

樂此不疲

le4 ci3 bu4 pi2

Divorce rates are going up everywhere. In Hong Kong, the number of divorces has increased continuously over the past two decades, with the “crude divorce rate” tripling since 1991. In some Western countries, it is said that close to half of all marriages end in a breakup.

Divorces can be nasty affairs, and very costly too. Former Beatle Paul McCartney paid close to £50 million (HK\$552 million) to get out of the marriage with second wife Heather Mills.

But that did not deter him from getting married a third time - to Nancy Shevell, just a few years later. Media mogul Rupert Murdoch, 84, meanwhile, is marrying for a fourth time.

Many celebrities do seem to enjoy the idea of wedlock. Marilyn Monroe married three times. Fellow actress Elizabeth Taylor's record is certainly hard to break - she married eight times to seven men.

Idiom by Lon Yan

As far as tying the knot is concerned, we can say some people are just “樂此不疲” (*le4 ci3 bu4 pi2*). “樂” (*le4*) “joyous,” “happy,” “此” (*ci3*) “this,” “these,” “不” (*bu4*) “not,” and “疲” (*pi2*) “tired.” Literally, “樂此不疲” (*le4 ci3 bu4 pi2*) “happy in this, not tired.”

The idiom means “love, enjoy doing something without stop,” “delight in a thing and never get tired of it.” Hobbies are activities that people find “樂此不疲” (*le4 ci3 bu4 pi2*). But the idiom can be applied to almost anything.

When a friend keeps changing jobs, you can also say he or she is “樂此不疲” (*le4 ci3 bu4 pi2*). “此” (*ci3*), this, refers to the activity in question.

Terms containing the character “樂” (*le4*) include:

快樂 (*kuai4 le4*) - happy

樂觀 (*le4 guan1*) - optimistic

樂趣 (*le4 qu4*) - fun, delights, pleasures

樂意 (*le4 yi4*) - willing, with pleasure