

Thousands marry on Love You Forever Day

6th January, 2013



Thousands of Chinese couples got married on Friday because the date 4th January 2013 sounds like "endless love until death" when spoken in the Chinese language

Mandarin. The newlyweds hoped the day would prove to be an auspicious one on which to tie the knot. At least 10,000 couples walked down the aisle in Beijing alone. Even though registry offices were fully booked, hopeful brides and bridegrooms braved freezing weather in the hope the registrars could fit them in. The government had to lay on thousands of extra staff to accommodate the increased number of people wanting to take the plunge. In Hong Kong, the city's five marriage registries were fully booked by September 20 last year. The city saw 558 people become man and wife on Friday.

Dates that are numerically unique are very popular in China as people believe they are lucky. Matching days, months and years - like 12/12/12 and 11/11/11 - are considered to bring good fortune. The next such date will be January 1st in the year 2101. Newlywed Chen Foshan told the china.org website: "We promised to get married today a long time ago, if doomsday didn't come first." Marriage is becoming big business in China because the country's middle class is booming. People spend a lot of money on extravagant ceremonies and receptions. One of the biggest expenses is an elaborate wedding album. The happy couple is photographed at various locations wearing different costumes. Photos of the actual vows or exchanging of rings are not usually taken.

Sources: BBC / China.org

Writing

Marriage is forever. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

couples / get married / endless love / newlyweds / auspicious / brides / fully booked / unique / good fortune / doomsday / big business / booming / elaborate / costumes

True / False

- "Love You Forever Day" is always around January 4 in China. T / F
- Over 10,000 couples got married in Beijing on January 4. T / F
- Couples tried to get married even though it was freezing cold. T / F
- Hong Kong was one city that could accept many more bookings. T / F
- The next date with matching days months and years is next century. T / F
- A couple said they would marry on January 4 if doomsday didn't come. T / F
- Wedding albums are fairly cheap when getting married in China. T / F
- Photos of couples exchanging vows are common at Chinese weddings. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. endless | a. fancy |
| 2. auspicious | b. totally |
| 3. tie the knot | c. promises |
| 4. walked down the aisle | d. favourable |
| 5. fully | e. distinctive |
| 6. unique | f. infinite |
| 7. matching | g. thriving |
| 8. booming | h. get married |
| 9. elaborate | i. got married |
| 10. vows | j. corresponding |

Discussion – Student A

- What is your idea of a perfect wedding?
- What do you think of "Love You Forever Day"?
- Is it important to get married on a lucky day?
- How important is one's wedding day?
- Where is the best place to get married?
- Why do many people not like weddings?
- Do you think it's easy or difficult to plan a wedding?
- What's the best and worst wedding you've ever been to?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. the day would prove to | a. of extra staff |
| 2. At least 10,000 couples walked | b. couple |
| 3. The government had to lay on thousands | c. become man and wife |
| 4. people wanting to take | d. unique are very popular |
| 5. The city saw 558 people | e. be an auspicious one |
| 6. Dates that are numerically | f. the plunge |
| 7. considered to bring | g. exchanging of rings |
| 8. extravagant | h. good fortune |
| 9. The happy | i. down the aisle |
| 10. the actual vows or | j. ceremonies |

Discussion – Student B

- Should people spend a lot of money on weddings?
- What should be the biggest wedding expense?
- What is the best part of a wedding: the ceremony or the reception?
- Do you think that one day, weddings will become a thing of the past?
- Do you think your wedding is the happiest day of your life?
- Which celebrity wedding would you really like to go to?
- What do you think of royal weddings?
- What questions would you like to ask one of the Chinese newlyweds?

Spelling

- prove to be an psiausociu one
- tie the ktno
- walked down the eaisl
- amecmtocod the increased number of people
- take the ugnlpe
- the city's five marriage rgitisrese
- numerically nueiqu
- edwneywl Chen Foshan
- a lot of money on antarxtvage ceremonies
- an rteboelaa wedding album
- photographed at sorvuia locations
- svow or exchanging of rings

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. h	4. i	5. b
6. e	7. j	8. g	9. a	10. c

The Perfect Wedding

	Answer	Why?
Where?		
What to wear?		
Honeymoon?		
Gifts for guests?		
Date?		
Clothes?		
Food?		
Number of guests?		

Speaking – Wedding day

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • the vows | • wearing nice clothes |
| • the photos | • the food |
| • the party after | • seeing two people in love |
| • the ceremony | • meeting new people |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.