

## Lesson 4: Marital Conflict, Divorce or Separation



Vocabulary

Practice:

<b>Marital</b> - connected with marriage.	<i>They have been having marital problems lately.</i>
<b>Divorce</b> - to cause a marriage to a husband or wife to end by an official or legal process, or to have a marriage ended in this way.	<i>Ford divorced his wife, Anne, in 1964, and married Cristina a year later.</i>
<b>Separation</b> - an arrangement, often a legal one, by which two married people stop living together as husband and wife.	<i>They separated after 10 years living together.</i>

Dialogue Reading:

***I don't know where to go***

**Brooke:** Why are you crying, John?

**John:** My parents are always fighting, they never go a day without fighting.

**Brooke:** Oh, that's terrible.

**John:** They're thinking of getting divorce now.

**Brooke:** Oh my! That is not good at all! Your sister and you must feel terrible.

**John:** I think that they don't love each other anymore. I can't stand to see them screaming at each other.

**Brooke:** Really? That's so sad for you and your little sister.

**John:** I don't know what to do now and I don't know where I am going to go or who I am going to go with? Now they are fighting over us.

**Brooke:** Poor John. I wish I could do something to help. But I have no idea what I could do.

**John:** I get really sad thinking that soon I won't be able to see both of my parents at home.

**Brooke:** I understand. I can imagine this is very hard for you.

**John:** What should I do now? I feel so lost!

**Exercise:**

*Answer the following:*

1. What is marital?
  - a. the act of getting married
  - b. having a partner
  - c. connected with marriage
2. What does it mean to divorce?
  - a. to stop living together with one's spouse
  - b. to cause a marriage to end by a legal process
  - c. to fail to care for a child
3. What does it mean to separate?
  - a. to cause a marriage to end by a legal process
  - b. to close down a business
  - c. to stop living together with one's spouse
4. What are the effects on children when their parents divorce or separate?
5. Why do some married couples face this kind of situation?