

Curious Question #21 – Wedding anniversaries

Transcript

Robin: Hello everyone and welcome back once again to our Curious Questions podcast at Culips.com.

Harp: That's C-u-l-i-p-s.com.

Robin: And in this podcast, we take one of your questions and we try to answer it as best we can.

Harp: Exactly! And if you want to see more resources, you can go to the website and click on the Lipservice and there you can see Detailed Explanations, there's a complete transcript, and even a quiz.

Robin: Absolutely! And what's today's question?

Harp: Well, the question, first off, is coming from Eliza in China. Hi Eliza, and say thanks again to your teacher, Eliza, for recommending us! So Eliza's question:

"Now, I have a question to ask you for some advice. My English teacher's 39th **wedding anniversary** is coming soon. I want to give him my best wishes, but I don't know what I can say to him in my email. Can you give me **some advice**? And also, can you tell me how you **celebrate** your **anniversary** in your country?"

Robin: So there are really two questions here. They are both about **anniversaries—wedding anniversaries**. The first thing she wanted to know was if we could give her **some advice** about what to say to somebody on their **wedding anniversary**. The second thing she asked was about how we **celebrate** our **anniversaries** in Canada.

Harp: Let's look at the first question first. Eliza said, "My English teacher's 39th **wedding anniversary** is coming soon. I want to give him my best wishes, but I don't know what I can say to him in my email. Can you give me **some advice**?" Sure we can give you **some advice** for what to say to someone whose **anniversary** it is.

Robin: The most obvious and by far the most common thing to say is simply, "**Happy Anniversary.**"

- Harp: Yeah, "**Happy Anniversary.**" It is really popular to say that. Most people just say "**Happy Anniversary.**"
- Robin: Yes. There are lots of other possibilities though. What are some of the other ways that you might wish somebody a **happy anniversary**?
- Harp: You could say, "**Enjoy your day together.**" Maybe, "**I hope you have a great day.**"
- Robin: There's also "**Enjoy celebrating your day,**" or "**I wish you many more years of happiness.**"
- Harp: Yeah, that's a good one. So those are some other ways of saying "**Happy Anniversary.**" But really, the most popular way is just to say "**Happy Anniversary.**"
- Robin: And the other question Eliza asked was, "Can you tell me how you **celebrate** your **anniversary** in your country?"
- Harp: Well, how we **celebrate** an **anniversary** depends on the couple. Most of the time, the couple spends some **quality time** together, like going out on a special date, for dinner or a movie, or any other kind of special outing.
- Robin: Yeah, couples like to spend time alone on their **anniversaries** if they can. Sometimes they can't, so they **celebrate** their **anniversaries** on the weekend or another time that is more convenient.
- Harp: Yes. And for other more special **anniversaries**, people **celebrate** with parties, with their friends and family.
- Robin: Right, but this is only for big **anniversaries**, like 25 years, maybe 30, 40 or 50 years. Usually big parties come after the couple has been married for a long time.
- Harp: Yes, sometimes it's the children of the couple who plan a big party for the parents' **wedding anniversary**. You know, I actually did this for my parents' 25th **anniversary**.
- Robin: Did you?
- Harp: Yeah, I planned a party for them with my two sisters.
- Robin: Really? Were there a lot of people?

- Harp: Yeah, there were actually about 60 people, but it was actually a surprise party, which was fun. They didn't know that we were going to throw them a party. Yeah, it was a special **anniversary**. It is also interesting to know that there are different kinds of **anniversary** names. Eliza said it was her teacher's 39th **anniversary**. The 39th **anniversary** does not have a special name, but the 40th does. The 40th **wedding anniversary** is **Ruby**.
- Robin: Oh really? I didn't know that. These names for **wedding anniversaries** are not used as much anymore.
- Harp: Yeah, they aren't used as much, but some people do know them.
- Robin: I know that the 50th **anniversary** is very important. It is called the **Gold Anniversary**.
- Harp: Exactly, the **Gold Anniversary**. The **Gold Anniversary** is still pretty well known and used. It is very impressive if you can be married for 50 years! So it's usually a big celebration.
- Robin: Indeed. And the 25th is the **Silver Anniversary**.
- Harp: Yeah, I remember that from my parents' **anniversary**. The 25th wedding **anniversary** is **Silver**. That's another big one that people like to celebrate with family and friends.
- Robin: There is actually a name for every **anniversary** up to the 20th.
- Harp: Wow! I didn't really know that as we don't use these names very often.
- Robin: You're absolutely right. But if you are curious about the names for **wedding anniversaries**, we will include them in our Lipservice learning guide for this episode. So don't forget to check that out.
- Harp: Yeah, remember to go to the website, Culips.com: C-u-l-i-p-s.com.
- Robin: Absolutely! And we hope that you enjoyed our episode, but for now this has been Robin...
- Harp: And Harp...
- Robin: And we're signing off.

Harp: Bye everyone!

Robin: Take care!

Detailed Explanation

Happy Anniversary

There are always many ways to tell someone to have a happy anniversary. This is because some people like to be completely original. For example, if you know that your friends who are celebrating their wedding anniversary love dancing, you could say, "I never saw a better dance couple. Happy Anniversary!"

But like we say in this episode, many people do not use original phrases, they just say, "Happy Anniversary."

Here is a short list of other common expressions for wishing someone a happy anniversary.

- Enjoy your day together
- I hope you have a great day
- Enjoy celebrating your day
- I wish you many more years of happiness

To wish someone a happy anniversary

Have you already noticed us using the verb *wish*? We say: *to wish someone a happy anniversary*. We use *wish* when we talk about saying *Happy Anniversary* to someone. We also use *wish* when we talk about saying *Happy Birthday* too. We also wish people a Merry Christmas or a Happy New Year.

