

## Objective

In this unit, you will talk about early marriage in Ethiopia.

## A Listening and speaking

### LESSON ONE

#### Activity 1

Tell your partner what you think is taking place in the picture. What is your opinion about girls getting married at an early age?



**Exercise:** Based on the picture in Activity 1, answer the following questions in your exercise book.

1. What ceremony do you think is taking place in the picture?
2. Of what importance is the animal at such a ceremony?
3. Do you think the parents accepted the gift and let their daughter be married? Give reasons for your answer.

### Listening practice

#### Activity 2

Listen to the story read by your teacher and then answer the questions below.

1. Suggest reasons why parents marry off their children at an early age.
2. In your opinion, when should one get married? Give reasons for your answer.
3. What can we do to stop early child marriages?
4. Why should children stay in school?

## LESSON TWO

## Vocabulary Practice

## Activity

Read these sentences and discuss with a partner the meaning of the bold words and phrases.

1. Students who **drop out of** school miss great opportunities in life.
2. Girls who don't engage in sexual activity, maintain their **virginity**.
3. **Parents** should not arrange early marriages for their children.
4. All children should go to school to acquire more **education**.
5. In **marriage**, a husband should respect his wife.
6. It was a **custom** for young people to marry at an early age.
7. If one contracts **HIV/AIDS**, one may **die** because it has no cure yet.
8. Our headmaster will invite the parents to school to talk about problems of **early marriages**.

**Exercise 1:** Read these words and use a dictionary to find the meaning of the difficult words. Write the words and their meanings in your exercise book.

dropped out	marry	brick	husband	parents	marriages	problems
grown	custom	mediator	miss	arrange	virginity	virgins
invite	HIV/AIDS	cause	education	die	opportunities	

**Exercise 2:** Use the words in the above table to complete the sentences. Do the work in your exercise book.

1. There are a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ marrying at an early age.
2. The girl who \_\_\_\_\_ of school is now pregnant.
3. Children miss great \_\_\_\_\_ in life when they get married too early.
4. Early pregnancies may \_\_\_\_\_ physical health problems.
5. Young pregnant girls may even \_\_\_\_\_ while giving birth.
6. Engaging in early sexual activity may lead to contracting \_\_\_\_\_
7. Early marriage causes students to miss \_\_\_\_\_
8. Parents who arrange early \_\_\_\_\_ for their children should stop it.

## LESSON THREE

### Using: ...going to ...

#### Activity

Tell your partner the things you are going to do after class. Mention the activities in their order of importance.

**Example:** I am **going to** sweep my classroom.

The words **going to** express activities done in the future.

#### Exercise 1: With a partner, read correct sentences from the table.

I	am	going to	get married after finding a job.
We			finish my education before I think of marriage.
You	are		become a teacher before getting married.
They			remain in school until they complete their studies.
She	is		say no to early marriages.
He			avoid bad behaviour from now on.
			educate parents about danger of early marriages.
			teach families about HIV/AIDS.

#### Exercise 2: Rewrite the sentences below using: ...going to...

**Example:** Abdi will get married after he completes school.

Abdi is **going to** get married after he has completed school.

- The boys and girls will discuss their future plans.
- Fatuma wants to talk about the value of education.
- Kinde plans to complete university before he gets married.
- Parents want to discuss early marriages next Saturday.
- Grade Seven boys and girls want to debate about early marriages.

## LESSON FOUR

### Using: In my opinion ... / I think ... / according to me

#### Activity I

Share with your partner your opinions about early marriages.

**Examples:** (a) In my opinion, a girl should not get married before she completes her studies.

(b) I think a boy should marry after getting a good job.

(c) According to me, a girl child should attend school.

**Exercise:** Form sentences from the table. Do the work in your exercise book.

According to me,	parents should not marry off underage girls. a girl should be left to choose whom to marry. we should all respect our culture. pregnant girls should be supported in school. every couple should go for a blood test before getting married. a girl should remain a virgin until marriage.
I think,	
In my opinion,	

**Activity 2**

- (a) Discuss the disadvantages of early marriages to the girls.
- (b) In your opinion, what should be done to prevent early marriages?

**LESSON FIVE**

**Using: If... / ...when ...**

**Activity 1**

**Read these sentences and discuss their meaning with a partner.**

- Examples:**
1. If I complete school, I will get married.
  2. When he performs well, he will go to a good school.

Which sentence shows possibility? Which one shows certainty?

**Exercise:** Write ten sentences about what may/will happen if you get married. Do the work in your exercise book.

**Activity 2**

In pairs, read correct sentences from the table.

If	I	get	married,	I	will not achieve their dreams.
When	we	gets		we	may get pregnant.
	you			you	will not finish school.
	they			they	will lose her virginity.
	she			she	will complete school.
	he			he	may become a doctor.
					might be in trouble.
					will not get problems.
					may not get a good job.

