

NEWS LESSON

A Contract Before the Wedding?

BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. What money things do couples talk about before they marry?
2. Why might someone want to protect their savings or their house?
3. Is it easy for you to talk about money with people you love?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**prenuptial**	☐	A	to believe that someone is honest and will not hurt you
2	**supporters**	☐	B	to stay away from something or not do it
3	**argument**	☐	C	people who like an idea and say it is good
4	**power**	☐	D	a set of questions asked to many people to learn what they think
5	**trust**	☐	E	made or agreed before two people get married
6	**avoid**	☐	F	things you say you will definitely do
7	**survey**	☐	G	the ability to decide things or to control others
8	**promises**	☐	H	an angry talk between people who disagree

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

More young couples in the United States are signing a prenup before they marry. Some call it smart. Others find it uncomfortable.

1 Most people imagine a wedding as a day full of love, music and promises. They probably do not imagine sitting in an office with a lawyer. However, more young couples in the United States are talking about money before they get married. Some are signing a prenuptial agreement, often called a prenup. This is a legal document that explains what might happen to money and property if the marriage ends.

2 The Guardian reported on this on 11 November 2026. It referred to a recent Harris Poll with Bloomberg, which found that 53% of married or engaged Americans under 45 said they had signed a prenup. An earlier survey, mentioned in a 2022 article, gave a lower figure for a different age group. These surveys cannot tell us exactly how every couple feels, but they suggest that the idea is no longer only for very rich people.

3 Supporters say a prenup helps couples have difficult conversations early. They can talk about savings, debts and property. If one partner has a business or receives money from relatives, a clear agreement might help avoid a big argument later. Some couples say honesty about money brings them closer.

4 Other people find the idea uncomfortable. They worry that preparing for divorce before the wedding sends the wrong message. Why plan for a relationship to end when you are promising to stay together? If one person has much more money, they may have more power when deciding what goes into the agreement. A document is not automatically fair just because both people sign it.

5 The rules are different from country to country, and a prenup does not always work in the same way everywhere. Couples may need independent legal advice. The important part of the story is not that everyone should rush out and sign a contract. It is that money can be difficult to talk about, even in a strong relationship. Avoiding the subject does not make the problem disappear.

6 Perhaps the real choice is not between love and money. It is between talking openly about the future and hoping everything will work out. A couple can trust each other and still have sensible conversations about bills, savings and difficult situations. On the other hand, some people would rather keep their marriage free from legal documents. If you were planning a wedding, would a prenup make you feel safer or less romantic?

Sources: The Guardian, The young women driving the US prenup boom: 'I want to protect myself'; Los Angeles Times, Prenups shed their stigma. Gen Z is getting them. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. The poll found that 53% of married or engaged Americans under 45 had signed a prenup. (T) (F) (NG)
2. A prenup is only for very rich people. (T) (F) (NG)
3. The text says how much a prenup costs. (T) (F) (NG)
4. Some couples say that talking honestly about money helps them feel closer. (T) (F) (NG)
5. The writer thinks every couple should sign a prenup. (T) (F) (NG)

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

advice	ceremony	generous	honesty	lawyer	relatives	uncomfortable

1. Many people feel _____ when they talk about money with a partner, so they avoid it.
2. Before signing, each partner may talk to a _____ who can explain the document.
3. Many couples think that _____ matters more than money.
4. If you receive money from _____, such as grandparents, you may want to protect it.
5. Couples may need independent legal _____ before they sign.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. The Guardian _____ on this on 11 November 2026. (REPORT)
2. A recent Harris Poll _____ that 53% of people had signed a prenup. (FIND)
3. More young couples are _____ about money before they get married. (TALK)
4. Some people _____ the idea uncomfortable. (FIND)
5. My cousin _____ a prenup before he got married last year. (SIGN)

7 Language focus: collocations

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. A collocation is a pair of words that people often use together. Learn the whole pair, such as 'make a decision', not just one word.

closer	have	pay	sign	solution	spend	take

1. Supporters say a prenup helps couples _____ difficult conversations early.
2. Both partners must _____ the agreement before it is legal.
3. Anyone thinking about a prenup should _____ advice from a lawyer.
4. Some couples say that honesty about money brings them _____ .
5. A prenup is not a magic _____ to every problem.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Would you ask your partner to sign a prenup? Why or why not?
2. Why do some people find a prenup uncomfortable?
3. What is one good thing about talking about money early?

9 Role-play: should we sign a prenup?

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the partner who wants a prenup

You own a small business and have savings from your grandparents. You'd like a prenup before the wedding. Explain why it isn't a sign that you don't love your partner.

Student B · the partner who isn't sure

Planning for a divorce before the wedding feels cold to you. Ask why your partner wants a prenup, say how you feel, and try to find a deal you both like.

Useful phrases

I'd like to talk about money before the wedding.

I'm not saying we don't trust each other.

It doesn't feel very romantic to me.

What if we got advice from a lawyer first?

That's a fair point, but I'm still worried.

Could we agree on something we're both happy with?

Afterwards, tell the class: did you agree to sign a prenup, and what did you decide to include?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 E · 2 C · 3 H · 4 G · 5 A · 6 B · 7 D · 8 F

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 uncomfortable · 2 lawyer · 3 honesty · 4 relatives · 5 advice

6 Verb forms

1 reported · 2 found · 3 talking · 4 find · 5 signed

7 Language focus

1 have · 2 sign · 3 take · 4 closer · 5 solution

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