

## Why Marriage Matters

### Marriage Talking Points Typing Game

1. Click on the link to begin the game  
[https://www.flippity.net/tt.php?k=1plgxNVdPesvD\\_wOLMUrbLqnbKaVunSGGpCDhZEgQ4M](https://www.flippity.net/tt.php?k=1plgxNVdPesvD_wOLMUrbLqnbKaVunSGGpCDhZEgQ4M) or use this QR code if you are on something with a keyboard to type:



2. Choose which typing test you would like to take. The tests get increasingly longer. The title for the test will give you a hint about the Talking Point(s) used for the test.
3. Begin typing the words. The letter will change when you have typed it and will go red if you got it wrong.
4. The timer will stop once you have completed the entire piece – whether or not the time is up.
5. Upon completion, it will tell you your accuracy percentage and your words per minute.

**HAVE FUN! And enjoy learning some great talking points while increasing your typing skills.**

\*\* All Talking Points and their citations can be found on the following pages. Some have been combined for use in the typing test. \*\*



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### Talking Points Used in Typing Test with Citations

Marriage is not only a private vow; it is a public act, a contract taken in full public view, enforceable by law and in the equally powerful court of public opinion. When you marry, the public commitment you make changes the way you think about yourself and your beloved; it changes the way you act and think about the future; and it changes how other people and other institutions treat you as well. Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher, *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier, and Better Off Financially*, (New York: Double Day, October 2000): 17.

Married people were more likely than those who were not married to be very happy. Forty-three percent of people who said they were very happy they were married, versus 24 percent of unmarried people saying they were very happy. "Are We Happy Yet?: A Social Trends Report," Pew Research Center, (2006, 13 February).

People who were married reported the highest levels of well-being, regardless of whether they were happily married or not. "Even when controlling for relationship happiness, being married was associated with higher self-esteem, greater life satisfaction, greater happiness and less distress." Claire Kamp Dush and Paul Amato, "Consequences of Relationship Status and Quality for Subjective Well-Being," *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 22(5) (2005): 607-627. 20.

Marital status and psychological well-being was statistically linked in an analysis of data from 19 countries. In nearly all countries, married men and women reported greater happiness and "overall life satisfaction" than unmarried and divorced peers. The divorced and separated were the least happy and the least satisfied. Arne Mastekaasa, "Marital Status, Distress, and Well-Being: An International Comparison," *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 25 (1994): 189-204.

Among couples who married and stayed married, the per person net worth increased on average by 16 percent with each year of marriage. Compared to those who remained single, getting married increased one's wealth, on average, by 93 percent. Jay Zagorsky, "Marriage and Divorce's Impact on Wealth," *Journal of Sociology* 41(4) (2005): 406-424. Cited in: *Want to be Wealthy? Try Marriage*, Cable News Network, (2006, 18 January).

Marriage in early adulthood doubled the odds of affluence. The cumulative incidence of affluence at age 45 was 33 percent for married versus 16 percent for non-married. Among older individuals, wedlock conferred an even more pronounced advantage: "42 percent of older married will experience affluence versus 18 percent among nonmarried..." Thomas Hirschl, Joyce Altobelli and Mark Rank, "Does Marriage Increase the Odds of Affluence? Exploring the Life Course Probabilities," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 65 (2003): 927-938. 28.

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**Married parents were significantly less likely to be poor. According to a study by economist Robert Lerman, poverty rates for married couples were half those of cohabiting couple parents and one-third that of noncohabiting single parents in households with other adults.**

Robert Lerman, "How Do Marriage, Cohabitation and Single Parenthood Affect the Material Hardships of Families With Children?," U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation under HHS Grant Number 00ASPE359A, (2002, July). Robert Lerman, "Married and Unmarried Parenthood and Economic Well-Being: A Dynamic Analysis of a Recent Cohort," U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation under HHS Grant Number 00ASPE359A, (2002, July).

**Married men earned more money than single men with similar education and job histories.**

**For men, marriage reaped as many benefits as education.** Robert Lerman, "Marriage and the Economic Well-Being of Families with Children: A Review of the Literature," U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation under HHS Grant Number 00ASPE359A, (2002).

**The economic benefits of marriage are not limited to the middle class; some 70 percent of never-married mothers would be able to escape poverty if they were married to the father of their children.**

Robert Rector, Kirk Johnson, Patrick Fagan and Lauren Noyes, "Increasing Marriage Will Dramatically Reduce Child Poverty," Heritage Foundation Center for Data Analysis Report No. CDA03-06, (2003, 20 May).

**A child born and raised outside marriage was six times more likely to receive welfare aid than a child raised in an intact, married family. Each year, federal and state governments spent more than \$200 billion on means-tested aid for low-income families with children through programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, food stamps, public housing, the earned income tax credit and Medicaid. Of this total, some 75 percent (\$150 billion) went to single-parent families.**

Patrick Fagan, Robert Rector, Kirk Johnson and America Peterson, "The Positive Effects of Marriage: A Book of Charts," The Heritage Foundation, (2002, April).

**Married mothers were less likely to suffer abuse than never-married mothers. In fact, even when the very high rates of abuse of separated and divorced mothers were added into the statistic, the rates of abuse among mothers who had ever been married were still lower than the rates of abuse among women who had never married and those who were cohabiting. Among mothers who were currently married or had ever been married, the rate of abuse was 38.5 per 1,000 mothers. Among mothers who have never been married the rate was 81 per 1,000 mothers. National Crime Victimization Survey.**

Cited by: Robert Rector, Patrick Fagan and Kirk Johnson, "Marriage: Still the Safest Place for Women and Children," Heritage Foundation Background (Working Paper) 1732 (2004): 2-3.

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**A study of adolescents convicted of homicide in adult court found that at the time of the crimes, 42.9 percent of their parents had never been married, 29.5 percent were divorced and 8.9 percent were separated. Less than 20 percent of these children were from married parent households.** Patrick Darby, Wesley Allan, Javad Kashani, Kenneth Hartke and John Reid, "Analysis of 112 Juveniles Who Committed Homicide: Characteristics and a Closer Look at Family Abuse," *Journal of Family Violence* 13 (1998): 365-374.

**On average, children reared in married-parent families were less vulnerable to serious emotional illness, depression and suicide than children in nonintact families.** "State of Our Unions: The Social Health of Marriage in America, 2003," (Piscataway, NJ: The National Marriage Project), (2003): 8, 16, 18.

**Vulnerability to eating disorders ran twice as high among young women with unmarried parents than it did among peers with married mothers and fathers.** Miguel Angel Martinez-Gonzalez, Pilar Gual, Francisca Lahortiga, Yolanda Alonso, Jokin de Irala-Estevéz and Salvador Cervera, "Parental Factors, Mass Media Influences, Influences, and the Onset of Eating Disorders in a Prospective Population-Based Cohort," *Pediatrics* 111 (2003): 315-320.

**Married men earned more money than single men with similar education and job histories. For men, marriage reaped as many benefits as education.** Robert Lerman, "Marriage and the Economic Well-Being of Families with Children: A Review of the Literature," U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation under HHS Grant Number 00ASPE359A, (2002).

**Biological children of cohabiting parents consistently received smaller investments from their fathers than biological children of married parents. After controlling for ways that married and unmarried fathers differed, as well as demographic factors, statistically significant correlations showed that unmarried fathers spent about four hours less per week with their children than their married peers.** Robin Fretwell Wilson, "Evaluating Marriage: Does Marriage Matter to the Nurturing of Children?" *San Diego Law Review* 42 (2005): 848-881.

**Marriage strengthened the bonds between fathers and their children. Married men were more involved and had better relationships with their children than unwed or divorced fathers. In part, this was because married fathers shared the same residence with their children. But it was also because the role of husband encourages men to voluntarily take responsibility for their own children. Paternity by itself does not seem to accomplish the same transformation in men's lives.** Steven Nock, "Marriage in Men's Lives," (N.Y: Oxford University Press, 1998); David Popenoe, "Life Without Father: Compelling New Evidence That Fatherhood and Marriage Are Indispensable for the Good of Children and Society," (New York: The Free Press, 1996).

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Being unmarried significantly increased the hazard of dying for both men and women. For both sexes, the hazard of mortality fell significantly with marital duration. For men, there was a large initial drop in the risk of dying after the wedding, followed by an additional, gradually accumulating benefit of marriage duration. The conclusion was that, for women, the greatest benefit from marriage was accumulated over time. Lee Lillard and Linda Waite, "Til Death Do Us Part: Marital Disruption and Mortality," *American Journal of Sociology* 100(5) (1995, March): 1,131-1,156.

"Marriage promotes better health habits and greater longevity among men, largely due to the care, attention and monitoring by their wives. In fact, men appear to reap the most physical health benefits from marriage and suffer the greatest health consequences when they divorce. Once married, men are also less likely to hang out with male friends, to spend time at bars, to abuse alcohol or drugs or to engage in illegal activities. They are more likely than unmarried men to attend religious services regularly, to join faith groups and to spend time with relatives. In brief, men settle down when they get married." Testimony Of Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Co-Director, National Marriage Project Rutgers, The State University Of New Jersey, Before The Committee On Health, Education, Labor And Pensions Subcommittee On Children And Families U.S. Senate, (2004, 28 April).

"Virtually every study of mortality and marital status shows the unmarried of both sexes have higher death rates, whether by accident, disease or self-inflicted wounds, and this is found in every country that maintains accurate health statistics." Robert Coombs, "Marital Status and Personal Well-Being: A Literature Review," *Family Relations* 40 (1991): 97.

"The size of the health gain from marriage is remarkable. It may be as large as the benefit from giving up smoking." Chris Wilson and Andrew Oswald, "How Does Marriage Affect Physical and Psychological Health? A Survey of the Longitudinal Evidence," *Institute for the Study of Labor, Discussion Paper No. 1619* (2005).

Unmarried individuals had higher rates of mortality than married people -- about 50 percent higher for women and 250 percent higher for men. Married people had better physical health and psychological well-being than divorced, separated, never-married or widowed people. "The Benefits of Marriage," *National Center for Policy Analysis, Daily Policy Alert*, (2006, 4 January).