
How Long Should a Couple Know Each Other before Getting Married?

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Marriage or choosing a spouse is the most significant life decision one can make, which is why we should always pray for a compatible life mate. Choosing to wed a decent or good partner will undoubtedly make your life heaven, while choosing to marry a bad partner would definitely make it hell. Living may be painful and distressing if you associate with the wrong partner. In a terrible or bad marriage, there is no peace of mind (Flicker et al., 2020).

To create a relationship that lasts a lifetime, a couple must successfully endure some relationship phases. You may get a sense of how long people engaged before getting married by looking at the average length of a relationship before marriage. That does not imply that you have to adhere to a set timeline for relationships. There is not a perfect amount of time to date before getting married that will ensure the success of your union. It's advisable to give yourself some time to get to know your spouse before deciding to be married. Building a solid foundation for a long-term relationship requires partners to spend time getting to know one another well in areas like communication, fighting style, intimacy, and conflict resolution. Couples should also be able to talk about significant topics like finances, family life, and their future plans for one another (Buhler et al., 2021).

In Western Societies, as you found, you and your partner have undoubtedly begun

talking about becoming engaged and eventually getting married. If you are in a committed relationship that could lead to marriage, regardless of how long you have been dating, you are undoubtedly thinking when it would be "right" for you or your partner to ask your significant others to marry. In the US, the average couple dates for 2.5 years before becoming engaged (Freeman et al., 2023). According to Pew Research Center survey conducted in 2019 with almost 10,000 American adults, two-thirds of married persons who cohabitated before getting married said that this was a step toward marriage. The Knot 2023 Engagement and Jewelry Study states that two (or more) years is the typical length of a relationship before marriage. This was the case for slightly more than 70% of the couples polled, or roughly 30% of couples who got engaged in less than two years. An additional internal study discovered that US couples who got married in 2023 had an average engagement period of 15 months (The Knot, 2023).

In Pakistan, marriages typically adhere to Islamic marital jurisprudence; however, there may be local and regional differences. Marriage is viewed as an alliance between the families of the husband and wife as well as a connection between them. Pakistani men and women have formed and uphold certain wedding customs, which are relevant to marriage in that country. Compared to their parents, today's couples marry later in life. In Pakistan, generally, 18.6 years is the median age of marriage for women in the 25-49 age range. Compared to rural areas (18.4 years), this figure is marginally higher in urban areas (19.1 years). The median age in Pakistan's is significantly lower in Baluchistan and Sindh and significantly higher in KPK and

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Punjab. In 1960s and 1970s, the cultural perspective on marriage changed from one of co-reliance and obligation to one of love and personal fulfillment. As a result, couples started to put off getting married and instead prioritized spending more time together while pursuing their individual objectives (Hamid et al., 2011).

In Pakistan, scenario is different. Our culture, religion and especially the elders highly disapproves of casual dating. Many Pakistani marriages are arranged. If both families and partners are ready, it can usually take four to six months in the form of engagement; if families are not sure or any other matter, it may take longer. Dating with fiancé is not allowed in our culture.

This adage may be exaggerated, but it conveys a valuable truth: in many ways, the engagement phase is more significant, sweeter, more fun filled, and conducive to personality development than the post-marriage phase. The future life's pillars and foundations can be established during this time. This period of time can have a significant and enormous impact on the subsequent stages of growth, fruitfulness, and solidarity if it is handled gracefully and its unique responsibilities are fulfilled (Ahmed, 2022).

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