

Living Together Before Marriage

Shona transcript:

Woman: NaJohn tagara pasi tiri mukomana nemusikana. Taona kuti zvekuunganidza mari,nekuti roora inodhura. Zvaakubva nekuti urikuroora kumhuri yakaita sei. Vanogona kukuti vanoda mari inowanda kusvika pa\$500 dollars,ehe takuchaja nemadollars. Kusvika pa\$500 dollars kana kuti

Interviewer: Ma US dollars?

Woman: Ehe, maUS dollars. Pane vanhu vaakuchaja mari dzekuda kupfuma. Ariko ma \$15000 akungochajwa. Saka moona kuti iii kwatiri kuda kuenda uku, hatinazvighoni kana kuti hatina mari, chero \$10 dollars hatina asi ngatingogare tese. Kana mari dzazobatana tozoono kuti chii,tingaita sei. Torangana naJohn toona kuti aehwa ini ndakungorongedza hangu mabhegi angu ndoenda kwaJohn.

Man: Otouya kumba kwangu.

Woman: Dzimwe nguva nekuti ndinenge ndaane pamuviri pandisingade kuti paziikanwe kumba kwedu. Kana kuti dzimwe nguvawo, zvaakuitika manje ndezvekuti vanhu vanongodecider kuti haiwa hatinazvimirire izvozvo ngatingoenda.

English translation:

Woman: Suppose John and I, we are boyfriend and girlfriend and we settle for a discussion. We realize that we cannot raise enough money [for marriage] because the bride price is expensive. They [the girl's parents] may charge up to five hundred dollars. Yes, we are now charging dollars. Up to \$500 or ...

Interviewer: US Dollars?

Woman: Yes, US dollars. There are people who are now charging to get rich. Some are charging up to \$15000. Then we [she and her boyfriend] realize that we cannot handle it, we do not have money, even \$10, but we just decide to live together. Then we will arrange [to pay the bridal price] later when we can afford it. Then we plan, together with John. I will just pack my bags and go to his house.

Man: Then she comes to my house.

Woman: In some cases, I may be pregnant and not want people at home to know. These days people sometimes just decide to live together and disregard the traditional prerequisite.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2013 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated