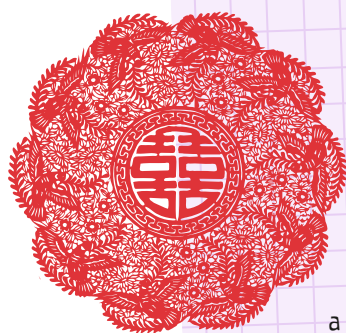


www.



Arranged Marriages on the Internet

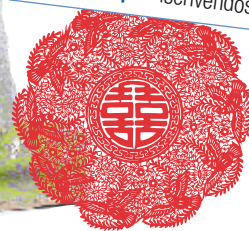
In Asian culture there is still a strong tradition of arranged marriages. This is where parents choose a husband for their daughter from a **suitable** family in their community of equal religion and **caste**, often with the help of a respected **matchmaker**. However, as globalisation increases **along with** the influence of the Internet, local communities are becoming global communities.

Young, educated Asian women are more liberated now, especially if they work, but many still want to follow the tradition of arranged marriages because it brings honour to their family. Instead of using a local matchmaker, though, many **are throwing their net wider** and **signing up** on specialist Internet sites to find someone their family will approve of and they will like.



suitable = adatta
caste = posizione sociale
matchmaker = persona che combina matrimoni
along with = insieme a
are throwing their net wider = stanno allargando i loro orizzonti
signing up = iscrivendosi

glossary



1 How is the title "Love at First Site" a play on words? What does it mean in English?

2 Read the information about Asian marriage and answer the following questions.

- 1 In Asian tradition, who makes the choice of a husband for an Asian woman?
- 2 What is a matchmaker?
- 3 Why do young Asian women still want to follow the tradition of arranged marriages?
- 4 How does the Internet change the tradition of finding a husband?

Monsoon Wedding

Two days before her **wedding** day, Aditi goes to find her **lover** for the last time. The next day, she meets her future husband with her family and she realises he is a really good person.

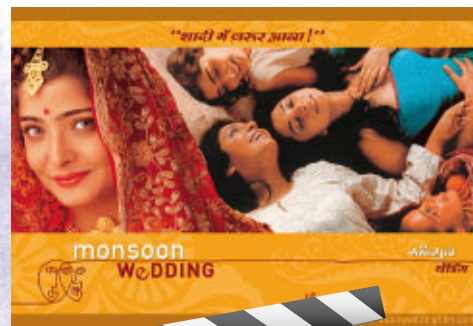
... Then he **changes his mind** and decides that because she was honest, they will probably be very happy together as husband and wife. In the next few hours before the wedding ceremony, they realise they are falling **head over heels** in love.

'Monsoon Wedding', a film directed by Mira Nair in 2000, tells the story of a traditional Punjabi arranged marriage in the cosmopolitan city of Delhi, India.

The wedding ends with a huge monsoon rain shower. Everybody dances and sings for joy around the happy **couple** as they take their **vows** and prepare for their future life together.

Aditi is 24 and is a television producer in modern Delhi. She had a secret **affair** but now she has agreed to marry a man her parents have chosen to be her husband. His name is Hermant and he is from a traditional Punjabi family but he lives and works in America.

When they are alone, he decides she must tell him about her past life so they have no secrets in their marriage. At first Hermant is very angry and thinks they should abandon the wedding completely ...



monsoon = monson
wedding = matrimonio
lover = amante
changes his mind = cambia idea
head over heels = perdutoamente
couple = coppia
vows = voti
affair = storia d'amore

glossary

3 Read the story of the film and number the paragraphs in the correct order to tell the plot of "Monsoon Wedding".

4 Now match the following paragraph headlines to the paragraphs you have numbered.

- ☐ Aditi's Revelation
- ☐ Introduction to the Film
- ☐ The First Meeting
- ☐ A Happy Ending
- ☐ Background to the Main Characters
- ☐ Hermant's Decision

5 Discuss the following ideas in your class.

- 1 What are the customs for marriage in your country?
- 2 Do you think marriage is a good idea? Why?
- 3 What are the advantages and disadvantages of arranged marriages in your opinion?

