

Height: A Secret Ingredient to Happy Marriage

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. bliss /blɪs/ (noun) perfect happiness
Example: Lying on a sunny beach is my idea of sheer bliss.
2. diminish /dɪ'mɪn.ɪʃ/ (verb) to reduce or be reduced in size or importance
Example: I don't want to diminish her achievements, but she did have a lot of help.
3. appeal /ə'pi:l/ (noun) the quality in someone or something that makes him, her, or it attractive or interesting
Example: This used to be a beautiful hotel but it has lost its appeal in recent years.
4. gradually /'grædʒ.u.ə.li/ slowly over a period of time or a distance
Example: Gradually, she realized that he wasn't telling her the truth.
5. intrigue /ɪn'tri:g/ (verb) to interest someone a lot, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious
Example: Throughout history, people have been intrigued by the question of whether there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.



Researchers have discovered what they believe is one of the keys to a happy marriage. A difference in height between the two partners could be a secret ingredient for **marital bliss**. Professor Kitae Sohn of Konkuk University in South Korea has discovered that the taller a woman's husband is, the happier she is.

Mr Sohn said: "A greater height difference in a couple was positively related to the wife's happiness." However, he said the attraction and benefits for a woman having a tall husband do not last forever and **diminish** over time. Sohn said the **appeal** of a

taller husband "**gradually** weakened over time". He said he was surprised to find that it took around 18 years of marriage for this appeal to disappear.

Professor Sohn said he was **intrigued** as to why women seemed to prefer taller men. He said: "Although it has been known that women prefer tall men in mating for evolutionary reasons, no study has investigated whether a taller husband makes his wife happier." His study included analyzing data from 7,850 Indonesian women who expressed a preference for taller men.

The women said they did not know exactly why they preferred a taller partner. Sohn wrote: "Women simply like tall men, while unable to say why." He added: "This is similar to people favoring fatty, salty and sugary foods without knowing exactly why." However, the BBC noted that shorter men can be more stable, better husbands.

DISCUSSION

1. What do you think are the secrets to a happy marriage?
2. Is height important to you in a partner?
3. Who is the happiest couple you know? Why are they so happy?
4. Why do men grow taller than women?
5. What makes a great husband or wife?