



Learn English Through Stories

Basic Vocabulary

**Adopted and modified by
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The Life of Jivan by K S Sandhu

It was a very hot summer day in 1957. Gurmeeto, a young mother, gave birth to a baby boy. The boy was big and strong. He weighed five kilograms. He had two older sisters: Mano and Rano.

The family sat together. They talked about names. "What shall we call him?" they asked. After some time, they chose the name Jivan. This name was from his great-grandfather. The old man was born in 1877. Nobody knew the exact date, but he lived a long life.

Jivan grew up in a small village in India. He went to the local school every day. He studied hard and passed his matriculation exams. He was happy and proud.

When Jivan was twenty years old, he came to England. Life was new and different. He found a job in a big factory. He worked Monday to Saturday.

In the factory canteen, he met Julie. She was an English girl. Julie worked in the kitchen. She made tea, sandwiches, and hot meals. Jivan liked her smile. They talked every day. Soon they fell in love.

One year later, Jivan and Julie got married. It was a small, happy wedding. Family and friends came. Everyone smiled and ate cake.

For their honeymoon, they went to Italy. They saw the sea, ate pizza, and walked in beautiful towns. They were very happy.

But on the way back to England, something terrible happened. Their car had a bad accident. Jivan was hurt, but he survived. Julie was very badly hurt. She died in hospital because of internal bleeding. Jivan was very sad. Now he was widowed. His wife was gone.

Jivan lived alone for some years. He worked, ate, and slept, but his heart was empty.

Then one day, he met Sofina. She was from Pakistan and lived in the same town. Sofina was kind and gentle. They talked a lot. They laughed together. After some time, they decided to get married.

The wedding was big and colourful. There was music, food, and dancing. Jivan felt happy again.

Later, Sofina and Jivan had two children. First came a boy. They called him Kabir. Two years later, a girl was born. Her name was Amrit.

Jivan looked at his family: Sofina, Kabir, and Amrit. He thought about his life – birth in India, marriage to Julie, her death, and now a new family. Life has happy days and sad days, he said to himself. But love comes again.

Now Jivan is older. He tells his children stories about Gurmeeto, Julie, and the old great-grandfather. The children listen with big eyes.

Life goes on: people are born, people get married, and one day people die. But family and love stay forever.

2

Birth, marriage and death

A

Birth

Anna **had a baby** yesterday.
He **was born** at 1.15 yesterday morning.
He **weighed** 3 kilograms.

They are going to **call** him John – **after** John, his grandfather. His grandfather's **birthday** is June 16th too – but he was born in 1957!
The baby's parents **were born** in 1986.

Common mistakes

Anna **had a baby** [NOT Anna got a baby].
He/ She **was born** [NOT He/ She born or He/ She is born].



B

Marriage

If you do not have a partner, you are **single**.
If you have a husband or wife, you are **married**.
If your husband or wife dies, you are **widowed**.
If your marriage breaks up, you are **separated** / **divorced**.
[the marriage has legally ended]

Harry and Sarah **got married**.
They (**got**) **married** in 2001.
(*married* without *got* is more formal)
They went on their **honeymoon** to Italy.
They **were married** for 15 years.

Common mistakes

Sarah **got married** to Harry [NOT with Harry].



(bride)
groom

bride

C

Death

Then Harry became **ill**.
He **died** last year.
He **died of** a heart attack.

Common mistakes

Harry is dead [NOT Harry is died or Harry is death].



The **funeral**

Exercises

2.1 Think of people you know. Where were they born? When?

- 1 *My mother was born in Scotland on July 4th 1967.*
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

2.2 Find a word on the opposite page which means ...

- 1 the name for a woman on her wedding day. *bride*
- 2 the name for a man on his wedding day.
- 3 what you are if you haven't got a partner.
- 4 to be 57 kilograms.
- 5 what you are if your marriage has legally ended.
- 6 a religious service for a dead person.
- 7 a holiday after a wedding.
- 8 what you are if your husband or wife dies.

2.3 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

in after of to born on

¹ *In* 2003 Anne got married ² Daniel Smith. Unfortunately, Daniel's grandmother, Lydia Smith, died ³ old age soon after their wedding. Daniel and Anne were ⁴ their honeymoon when she died. Anne's baby daughter was ⁵ two years later. They called the baby Lydia, ⁶ Daniel's grandmother.

2.4 When were these people born and when did they die? Write sentences.

- 1 Genghis Khan (1162–1227) *Genghis Khan was born in 1162 and died in 1227.*
- 2 Christopher Columbus (1451–1506)
- 3 Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)
- 4 Princess Diana (1961–1997)
- 5 Heath Ledger (1979–2008)



2.5 Complete the sentences using died, dead or death.

- 1 Kelly's grandfather *died* last year.
- 2 His made her very sad.
- 3 Her grandmother has been for five years now.
- 4 She of a heart attack.
- 5 Now all Kelly's grandparents are

2.6 Write about your family. Use words and expressions from the opposite page.

Here are some ideas for making your sentences.

I have I/my
got married in (year).
For my/his/her honeymoon, I/he/she went
to

I have / My has
children. They were born in and
..... (years).

Answers

Unit 2

2.1 *Possible answers:*

- 2 My father was born in South Africa on June 4th 1959.
- 3 My brother was born in London on June 6th 1984.
- 4 My husband was born in Russia on February 6th 1979.
- 5 My son was born in Cambridge on October 16th 2005.

2.2

2 (bride)groom	6 funeral
3 single	7 honeymoon
4 weigh	8 widowed
5 divorced	

2.3

2 to 3 of 4 on 5 born 6 after

2.4

- 2 Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 and died in 1506.
- 3 Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 and died in 1519.
- 4 Princess Diana was born in 1961 and died in 1997.
- 5 Heath Ledger was born in 1979 and died in 2008.

2.5

2 death 3 dead 4 died 5 dead

2.6 *Possible answer:*

I have one brother and one sister. My sister got married this year. For her honeymoon, she went to Italy. My brother has two children. They were born in 2001 and 2008.