

# FOREVER SINGLE

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*Hope Hamilton doesn't want to get married.*

*Read this story and find out why.*

Hope Hamilton should be excited. Her boyfriend, Bob, asked her to marry him. But after thinking about it very carefully, **Hope has decided she does not want to get married.**



Hope, an attractive 32-year-old Los Angeles computer salesperson, says she loves her boyfriend. They have lived together for one year and they are happy together. Bob is well-educated, intelligent and kind. He has a well-paying job. And he shares housework with her. **In short, he seems to be the perfect husband.**

"But marriage is for fools and dreamers," says Hope. "I mean, who in their right mind would willingly give up their freedom for another person?"

**Marriage changes people**, Hope believes. Husbands and wives begin to take each other for granted.

Bob helps with the shopping and cooking now, but Hope thinks that this might change if they get married. She might have to do much more of the traditional woman's work—cooking, shopping and housework.

If she gets married, **Hope believes that she will change, too.** She says she is very different from when she was 22 years old, and will be a different person in

10 more years. So she wonders if she can remain happy with Bob.

Hope simply feels that marriage is not the best relationship. "Hey, **almost half of all marriages end in divorce.** And many people who do stay married may not be happy. I have a lot of married friends whose marriages are not very good."

Hope also thinks that marriage will die out in the next century. "So many people all over the world live together now without being married. There is really no need for marriage to continue," she believes.

"Don't get me wrong," Hope explains, "I am not a crazy person who wants to live a life separated from other people, especially men. I love people, and that's another reason why marriage is not the best relationship. There are too many cool people in the world. **I do not want to be tied to just one person all of my life. I enjoy being free.**"

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What do you think about marriage?  
Check the opinions you agree with.

I don't like marriage because it means "giving up freedom."



Maybe marriage is not a good idea. It's difficult to live happily with one person all your life. People change.



Marriage is important. It keeps society together. It's really necessary.



When you meet the right person, you'll want to get married. It's natural.



If you want to have children, marriage is important. Children need a stable home.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

**TURN TO PAGE 80 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.**

**LOOKING AT THE ISSUE**

Should a person stay single or get married?  
What are some good reasons for each one?

Staying single is good because...

Many marriages end in divorce anyway.

When you get married, you have to give up your freedom.

People change. You can't love one person forever.

your idea:

Getting married is good because...

If you meet the right person, you will live happily together.

Marriages keep society together.

It's important to bring up children with a mother and father.