

## Chatterbox #57 – Getting engaged

### Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Maura: And Maura.

Harp: And we're here at Culips, bringing you another fantastic podcast to help you learn English.

Maura: Yes. And as always, you should go visit our website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And if you haven't been there yet, what we have for you is the transcript for this episode and all the episodes. And you could also get a detailed explanation, which explains more about all the expressions we talk about, and even a little quiz. You get all that once you become a member.

Harp: Yeah. And also go to our blog section of the website because there we have pictures about things in Montreal, pictures of us, things like that, fun stuff.

Maura: Yeah. And we love, love, love to hear from you, so you can leave us a comment on our episodes, you can suggest different ideas that you think we should do an episode on, you can leave us a message on Facebook too, if you're over there.

Harp: Yeah, exactly. We like hearing from you. We love hearing from you, actually.

Maura: And today's episode is an episode that's actually inspired by, suggested by, one of our listeners. Today we're going to do a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we talk about some topic or something about English-speaking culture that we hope is interesting to you.

Harp: Yeah. Maura, why don't you tell us who gave us the idea for this episode?

Maura: Sure. Well, we got an email from Hasan, who suggested we do an episode about marriage **proposals**, so what kind of things you might say to someone if you're going to ask them to marry you.

Harp: Yeah. So today we're gonna talk about engagements and **proposals** and all the fun stuff related to that.

Maura: Yeah. And that's thanks to Hasan, who listens with his girlfriend, whose name is Gulustan. I hope I'm pronouncing them right. I'm probably not. But thanks a lot for your request. And they're listening from Azerbaijan, which again I don't know if I'm pronouncing right, but I like the way that it sounds.

Harp: Sounds pretty good.

- Maura: Yeah. And I really don't know much about that place. It sounds very interesting.
- Harp: It does.
- Maura: Now, thanks again for that idea. Let's get started. So, how are we gonna break it down today? What are we gonna talk about, Harp?
- Harp: So, we're gonna start with how people **propose** and everything that's related to the actual marriage **proposal**. Then we're gonna give you a couple of expressions related to engagements and **proposals**. And finally, we're gonna talk about all the preparation after you're engaged.
- Maura: Yeah. So, first, we're gonna talk about how people **propose**. So, you have a couple, they've been dating for a while, and then they want to get married.
- Harp: Yeah. And I would say it's usually at least one year that they're together.
- Maura: Yeah, I would say that too. Sometimes I've even heard of people **proposing** on their one-year anniversary.
- Harp: Yeah. There's no set time that people are together before they **propose** or before they get engaged.
- Maura: So, there's a couple that's been dating for a long time and one person asks the other to get married, so one person **proposes**. And then after the **proposal**, and once the other person, of course, agrees, they are engaged. So that's the period of time after the marriage **proposal** and before the wedding.
- Harp: Yeah. So they're engaged. They've promised to each other that they're going to get married.
- Maura: Yup. And an engagement can last any amount of time, as well.
- Harp: I knew a couple actually who got engaged after one month of being together.
- Maura: You know, I think I've heard of a couple, on television or something, who got engaged on their first date.
- Harp: Oh. That's not a good idea, in my opinion.
- Maura: Yeah, that's a bit too fast. But like you said, there's no set date, so it could be very soon, it could be very long after you've been dating. But most of the time people wait at least a year and it probably happens within the next five years, maybe?

