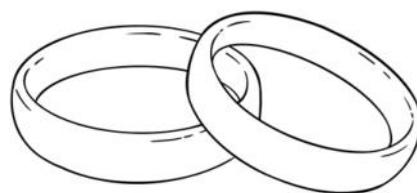


## Charly's biggest mistake

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1. Read the sketch.
2. Form groups of two students. Decide who is who:
  - **Barbara** who likes to nag<sup>1</sup>
  - Barbara's husband **Charly**
3. Act out the sketch.
4. Swap roles.



*Charly and his wife Barbara are having lunch.*

**Barbara:** Is the steak alright?

**Charly:** Yes, it is.

**Barbara:** Oh, great. It took me two hours to prepare this steak and you call it "alright".

**Charly:** I said that because you asked if it was alright. It's very good.

**Barbara:** That's coming too late. *(looks at Charly)* So, what have you planned?

**Charly:** Planned? What do you mean?

**Barbara:** *(angrily)* Of course! You didn't remember. Charly, you are the most ignorant person I know!

**Charly:** Remember? What are you talking about?

**Barbara:** Twenty years ago, you asked me to marry you. And I thought, this day would mean something to you ... silly me.

**Charly:** Oh, is that today? Sorry, Barbara.

**Barbara:** *(stands up and clears the table)* I'm not surprised. You never remember any of those important days. I'm used to that. By the way: This is a new dress. It cost me a lot of money.

**Charly:** It cost *us* a lot of money.

**Barbara:** What did you just say?

**Charly:** Nothing. I'd like to go upstairs. I still have to do something. And I'm tired.

**Barbara:** Of course you are. All this playing on your phone and surfing the internet must be exhausting<sup>2</sup>.

**Charly:** Do you still need help in the kitchen?

**Barbara:** Yes, I do. But not from you. You always put the things in the wrong places. It's driving me crazy.

**Charly:** Alright then. I'm going upstairs now.

**Barbara:** Do you even listen? You are so weak. A real man would fight back.

**Charly:** Well, OK. Maybe I put the things in the wrong places because you reorganize your kitchen every week.

**Barbara:** Are you criticizing me for having a structured kitchen? Wow. I always try so hard to be a good housewife and now this. I don't know what to say.

**Charly:** *(whispers)* I wish.

**Barbara:** Excuse me?

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<sup>1</sup> to nag = herumnörgeln

<sup>2</sup> exhausting = erschöpfend

## Charly's biggest mistake

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- Charly:** You'll always have something to say. You'll never stop complaining<sup>3</sup> and picking on<sup>4</sup> me.
- Barbara:** How ungrateful<sup>5</sup> are you? I do everything for you. And you? You don't listen to me, you don't look at me – you don't care about me. I should have married Herbie Miller. He was such a charming and good-looking man and he really wanted me. He's a judge<sup>6</sup> now. I clearly made the wrong choice. And now I'm stuck with<sup>7</sup> you – a postman.
- Charly:** Do you really think that you are some kind of jackpot? Of course I remembered the day of the proposal<sup>8</sup>. I've hated myself every single day since then for asking you to marry me. It was the biggest mistake of my life. If you excuse me now, as I already said, I have to do something. Where's my phone?
- Barbara:** And what is that? Playing Candy Crush? Here. (*gives Charly his phone*)
- Charly:** No, I'm going to call Herbie and ask him if he still wants to marry you.
- Barbara:** (*angrily*) That's the best idea you've had in years. Tell him that I'm still extremely attractive.
- Charly:** Yeah, that should help. Let's hope that Herbie's eyes are as bad as his taste in women<sup>9</sup>.

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3 to complain = sich beschweren

4 to pick on sb. = auf jdm. herumhacken

5 ungrateful = undankbar

6 judge = Richter

7 to be stuck with sb. = jdn. am Hals haben

8 proposal = (Heirats-)Antrag

9 to have a bad taste in sb./sth. = einen schlechten Geschmack an jdm./etw. haben



### Your role: Charly

Read the card and act out your role.

**Who is in the sketch?** Charly and his nagging wife Barbara

**Where is it?** In Charly and Barbara's dining room

**What happens?**

- You have lunch with your wife.
- When she asks you if the steak is alright, you answer yes.
- When she asks you what you have planned for today, you act confused and say that you don't know what she wants.
- When she tells you why this is a special day, you say that you had forgotten about that and that you're sorry.
- You say that you're tired and want to go upstairs because you still have to do something.
- Barbara reacts angrily and so you offer to help her in the kitchen.
- When she turns down<sup>1</sup> your offer because you always put things in the wrong places, you want to go upstairs.
- She shouts at you because you never fight back and are not a real man.
- You've had enough: You tell her that you definitely remember the day of the proposal<sup>2</sup> because it was the worst mistake of your life and you hate yourself every day for that stupid idea.
- Before you go upstairs, you tell Barbara what exactly you plan to do upstairs: You are going to call Herbie and ask him if he still wants to marry Barbara, so that you can be free of her.



1 to turn down sth. = etwas ablehnen

2 proposal = (Heirats-)Antrag