

# AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

*Sachiko is a 22-year-old Japanese student who is spending her senior year at an American university in Los Angeles. She has met a special man named Amir. Read her diary and find out: What is she trying to decide?*



Dear Diary,  
Tonight Amir asked me to marry him! I knew he would. I love him so much. It is hard to believe that we have known each other for only eight months.

But as much as I love him, I don't know what to do. My parents would be angry with me for marrying a man from India. They want me to marry only a Japanese man. My mother has told me that good Japanese marry only Japanese.

And that's not all. There are so many other problems. I mean, where would we live? I think it would be very hard for me to live in India. Would I fit in to Indian society? I don't speak any Indian languages. I would have a difficult time finding a job. And I don't want to be just a housewife! That's for sure.

I don't think Amir would fit in to Japanese society, either. He doesn't speak Japanese. He sounds so funny when he tries to say a single Japanese word! It would be impossible for him to find a job in Japan. Besides, he doesn't even like Japanese food!

Maybe we could stay in the United States. Both of us will finish our studies in May.

I wonder if we could get work visas here. That might be difficult. But even if we could stay here, I don't know if I want to live away from Japan. I would miss my family and friends and everything.

And what about our children? Children of mixed marriages might have a difficult time. Would they be Japanese? Indian? What? It is all so confusing.

The more I write to you, dear diary, the more problems I see. I know that marriage is difficult. More and more marriages end in divorce. And I think that international marriages are even more difficult!

Oh, I am SO confused.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What should Sachiko do?  
Check the responses you agree with.

They shouldn't make a decision about marriage right now. They should visit each other's country. There is a lot of time to think about what to do.



She should marry Amir and live in the U.S. That's fair for both Amir and her. Both of them could visit their home countries sometimes.



She should marry Amir and try living in India. It could be a really good experience for her.



Sachiko should break up with Amir. There are too many problems to continue the relationship.



She should marry Amir and live in Japan. More and more foreign people are living in Japan, so Amir will be accepted.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

**TURN TO PAGE 84 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.**

**LOOKING AT THE ISSUE**

What are some of the advantages of an international marriage?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the problems with an international marriage?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_