- Harp: Yeah, I think so. I knew another couple, who... They were dating for 10 years, and she told her boyfriend that she refuses to tell anyone they've been dating for longer than 10 years so he basically had to **propose** on their tenth anniversary, so they moved into the engaged phase.
- Maura: Well, that's an interesting point too, because for some couples, one person wants to get married and the other person doesn't, so they can give them an **ultimatum**, which means that they make them engaged, that one person makes the other person **propose**, so that they will have to get married.
- Harp: Yeah. They were really young when they met, so I think the 10-year time limit was not bad.
- Maura: Ah, yeah, that's true, for sure.
- Harp: OK, so now going back to the actual marriage **proposal**. In English, there aren't too many exciting ways to say it.
- Maura: Well, I would say there are many exciting ways to say it but they're always original. So if you wanna **propose** and make it very special and memorable, you really make up what you're going to say at the moment, you maybe talk about the past relationship or talk about how much that person means to you.
- Harp: Yeah and then you usually say "**Will you marry me?**" or you could say maybe something like, "Will you make me the happiest person by accepting my marriage **proposal**?" Something like that.
- Maura: Yes, or "I want to spend the rest of my life with you." "I'd be the happiest person on Earth if you would marry me."
- Harp: Yeah. Those are some... some ways that you could say it.
- Maura: But usually in a marriage **proposal**, you wouldn't say just that, you would speak a little bit before and talk about the relationship. Because one sentence just isn't enough; you wanna make that special moment last.
- Harp: Exactly. I think most people have, before they **propose**, have spoken about marriage and they've both kind of agreed that they wanna get married and then... then one person **proposes**.
- Maura: That's true, that when one person asks the other person to get married, almost all the time, they've spoken about it before. So when one person is asked, you pretty much know that the other one's going to say yes. But it's true that some couples haven't discussed it and so when one asks the other to get married, it's really a surprise.

- Harp: Yeah. And now, we're saying when *someone* **proposes**, but it's still typically the man who **proposes**.
- Maura: Yup, that's true. In fact, I don't think I know any couple where the woman has **proposed** to the man.
- Harp: I know one couple, and she **proposed** to him and they both wore engagement rings. But yeah, it was her that **proposed**.
- Maura: Yup, interesting. So it is possible and I think it's probably more and more common and more and more accepted, but people would still probably find it weird in Canada and in the US if the woman asks the man to get married.
- Harp: It was definitely unusual for me when I found out that she had **proposed** to him.
- Maura: Yeah. I know one couple right now who's engaged and they got engaged by just discussing it, so it wasn't one person asking the other person. They just discussed it, decided together, went to go buy the ring together, and now they're engaged.
- Harp: OK, so they only bought one ring though, only she wears the ring?
- Maura: Yup.
- Harp: OK.
- Maura: Another thing that's interesting is how it's done, and by that I mean whether it's private or public.
- Harp: There's definitely a big difference, because I've seen where someone **proposes** at a big stadium at a sports event, and the camera goes on the couple and the man **proposes** or the person **proposes** to the other person, but it's rare. I think most people prefer private **proposals**.
- Maura: Yeah. I've heard of some people who've been **proposed** to in front of their family, like at Christmas or at their birthday, but I agree that most **proposals** happen in private.
- Harp: I think because what if the person says no?
- Maura: That might be why, yeah, but it could also be just because it's a private moment and a lot of people might be shy to express so many deep, sensitive feelings in front of a lot of people.
- Harp: Yeah, I think that private's probably the way to go.

- Maura: And the **traditional** thing to do is that the man **kneels down on one knee** and asks the woman to marry him. So if they're sitting or standing, it doesn't matter, the man will **get down on one knee** only, bended, and then ask for the woman to marry him.
- Harp: Yes, that's very **traditional** for the man to **get down on one knee** and **propose** that way.
- Maura: Yup, I would say, yeah, it's pretty **traditional**. And another thing that's **traditional** is for, again, the man usually, to go to the woman's family and ask permission to get married.
- Harp: Yeah. The expression would be asking for the daughter's hand in marriage. And it happens quite frequently, I would say.
- Maura: Yeah, depends on the couple, right? Depends on the family.
- Harp: Yeah.
- Maura: Harp, what's another very important part of the engagement process?
- Harp: Well, it's definitely the engagement ring.
- Maura: Yes. Most of the time, when couples get engaged, the woman wears a ring.
- Harp: Yes. In North America, she wears an engagement ring on her left hand on the third finger, but I've read that in different cultures, in some places in Europe, they wear the engagement ring on the right hand.
- Maura: Hmm, that's a bit interesting. So, the woman would wear the engagement ring, which is usually a little bit fancier than the wedding ring. It usually has a diamond on it, doesn't have to, there's all different kinds of styles, but the ring is usually a bit fancier. And then once they're married, they also wear the wedding ring, so they have two rings on that finger and the wedding ring is a lot simpler.
- Harp: Yeah, 'cause I think it's usually called a wedding band, so often times it could just be very plain and then the engagement ring has a big diamond or a gemstone or something on it.
- Maura: Yeah. And some people, modern families, don't wear any rings at all, they might be engaged but they don't wear rings.
- Harp: Yup. And for some people, both people wear an engagement ring.
- Maura: Yeah, like your friend that you talked about earlier.