Instead of *wishing* someone a Happy Anniversary, you can also say *Happy Anniversary* to someone.

Some advice

Eliza asked us for some advice about how to wish her teacher a happy anniversary. *Advice* is an uncountable or non-count noun. This means we can never say *advices*.

Some (or *any*) is often used with *advice*: *To offer some advice* or *to give any advice*. We can also say *a bit of advice*. Someone can counsel you on one thing or many things, but it is still *advice* with no *s*. *Advice* is never plural. If you want to express that it was only one, we can say *a piece of advice*. We can also simply say *advice*.

Here are some examples:

Peter: Can you help me? I need advice.

Keisha: I really don't know what to tell you.

Alison: Let me give you one piece of advice: Be clear and honest about what you want to say.

Camille: OK, thanks.

Ivan: I really don't know what to do. Can you give me a bit of advice?

Ryan: Practice, practice, practice. Practice the speech as much as you can.

Quality Time

Quality time is exactly what it sounds like. It is time that is quality: superior and important. *Quality time* is any time spent with family or friends (loved ones) which is important in some way. This time is spent by each person giving full attention to the other people.

During the regular work or school week (Monday to Friday), people are often very busy and they don't always have time to spend with people who they love. In this way, when people decide to spend some important time together, this is called *quality time*. It is important emotionally or socially.

Quality time could also refer to the activity that you do. Some families say that having supper together in the evening is quality time, because the whole family is together and it is a nice time for everyone to talk and find out about each other's day.

In this episode, we mention *quality time* and then we give examples of the special activities that couples might do when they are spending quality time together.

Here are some examples using the expression *quality time*:

Nicole: I haven't seen you much lately.

Paul: I know. Let's get together this weekend for some quality time.

Virginia: I'm too busy to spend a lot of time with the kids during the week.

Shannon: I know, but we always make sure to spend a lot of quality time with them on the weekend.

Special wedding anniversaries

We tell you about a couple wedding anniversaries that have special names. The 50th wedding anniversary is *Gold* and the 25th is *Silver*. Not many native English speakers know all the names for these. Here is the list of the others in case you are curious.

<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Modern</u>
First	Paper or plastics	Clocks
Second	Cotton or calico	China
Third	Leather	Crystal, glass
Fourth	Linen	Electrical appliances
Fifth	Wood	Silverware
Sixth	Iron	Wood
Seventh	Copper or wool	Desk sets
Eighth	Bronze	Linens, laces
Ninth	Pottery	Leather
Tenth	Tin, aluminum	Diamond jewellery
Eleventh	Steel	Fashion jewellery
Twelfth	Silk	Pearls, coloured gems
Thirteenth	Lace	Textiles, furs
Fourteenth	Ivory	Gold jewellery
Fifteenth	Crystal, glass	Watches
Sixteenth	Peridot	Silver hollowware, sterling or plate
Seventeen	Watches	Furniture
Eighteen	Cat's eye	Porcelain
Nineteenth	Aquamarine	Bronze
Twentieth	China	Platinum
Twenty-fifth	Silver	Sterling silver
Thirtieth	Pearl	Diamond
Thirty-fifth	Coral, jade	Jade
Fortieth	Ruby	Ruby
Forty-fifth	Sapphire	Sapphire
Fiftieth	Gold	Gold
Fifty-fifth	Emerald	Emerald
Sixtieth	Diamond	Diamond

Big celebrations

Sometimes when people have a party to celebrate a big wedding anniversary, they have it at home and sometimes they rent a hall. A hall is a big room that can be found in community centres or other buildings that rent out space for parties.

If a big celebration happens at a hall, the people having the party might also have to pay to have a bar (drinks) or food. People often rent a hall for weddings too. A traditional event where a lot of people are invited may take place in a hall.

Couples also often buy each other gifts for their wedding anniversary. A common gift is flowers.

Other anniversaries

We have wedding anniversaries, but what other anniversaries do we have? An anniversary is usually the yearly celebration on the date of a past event. Some couples count monthly anniversaries. For example, "We just had our 3-month anniversary!"

A birthday is the most common type of anniversary, but we do not say *Happy Anniversary* on a birthday.

We can have the anniversary of someone's death. For example, "It is the 10-year anniversary of my grandfather's death."

And here are some other popular anniversaries:

- The anniversary of the first trip to the moon.
- The anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.
- The anniversary of a store being opened.

People use the term *anniversary* for many kinds of events.

Quiz (see the answers at the end of this Lipservice)

1. Which other ways can you also wish someone a happy anniversary?

- a) Enjoy your day together
- b) I wish you many more years of happiness
- c) Enjoy celebrating your day
- d) All of the above (OK, this one was easy!)

2. Lindsay: I really need to talk to someone about this. I am not sure what to do.

Joshua: Let me give you _____ advice.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) some
- b) a few
- c) several
- d) each

3. What is *quality time*?

- a) spending a lot of time with loved ones
- b) spending important time with loved ones
- c) spending a lot of time with strangers
- d) spending important time with strangers

4. Which wedding anniversary is *Gold*?

- a) First
- b) Tenth
- c) Twenty-fifth
- d) Fiftieth

5. Are the special names for wedding anniversaries (like Gold) used very often?

- a) yes
- b) no

6. For which event do we not use the term *anniversary*?

- a) birthdays
- b) weddings
- c) deaths
- d) a store's opening

Answers: 1.d 2.a 3.b 4.d 5.b 6.a