

It's About Time!

2

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 7.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

ANTILLO, ITALY ¹Vittoria Celemi and Sebastio Macaroni live in a small village in Sicily. They **are in love**. ²One day, Sebastio gives Vittoria an engagement ring and asks her to marry him. ³Vittoria accepts, but she adds, "Let's wait to **get married** until we **can afford** the perfect wedding! We don't have enough money now."

⁴Vittoria begins to shop for a wedding dress, and she soon finds the perfect one. It's long, lacy, and beautiful. But it **costs an arm and a leg!** ⁵So Vittoria starts to save her money. She makes a small payment every year. She **saves up** for 40 years!

⁶**At long last**, after a 40-year engagement, Vittoria can buy the wedding dress. She and Sebastio decide to **tie the knot**.

⁷At the wedding, Vittoria looks beautiful in her dress. The newlyweds **are in seventh heaven**. They dance, drink champagne, and eat caviar. ⁸Afterward, they ride off in a horse-drawn carriage. Their friends watch them and think, "**It's about time!**"



New idioms and expressions

It's about time!	It's later than expected!
be in love (with someone)	love (someone) strongly in a romantic way
get married (to someone)	marry (someone)
can afford something	have enough money to buy something
cost an arm and a leg	be very expensive
save up*	keep money so one can use it later
at long last	after a very long time; finally
tie the knot	marry
be in seventh heaven	be very happy

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)


 **2. Listen**

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

 **4. Listen and Complete**

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- a. First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- b. Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- What does Vittoria say to Sebastio when he asks her to marry him?
- What do you think of Vittoria's decision?
- How long does it take for the couple to tie the knot?
- How do the newlyweds feel?

About you.....

- Are you patient? Can you imagine waiting 40 years for anything? If so, what?
- Take a survey of your classmates. How many are single? How many want to get married? Find out their reasons.
- Is it important to be in love when you get married? Explain your ideas.
- In your country, when a man wants to marry a woman, does he need to get permission from her parents? Does he give something to the woman or her family? Does the woman give something to the man or his family?
- Vittoria's wedding dress cost an arm and a leg. Have you ever bought something that cost an arm and a leg? If so, what?

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- I'm in seventh heaven when _____
_____.
- Recently, I bought _____, and it/they cost an arm and a leg.
- I'm saving up to buy _____ because I can't afford it/them now.

8. Write a Dialogue

Work with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least three idioms from the unit. Act it out for a small group or the class.

9. Take a Dictation



10. Complete the Dialogue

- a. Two friends, Eva and Stephanie, are talking.
Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- I'm in seventh heaven
- can afford
- cost an arm and a leg
- get married
- tie the knot
- it's about time



Eva, hi! What's new?

Oh, hi, Stephanie. **Guess what!*** Mario and I are going to (1) get married in June!



Congratulations, (2) _____! You've been engaged for five years! I wasn't sure you were ever going to (3) _____.

Yeah. I had cold feet.



But now you're ready?

Yeah, I know Mario's the one for me. (4) _____!



Are you going to have a big wedding?

We don't know yet. I hope so. If we (5) _____ it, I'd like about 300 guests, a dance band, champagne...



Cool.** I know a great band—the Hot Peppers. And they don't (6) _____.

Oh, really? I want to get the details, but I should go now. I'll call you soon.



*Guess what!: a way of starting a conversation (informal)

**cool: great (informal)

recycled idiom: have cold feet

- b. Work with a partner. Role-play the dialogue together.