- Harp: Yeah, exactly.
- Maura: The thing is that a wedding is such a personal thing that it's always gonna be different. Every couple is gonna make decisions that fit them and their style so it's hard to generalize too much.
- Harp: Yeah, it depends on the **culture** of the person and their own personal beliefs and what they wanna do. OK, let's move to our second topic, which is expressions related to engagements.
- Maura: Yeah, expressions that are related to getting engaged or being **proposed** to.
- Harp: Yeah. Or after someone's engaged.
- Maura: Yeah, the first one I think of, we kind of already mentioned in the first part, which is **to get down on one knee**, because when you say that a man, or a boyfriend, **gets down on one knee**, you can assume that means that they're **proposing**.
- Harp: Yup, exactly. And so, if you see someone wearing an engagement ring, you could say "Oh, did he **get down on one knee**? And was it a romantic **proposal**?"
- Maura: Yup. Because I don't think there's any other specific time where a man needs to **bend down on one knee**. It's only really to **propose** marriage.
- Harp: Yeah, I can't think of any other situation where we would use that expression.
- Maura: Yeah. So if you say that, **to get down on one knee**, it means to ask someone to marry you.
- Harp: Yes. And the next expression is one that you could use after you see someone with an engagement ring. You could say "Oh, do I hear **wedding bells**?"
- Maura: Right, because it's a symbol that there's a wedding in your future, right? If you hear **wedding bells**, then it's like you hear the sound of the church and someone's going to get married. So, of course, when you use this expression, you don't actually hear the bells. It's just an expression to show that you know this person's going to be getting married soon.

- Harp: Yeah. 'Cause there was a tradition when people got married in a church that the church would ring the bell afterwards to announce that the wedding had happened and so when you say *to hear **wedding bells***, it's that there's gonna be a wedding. The bells were thought to bring luck and fortune to the newlyweds, so that's why we say "Do I hear **wedding bells**?" or "Oh, I hear **wedding bells**!"
- Maura: Yeah. You can use it in any way, *I hear **wedding bells***, *Do you hear **wedding bells***? You can use it as a sentence or a question, but it's a cute little way to say that someone might be engaged or there's a wedding in their future.
- Harp: Yes.
- Maura: Another expression is **to tie the knot**.
- Harp: Yeah. So again, if you maybe heard that someone's engaged, you could ask them "Oh, I hear you're gonna **tie the knot**."
- Maura: Because **to tie the knot** actually means to get married. It's a funny expression. I suppose because if you tie a knot of rope, you attach two things together, and in a wedding, two people are attached together; they're gonna live their life together.
- Harp: Yeah, so if someone's engaged, they're about **to tie the knot**.
- Maura: Yup. You could say this in many different ways. You could ask a question, you can make a statement, whatever, but it means to get married.
- Harp: Yes.
- Maura: Now, some people **tie the knot** in a traditional wedding ceremony. Again, there's all different kinds of ways, but some people get engaged and they don't plan a wedding day. They secretly go on a trip and they **elope**.
- Harp: OK, so let's move on to the third part of this episode. Now let's talk about the preparations for a wedding after someone is engaged.
- Maura: I can't imagine how much preparation is involved. Really, there's so much to think about and so much money, usually, to be spent on a wedding. It exhausts me just thinking about it.
- Harp: Yeah, weddings are a long, expensive process to plan for.
- Maura: I guess that's why some people **elope**.