## LESSON SIX

### Using: ...will... / ...shall...

The following phrases show a condition that should be fulfilled for the outcome to occur.

**Example:** Adem to leave school/ missing getting a good job.  
 If Adem leaves school, he will miss getting a good job.  
 Adem will miss getting a good job if he leaves school.

#### Activity

Work with a partner to form similar sentences. Follow the example above.

#### Exercise 1: Rearrange the following phrases to form conditional sentences.

1. Girls to get pregnant when young/having problems at giving birth.
2. Sofia to finish school/getting a good job.
3. Dejen to work hard/passing exams highly.
4. I to stop education/facing problems in life.
5. We to finish university/our getting good jobs.
6. My sister to get married now/missing better education.

**Exercise 2:** Write ten conditional sentences in your book. Compare your answers with a partner.

## LESSON SEVEN

### Using: ... should ... / ... shouldn't ...

The following are suggestions from a community meeting by parents about **early marriage**. Read them carefully.

- Example:**
- (a) Everyone should discourage early marriages.
  - (b) Girls shouldn't get pregnant until they are married.
  - (c) Parents and teachers should advise girls against early marriages.
  - (d) We should abstain from sex until marriage.

Are these sentences orders, instructions or pieces of advice?

**Activity 1**

Draw a table indicating five points about what girls should or should not do before getting married. Compare your table with a partner's.

Should	Should not
go to school	accept gifts from men

**Exercise:** In your exercise book, write the points you have made in the table in complete sentences.

- Example:**
1. A girl should go to school.
  2. She shouldn't accept gifts from men.

**Activity 2**

What advice would you give to a parent who wants to force his child into early marriage? Write it on a chart and display it in class for comparison. Write your points in complete sentences.

**B Reading****LESSON EIGHT****Discussion****Activity**

A young girl dropped out of school and got married. These are some of the things which different people said about her situation. Read the different opinions and then give your own.

**Girl's sister** : Oh, how I wish my sister was still at school. She was doing very well in her class. Now she is married at such an early age! I miss her so much. I don't think she is happy. She is going to miss getting a good job in future. Besides, she may have complications while giving birth. Early marriages should stop!

**Girl's father** : I think my daughter is old enough to get married. I married her mother when I was thirty years and she was thirteen! This is our culture. We must respect it. I don't see anything wrong with it. Girls should get married off in order to keep our culture alive. I think people in towns are getting spoilt. Once a child can read and write, that's enough. I don't even think girls have any right to tell their parents what to do.

**Girl's mother** : I wanted my daughter to stay in school. The problem is that mothers can't change the culture. A girl should not be forced to get married at whatever age. The world is changing and we too should change. Children should stay in school and get enough education. They can then get good jobs in Ethiopia or any other country.

**School Director** : Girls, like boys, should have equal opportunities in life. They should stay in school and join universities or other institutions of higher learning. They should be given a chance to decide what they want. Culture is only good if it promotes good values! In my opinion, girls are forced to get married at an early age and later face lots of problems. I know four cases of young girls who almost died while giving birth! Let the girls stay at school and study to enable them to plan well for a bright future.

**Exercise:** Answer the questions below in your exercise book based on the above discussion.

1. How was the girl performing at school?
2. What would happen if the girl got married?
3. How old was the girl's mother when she got married?
4. What is the father's opinion?
5. Why does her mother think she can't change culture?
6. Why should children stay in school?
7. What is the opinion of the school director?
8. What is your opinion about the girl's situation?

## LESSON NINE

### Role play

#### Activity I

In groups of five, assume the following roles;

- |                          |                                       |               |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| (a) a headmaster         | (b) a counsellor                      | (c) a student |
| (d) a married young girl | (e) a young girl about to get married |               |

Write your opinions about early marriages.

**Exercise:**

1. Write your opinion about a young girl who is about to get married.
2. Write a dialogue to offer personal advice to the young girl.

**Activity 2**

Act out the dialogue to the class.

**C Writing****LESSON TEN****Letter Writing: An informal Letter****Activity**

In pairs, revise the important parts of an informal letter. Read the letter that Tigist recently wrote to her family.

*Arbaminch Technical school,  
P.O. Box 247,  
Arbaminch  
27 Jan 2010*

*My dear family members,*

*I hope everyone at home is alright. I miss each one of you.*

*Ever since I arrived in my new home, we are still living in my husband's parents' house. They want to know and watch everything we do. Everyone seems to be my master and I find this very strange.*

*I have to do all the house chores alone. I don't understand why they can't help out. What I find most strange is that my husband doesn't do any work and is very lazy! He sleeps most of the day!*

*I miss all my schoolmates! I am sure I should have ended up being an engineer if I hadn't been forced to get married at this age. These days I am very weak and I have nausea. My mother-in-law says it is normal for young brides! I suspect I could be pregnant! I don't know how I will manage life in these conditions.*

