Together forever? – Teacher's notes

Level: Pre-intermediate
Aim: To activate key vocabulary for describing relationships and marriages.
Vocabulary: Relationships and marriage.
Note: This is a light-hearted activity that could fit well with the completion of Unit 4.
Preparation: Make one copy of the Worksheet for each pair.

Procedure:
1 Put the students into pairs. Each pair should choose which famous ex-couple they want to be (e.g. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman). Emphasize that students can invent these relationships or use the internet to do some research. Ask the pairs to tell you their names and make sure that no pairs are identical.
2 Give one copy of the Worksheet to each student. Focus attention on the ten questions. Each pair should discuss their answers together using as much of the 'Useful language' as possible. Remind students that they do not have to agree about their past relationships together! Set a time limit of ten minutes for this activity.
3 Have students begin working. Go around the class encouraging students, if necessary, to use the 'Useful language'. Note any typical problems with the pronunciation and form of this lexis, especially the use of prepositions in phrases.
4 After ten minutes, bring the activity to an end. Highlight any problems with the 'Useful language' and elicit corrections. Ask each pair to join two other pairs (1-3 other pairs depending on class size). Explain that the three couples should interview each other about their previous marriages using the same questions. Set a time limit of ten minutes for this activity.
5 Go around the class monitoring students' use of the 'Useful language' and encouraging students, where necessary, to invent extra details.
6 After ten minutes, bring the activity to an end. Elicit the answers from each group to the three questions in part B. What were the most common reasons for divorce? Does this reflect the marriages of non-celebrities?
7 Highlight any typical problems you noted in the use of the 'Useful language'.

Extension:
To wrap up this activity and generate the functional language of invitations and suggestions, ask volunteer students to list the film stars in the class they would most like to ask out on a date. Tell the students they have five minutes to try to get a date with their chosen film star.

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