversations demonstrates their love and **investment** in your relationship.

### 6. Are they emotionally available?

Observe their **emotional availability**. If they are willing to be **vulnerable** with you and share their fears, **insecurities**, and past experiences, it shows that they trust you and **feel comfortable around you**. By opening up emotionally, they demonstrate their deep love and the desire to build a strong emotional connection with you.

#### Language note

Notice how certain adjectives can collocate with the preposition “around” (rather than *with*) to express how you feel **in someone’s presence**:

- *She trusts her partner and feels safe **around** him.*
- *If you are more vulnerable **around** your partner than usual, they’re probably not the one for you.*
- *I’m choosing Mary because I feel comfortable **around** her.*

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Marriage is more than  
finding the right person; it is  
being the right person.

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## Glossary

**middle ground:** a point or position that is neither extreme nor one-sided, where people can agree, a potentially win-win situation

**Example sentence:** *In a healthy relationship, both partners need to find the middle ground when making decisions together.*

**Synonym:** compromise

**Collocations:** reach/find the middle ground

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**talk things out:** to discuss and communicate openly about a problem or disagreement with the aim of finding a resolution

**Example sentence:** *Instead of arguing, it's important for couples to calmly sit down and talk things out to understand each other's perspectives.*

**Synonym:** communicate

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**lenient (adj.)** /'li:.ni.ənt/ not as too strict or strong in punishment or judgment as would be expected

**Example sentence:** *A lenient partner is willing to forgive mistakes and give second chances in a relationship.*

**Synonym:** forgiving

Word family: lenience (n.), leniency (n.), leniently (adv.)

**Collocations:** be (too) lenient, show leniency, lenient approach,

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**consistent (adjective):** acting or behaving in the same way over time, unchanging or reliable

**Example:** *Rachel and James established consistent routines for spending quality time together, such as weekly date nights.*

**Word family:** consistently (adverb), consistency (noun)

**Collocations:** be consistent, consistent behavior, consistent communication

## Quick practice

dismissive      consistent      insecure

1. During their argument, John waved his hand in a ..... way and said, 'Your opinion doesn't matter anyway, so let's just drop it.'
2. Sarah's past experiences with unloyalty have left her feeling ..... and untrusting in her marriage.
3. Even after many years of marriage, they continue to have ..... date nights to keep the romance alive.

## Questions to think about

1. Rank the questions in Part 2 in order of importance, from 1 being the most important to 6 being the least important. Discuss your reasons.
2. It is not always easy to discover how compatible you are with your partner, especially before marriage. What are some ways to determine your compatibility with your partner?
3. How long should people date before they decide whether someone is marriage material or not?
4. How significant are the verbal expressions of love? If they don't verbally tell you that they love you, does it necessarily mean that they don't love you?
5. Can you think of more questions that you should ask yourself before deciding whether someone is the right one for you?

## Part 3: Am I ready to settle down?

Deciding whether you're ready for marriage is an important and **deeply personal** question. It's a commitment to a **lifetime partnership** and the start of a **new chapter in your life**. Many factors **come into play** when considering if you're ready to say, "I do." **First and**



**foremost**, you must ask yourself if you're **emotionally prepared** for the responsibilities and challenges that come with **married life**. Are you willing to compromise, **communicate openly**, and work through conflicts together?

### Language note

Notice how “to” is a preposition (not infinitival) in the following examples and is therefore followed by either a noun phrase or a gerund.

*A sense of stability can contribute to a more fulfilling marriage.*

*Are you committed to growing as an individual?  
(not ~~committed to grow~~)*

Evaluating your level of readiness for marriage involves **reflecting on** where you're standing in life. Are you in a **stable position** in terms of your **career and finances**? While marriage doesn't require **having everything figured out**, a sense of stability can contribute to a more fulfilling marriage. Discussing your shared values, dreams, and future plans with your partner is essential to ensure **you're on the same page** and ready to embark on this **lifelong journey** together.

Lastly, it's important to **listen to your gut instincts** and assess the overall health and strength of your relationship. Do you have a deep sense of love, respect, and mutual support for each other? Are you committed to growing and **evolving** as individuals while **maintaining a strong bond** as a couple? Trusting your **intuition** and recognizing the signs of a healthy and thriving partnership can help guide you toward making the right decision about marriage.

## Glossary

**settle down:** to start living a calm life in one place, often by getting married/starting a family  
**Example:** *After years of traveling, they decided it was time to settle down and start a family together.*

**have something figured out** (*less formal*) to have a clear understanding or plan for something  
**Example:** *Before getting married, it's important to have everything figured out, such as where you want to live and how you will handle finances.*

**be on the same page** (*less formal*) to have the same understanding or agreement about something.  
**Example:** *In order to make decisions together, it's crucial for partners in a marriage to be on the same page.*

**gut instincts** (*less formal*) strong feelings or intuitions about something based on instinct rather than logical reasoning  
**Example:** *She followed her gut instincts and decided not to go through with the wedding.*  
**Collocations:** trust one's gut instincts, follow one's gut instincts, listen to one's gut instincts

**evolve:** to gradually develop or change over time.  
**Example:** *Marriages evolve as couples grow and learn to adapt to new challenges.*  
**Synonym:** develop / change  
**Word family:** evolution (noun), evolutionary (adjective), evolving (adjective)

**intuition:** a strong feeling or belief about something without the need for conscious reasoning  
**Example:** *Her intuition told her that he was not being honest about his feelings.*  
**Word family:** intuitiveness (noun), intuitive (adjective), intuitively (adverb)  
**Collocations:** trust one's intuition, rely on intuition, follow one's intuition

## Quick practice

settle down    be on the same page    evolve

1. Marriage is a journey where two individuals grow and ..... together - no one will stay the same.
2. By the time I was 30, I realized it was finally time for me to .....
3. We can't really tell if we ..... if we don't communicate our feelings and thoughts with each other.

## Questions to think about

1. **If you're single or in a relationship:** Are you emotionally prepared for the responsibilities and challenges that come with married life? Why/why not?  
**If you're married:** When you were getting married, did you feel emotionally prepared for the responsibilities and challenges that come with married life?
2. Is **stability in career and finances** the main factor holding people back from getting married? Why is it important?
3. What are some reasons why many people around us feel **unwilling to settle down**?
4. Do you believe that everyone **changes over time**? Would that be a problem in a marriage?

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