*I can only encourage my parents to allow my brother and young sister continue with their studies. I wouldn't want them especially my sister to go through my nightmare. Hope to hear from you soon,*

*With love,*

*Your daughter, Tigist.*




**Exercise:** Based on the information in the letter, choose the correct answers.

1. Which word best describes Tigist's mood?  
A happy      B sad      C jolly      D flat
2. Where does the couple live?  
A in the husband's house  
B in the in-laws' house  
C in Tigist's house  
D in the neighbour's house
3. Who seems to be Tigist's master?  
A the husband      C none  
B: everyone at home      D the mother-in-law
4. Her husband does \_\_\_\_\_ work.  
A a lot of      B most of      C no      D very little
5. What was Tigist's dream job?  
A doctor      B teacher      C engineer      D pilot
6. Does Tigist believe her culture is fair?  
A I am not sure      B may be      C no      D yes
7. The symptoms of the sickness she has may be a sign of \_\_\_\_\_  
A working hard      B young age      C pregnancy      D relaxing
8. What does Tigist wish for her siblings?  
A to stay longer in school.  
B to stay a short while in school.  
C to get married immediately.  
D to drop out of school.
9. When did Tigist write this letter?  
A in July      B in March      C in January      D in August
10. Tigist is \_\_\_\_\_  
A only making fuss about her life  
B. one of the few lucky girls in Ethiopia.  
C: one of the unfortunate girls.  
D: living in luxury.

## LESSON ELEVEN

## Activity

Design a poster that has messages condemning early marriages and how to stop them. Share your information with other groups. An example is shown below.

Say No to early marriages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children should stay in school.</li> <li>• The girl child should stay in school.</li> <li>• Early marriage leads to problems.</li> <li>• Stay in school for a better life.</li> <li>• Finish University to get a degree.</li> <li>• Learn to be patient.</li> </ul>	

**Exercise:** Choose the correct answer from the alternatives given. Sometimes, two answers are possible.

- We were really surprised \_\_\_\_ he arrived unexpectedly.  
(a) if (b) when (c) as soon as
- I'm really hungry. Let's go for dinner \_\_\_\_ the film finishes.  
(a) before (b) as soon as (c) when
- Wait \_\_\_\_ you've had lunch.  
(a) until (b) after (c) when
- I'm very busy, but I'll go shopping \_\_\_\_ I have the time.  
(a) until (b) when (c) if
- I'll have a shower \_\_\_\_ I go to bed.  
(a) before (b) after (c) while
- Oh no! I forgot to feed the cat! I'll do it \_\_\_\_ we get home.  
(a) after (b) as soon as (c) when
- We'll go skiing this weekend \_\_\_\_ it snows enough this week.  
(a) when (b) after (c) if
- We're staying in a guest house \_\_\_\_ our new house is built.  
(a) until (b) when (c) before

## LESSON TWELVE

## Writing sentences

**Exercise 1:** Complete the sentences using appropriate words from the list in the box.

equal	dropping	forced	cases	school
marriage	birth	virgin	attending	practices

- \_\_\_\_\_ out of school can lead to missing good chances in life.
- Girls and boys should remain in \_\_\_\_\_ for a bright future.
- After \_\_\_\_\_ university the girl got a degree in medicine.
- The young girls are sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ to get married.
- In most \_\_\_\_\_ the parents of the boy find him the girl to marry.
- To remain a \_\_\_\_\_ is of great value.
- Young mothers often face problems at child \_\_\_\_\_
- The \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony lasted several days.
- Bad cultural \_\_\_\_\_ should be stopped.
- Boys and girls should enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ benefits in school.

**Exercise 2:** Use the words in brackets correctly to complete the sentences. Write the sentences in your exercise book.

- If Soreti (stay) in school, she will have a bright future.
- That girl has (go) to school to sit for her examinations.
- Sofia (get) problems during child birth, she may never have babies again.
- Woizero Azeb (teach) us the value of education everyday.
- If Shumi (leave) school now, she will not be happy.
- Aman always (say) girls education is important.
- If he (marry) her now, they will have problems.
- The bride (stay) at her in-laws' house for sometime after the wedding.



## LESSON THIRTEEN

### Activity

Copy and complete the crossword puzzle.

	1 B			2 M		3 W	4		5 A
			6 P						
7 K									
									8 S
9 W		10 D				11 G			
						12 O			
		13 P	14 R			15 N			
16 S									

#### Clues across

3. you and I (2)
6. mother and father (7)
7. young one of a goat (3)
9. marriage function (7)
12. belongs to (2)
13. heavy with a baby (8)
16. ending (8)

#### Clues down

1. a woman recently married (5)
2. the union of husband and wife (8)
3. you and I (2)
4. stops (4)
5. while, when (2)
8. called out loudly (7)
9. women whose husbands died (6)
10. fall off (4)
14. rest in eternal peace (3)
15. not (3)

**Exercise:** Use the words you have formed to make meaningful sentences in your exercise book.