- Harp: Yes. I think that seems a lot easier than planning a long engagement because I think most people are engaged for about one year to plan for the wedding.
- Maura: Yeah. So, **eloping** is running away to get married. In that case, you usually don't tell many people, or anyone, that you're going to get married and you take a trip to some exciting, interesting place and then you get married there.
- Harp: Yeah. You can also **elope** in private in the city you live in, but most of the time when we talk about **to elope**, they go somewhere private and in an exciting location, like they could go to Las Vegas or to some beach and get married there.
- Maura: Yeah. You could, like you say, Harp, go anywhere, and you might even bring a good friend with you. Sometimes someone might **elope** by just bringing one or two people with them. So in North America, the classic place to **elope** is definitely Las Vegas.
- Harp: Definitely.
- Maura: There are lots of little chapels for people who get married and it's a very quick ceremony. There's lots of different themes, like probably an Elvis chapel and all kinds of funny stuff, so it's a popular place to go.
- Harp: Yeah, I think of Elvis for Las Vegas or the drive-through chapels, where you just drive in the car, **you say "I do,"** and you get married.
- Maura: That's funny. I think that sounds fun.
- Harp: But if you don't **elope**, there is a lot of preparation to do for a wedding.
- Maura: There are so many things to consider, but usually, people in your **wedding party**, that's like bridesmaids and...
- Harp: Groomsmen and best man and maid of honour and...
- Maura: The family. They help you prepare too.
- Harp: Yes. But you have to think about all sorts of things, where you're gonna get married, who you're gonna invite, all the little details like flowers and dresses and outfits and...
- Maura: And you have to pick a date. Which date am I going to get married on? Do I like the sound of this date? What's the weather gonna be like? Is the place where I want to get married available on that day?
- Harp: Yeah, I think the summer is usually the most popular time to get married.



- Maura: Yup, definitely the months of... maybe even starting in May, June, July, August, are popular times to get married.
- Harp: Yeah. My parents go to a lot of different parties and they sometimes have a wedding each weekend in the summer.
- Maura: Cool.
- Harp: A fun thing that people do before they get married as part of the preparations is the bride and groom have a **stag** and a **stagette**.
- Maura: Yes. If you're going to get married and have a wedding, then you definitely need some money to pay for it. And one thing that couples do in order to earn money to pay for their wedding is have a big party. This big party is usually called a **stag and doe** or a **buck and doe**.
- Harp: **Stag and doe** or a **buck and doe**.
- Maura: It sounds, like, so fast, like one word, but it's actually three words: **stag and doe**. So three words, or you can also call it a **buck and doe**. And I'll tell you a little bit more about what that means in our learning materials that go with our episode. But all you need to know for now is that those are the names of the special kind of party where... so you invite your friends, your family, and they can invite their friends and family. You really want as many people as possible to come to this party so you can make money, and you make money by having a ticket that you need to buy to get in and the people need to pay for the drinks and maybe the food they eat and you have party games, so the people are spending money at the party as well.
- Harp: You know, I've never been to a **stag and doe**.
- Maura: I have been to a few and just like all the things we're mentioning in this episode, some people don't have **stag and doe** parties and some people do. In my hometown, it's fairly common for people to have a party and then a lot of people will come out.
- Harp: Yup, I've never been to a **stag and doe**. I've heard of many people having them, but I've never been invited to one.
- Maura: Yeah, I've been to a few and it's pretty fun, because it's a big party. And people usually rent a **hall**, so a separate room or space, it's not in someone's house. And there's music and dancing. It's really fun.
- Harp: Sounds like fun.
- Maura: Yeah, it is.

- Harp: Maybe you can invite me to the next one you're invited to.
- Maura: Maybe I will.
- Harp: I'll help them earn some money for the wedding.
- Maura: Yeah. Because, really, you can invite anybody. The goal is to make money, so everyone's invited. Now, that's one kind of party, a **stag and doe**, and then there are a couple other kind of parties that sound similar in name but are not quite the same. Do you wanna explain that, Harp?
- Harp: Yes. We also have the **stag** party or the **stagette** party. Now, the **stag** party is when the groom, so the man, goes out with his friends. And traditionally, this usually happens the night before the wedding, and it's like the last night to celebrate, your last night of freedom, before you're married, before you're chained down.
- Maura: Yeah. The **stag** party can also be called a bachelor party. And there's a very popular movie, the Hangover, or even the Hangover Part 2, which is based on the idea of going out for one last party with your friends.
- Harp: Yes. So, for the groom's side, it's called a **stag** party, and if you're a bride, you would have a **stagette**.
- Maura: Yeah, so the female version. And it's pretty much the same thing, you go out with your friends and you party, you have fun, you act a bit crazy, because after that, you're getting married and you're **settling down**.
- Harp: Yeah. You have to be serious and be a grown up.
- Maura: Yup. But there's lots of people who get married and still party and act crazy.
- Harp: Definitely. But this is a traditional thing to do. And traditionally, you would have a **stag** or **stagette** the night before you got married, but now it seems to be happening earlier and earlier before the wedding.
- Maura: Yup. I think it could happen whenever you want, any time during your engagement, but closer to the wedding.
- Harp: Yeah, and sometimes it's even like a full weekend or a trip. I know people who go to Vegas for a **stagette** or for a **stag** or they go to some retreat for it.
- Maura: Yup. I know some people from my hometown who would come to Montreal for their party.

- Harp: Yup. Montreal's a popular location for a **stag** or a **stagette**. So, again, a **stag** is for the man, **stagette** is for a girl, or you can call it a bachelor party if you're a groom or a bachelorette party for a bride.
- Maura: Yup. There are, I bet, even more variations than that, depending what city you're in, what country you're in. There are lots of different names for these parties, but the concept is generally the same.
- Harp: Yeah. And in different places around the world, they have different names. So once you've said yes to the marriage **proposal**, then you're engaged and you refer to each other as your **fiancé(e)**.
- Maura: Yeah. So, often, after people are engaged, they don't call each other *boyfriend* and *girlfriend* anymore. They often call each other their **fiancé(e)**.
- Harp: Yeah. So if they meet someone new and they're engaged, they could say "Oh, Bill, this is my **fiancé**, John."
- Maura: And... And not too long ago, we did an episode where we talked about words that we use in English that come from other languages, and there's another example, because **fiancé(e)** is definitely not an English word to start, but we use it all the time.
- Harp: OK, so I think that about does it for our topics today. We started with talking about how people **propose**.
- Maura: So we went over some of the things that a person might say or whether it would be private or public, and we talked a lot about what is a more **traditional** way to do it and what is a more modern way.
- Harp: Yes. And then we moved on to some expressions that are related to engagements and **proposals**.
- Maura: We talked about expressions like **to get down on one knee** or **to hear wedding bells** and also **to tie the knot**.
- Harp: Yes. And then we moved on to talking about the preparations for a wedding, the time when you're engaged to someone.
- Maura: Right. And all the parties you get to attend.
- Harp: Lots of parties.
- Maura: So, we hope this helped you out if you were a little bit curious about love and weddings and engagements in North America. And we also hope that this is what you wanted to hear, Hasan.

Harp: Yes, Hasan, we hope you enjoyed it.

Maura: Yes. And you too, Gulustan.

Harp: So that's about it for us.

Maura: Remember to go to our website, Culips.com.

Harp: C-U-L-I-P-S.com

Maura: And **drop us a line**.

Harp: Find us on Facebook and write a comment.

Maura: Talk to you later.

Harp: Bye everyone!

Maura: Bye!

## Detailed Explanation

### To propose

**To propose** is a regular verb that means *to suggest for consideration*. It can be used in all different kinds of situations. When talking about **proposals**, all a person needs to do is say *he **proposed*** and it is clear that it was a marriage **proposal**. For all other uses of the verb, you need to further explain what the person **purposed**.

Here are two examples to show the difference:

Cathy: We were just talking like we normally do, and then he **proposed**!

Joann: Oh, wow! What a surprise!

Stephanie: We were just talking like we normally do, and then he **proposed** that we go on a trip the next weekend.

Michael: That's fun! Where did you end up going?

### An ultimatum

An **ultimatum** can be given in any relationship, private or professional. An **ultimatum** is where one person or group of people must make a choice to agree to something demanded by another person or group of people. If the person or group of people does not agree, then the current relationship will end or there will be some other negative consequence.

As we mention in this episode, an **ultimatum** can be given when one person in a couple wants to be married and the other does not. The person who wants to be married may give the other person an **ultimatum**, such as they get married soon or the relationship will be finished. Sometimes these situations end in marriage and sometimes the relationship is ended.

**Ultimatums** are also possible in other personal situations, as well as at work. One company might give another company an **ultimatum**, in which they must agree to the first company's conditions or they will not do business with them.

### Will you marry me?

As we say in this episode, there are so many ways that people can propose to each other. People often try to make their marriage proposal unique by including personal information about why they have such a great relationship or why the person being proposed to is so special.

Here are some of the classic lines we mention in this episode:

### **Will you marry me?**

Will you make me the happiest person by accepting my marriage proposal?

I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

I'd be the happiest person on Earth if you would marry me.

### Traditional proposals

We continually say in this episode that engagements in Canada and other English-speaking countries are varied. No two proposals are the same. We also mention in this episode that there are some very **traditional** ways to propose. Here is a short list of some of the **traditional** elements of a marriage proposal.

The man asks for permission to marry the woman from her parents or father before he proposes.

The man plans a quiet, romantic time to propose.

The man proposes to the woman.

The man gets down on one knee to propose.

### Cultural weddings

Harp says at one point in this episode that weddings depend on the **culture** of the people getting married. We also want to mention that because Canada is such a multicultural place, we also have lots of weddings from different religions and cultures. For examples, in Canada, people of Indian descent often have weddings that last several days, and others of European descent have very large weddings with many guests.

### To get down on one knee

**To get down on one knee** means to propose marriage. A man traditionally **bends down on one knee** to ask a woman to marry him. Because this is such a popular way to propose, using this expression clearly means a marriage proposal.

Here is an example with **to get down on one knee**:

Elise: So, when is he going **to get down on one knee**?

Alisha: I don't know, but I'm not in any rush. I know we'll get married eventually.

### Wedding bells

When people talk about **wedding bells**, they are talking about a future wedding. People might use an expression with **wedding bells** to talk about a proposal because a proposal is a promise to marry in the future.

As we say in this episode, there are many variations with **wedding bells**. Here are a couple of examples with this phrase:

Vicky: Herb's taking me out to a romantic dinner tonight.

Irene: Sounds like **wedding bells** to me!

Kevin: So, how was your weekend in the country? Do I hear **wedding bells**?

Amanda: Yes! He proposed!

#### To tie the knot

**To tie the knot** is an expression that means *to marry*. The reason for this is possibly because in marriage, two people become connected, just like two pieces of rope become connected when you tie a knot. There are also other possible origins that involve actually tying a knot. One theory claims that beds used to be made by tying knots, and so **to tie the knot** was to make a new bed for the married couple. There have also been marriage ceremonies that include people literally tying knots.

Here is an example with **to tie the knot**:

Agatha: Are you looking forward to **tying the knot** this weekend?

Kiley: Yes! I can't wait to marry Ed.

#### To elope

**To elope** is to go away and get married in secret.

The most popular place to **elope** in Canada and the United States is Las Vegas. As we say in this episode, there are many fun places, usually with different themes, to get married in the city of Las Vegas. A well-known theme is a chapel decorated in items related to Elvis.

#### To say "I do"

As part of many weddings, the person performing the ceremony asks the bride if she takes the groom to be her husband, and asks the groom if he takes the bride to be his wife. The bride and groom each respond by saying "I do." Sometimes the vows are worded slightly differently, so that the answer is "I will" instead of "I do."

Because actually saying "I do" is part of so many wedding ceremonies, people now use the phrase **to say "I do"** as an expression that means to marry.

Here is an example with **to say "I do"**:

Jackie: I can't wait **to say "I do"**!

Manuel: Yeah. You must be so excited for your wedding!



The wedding party

We've done episodes in the past related to marriage and we talked about the **wedding party** too. A **wedding party** is not a party (event) that is part of a wedding. A **party** can also mean a group of people who are together for a special reason. When most people get married, they have some kind of **wedding party**, meaning a group of people who are gathered together to help support the plans for the wedding and the new couple. A **wedding party** usually includes the maid of honour and the bridesmaids, as well as the best man and the groomsmen.

A stag/stagette

Before people get married, there is a tradition to party one last time with friends. Traditionally, the man celebrates with his male friends and the woman celebrates with her female friends. This often involves going out to bars, dancing, drinking alcohol, and sometimes going to strip clubs.

For men, this party is called a **stag** or a bachelor party. For women, it's called a **stagette** or a bachelorette party. A *stag* is actually an adult male deer. The suffix *-ette* is generally feminine and so the word **stagette** was made to talk about the party, even though a female deer is NOT called a stagette. A bachelor is an unmarried adult male and a bachelorette is an unmarried woman.

A stag and doe/buck and doe

Here is another kind of party before the wedding! Like we say in this episode, a **stag and doe** or a **buck and doe** is a party that an engaged couple has to help raise money for their wedding. Weddings are expensive, and so this is one way that people can help pay for it.

A **stag and doe** is a party at a rented space with dancing and games. People pay for tickets to enter and they pay for drinks. There are also games and draws to win prizes. People pay to play these games and it's another way that the engaged couple can make money.

As mentioned above, a *stag* is an adult male deer and a *buck* is also a male deer, as well as a few other animals. A *doe* is a female deer. Why exactly we use these animals is unknown.

A hall

A **hall** is not just a long narrow space in a building with many doors for different rooms. A **hall** can also be a big open space that people rent for large parties or meetings. People rent **halls** for weddings and stag and doe parties.

To settle down

The two-word verb **to settle down** can have a few different meanings. In this episode, **to settle down** is used to mean to stop dating different people and build a life for yourself, including getting a serious job, buying a house, getting married, and/or having kids.

When Maura says “**settling down**” in this episode, she is referring only to getting married. Here are a couple more examples with other meanings:

Clive: When do you think Karen is going to **settle down**?

Lise: I can't see her doing it any time soon. She loves to travel too much.

Ivan: I never wanted to **settle down** in one place for long, but this job is my dream job.

Dave: Well, that's great. It's as good a reason as any to stick around for a while.

Fiancé/fiancée

Here is a word that comes from French. We pronounce it in English pretty closely to the original French pronunciation. Even though we don't usually use accents in English, we usually do when we write **fiancé** (referring to a man) or **fiancée** (referring to a woman).

Once a couple has become engaged, they then refer to each other as **fiancé** and **fiancée**. These terms replace *boyfriend* and *girlfriend*. Here is an example with **fiancé** and **fiancée**:

Jennifer: My **fiancé** and I are going away this weekend. I'm really looking forward to it.

Ben: That sounds nice. Doug's lucky to have you as his **fiancée**! You guys always do so much fun stuff together.

To drop someone a line

**To drop someone a line** is to send them a written message. In the past, **to drop someone a line** meant to keep in touch by letter, but now it can mean email or text messaging too.

In this episode, we ask you **to drop us a line**. This means that we want you to send us a written message by leaving us a comment on our website or on Facebook.

Here's one more example with **to drop someone a line**:

Douglas: It was nice seeing you. **Drop me a line** next time you're in town.

Sheena: Will do.

**Quiz**

1. **Chuck: I'm giving them an \_\_\_\_\_. Either they agree to the contract or we're going to buy our supplies from a different company.**

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) ultimate
  - b) ultimatum
  - c) underhand
  - d) ulcer
2. **Which of the following does NOT usually happen in a traditional Canadian proposal?**
- a) The man gets down on bended knee.
  - b) The man asks permission from the woman's parents to propose.
  - c) The man performs a song dedicated to the woman.
  - d) The man proposes in a quiet, romantic setting.
3. **If a couple elopes, what does that mean?**
- a) They only invite close friends and family members to their wedding.
  - b) They invite everyone they ever knew to their wedding.
  - c) They get married in a public place and anyone can attend.
  - d) They get married in secret.
4. **Daphny: I hear wedding bells in Fiona's future.**
- What does the above sentence mean?**
- a) Daphny actually hears wedding bells at a nearby church.
  - b) Daphny thinks that Fiona will get engaged and married soon.
  - c) Daphny is crazy because she thinks she hears bells.
  - d) Daphny thinks that Fiona will never get married.
5. **Which of the following does NOT mean to get married?**
- a) to say I do
  - b) to tie the knot
  - c) to get down on one knee
  - d) to elope

- 6. What is another way to say *bachelor party*?**
  - a) stag and doe
  - b) stag
  - c) buck
  - d) buck and doe
  
- 7. How does a couple usually refer to each other after they are engaged but before they are married?**
  - a) fiancé/fiancée
  - b) boyfriend/girlfriend
  - c) husband/wife
  - d) girl/boy
  
- 8. Which of the following means to send a written message?**
  - a) to send a word
  - b) to drop a line
  - c) to call
  - d) to send smoke signals

## **Answers**

1.b    2.c    3.d    4.b    5.c    6.b    7.a    8.b