

Hello! In this podcast I want to talk about a very sensitive and serious matter – divorce and how children could be affected by this stressful family situation. According to the recent statistic the **divorce is on the decline**: from 50% in the 80s to about 35-39% nowadays (the data collected in USA and UK), which probably should mean that fewer children now have **to live between two homes**. However, there is considerable doubt if such statistic signifies that families are living in more harmony and love than before, and that now families tend **to stick together** and as a result children suffer less. It may be far from being true.

According to Time Magazine, one reason for those optimistic figures may be simply the fact that just more people prefer **to cohabit** without getting married, even at the point when a child is born, but in the end more than half children born in such partnerships will see a parental breakup with all the related consequences: stress, frustration, fear.

On the other hand, married families that have long passed the romantic stage and **struggling to stay together**, often choose not to divorce in order just to keep **marital advantages**, such as tax benefits, a more well-off and financially secure life, and, of course, to avoid **alimony, child support and divorce settlements**. And what are the kids likely to see in this case? Home without love, constant **feud** and arguments between the parents which inevitably lead to psychological traumas.

Even when parents avoiding divorce do not **pursue marital benefits** and their sole purpose is to keep the family for the well-being of their children, does it really reach the goal? A lot of parents underestimate their kids' ability to see the real state of things, and the parents' attempt to **put up a good front** may result in losing trust of their children. In the end, they all suffer, the parents who do not love each other anymore, and the kids who feel deceived.

So, what do you think? It is really worth staying together for the children when the family is actually **falling apart at the seams**?

### **And now let's take a look at the vocabulary of this podcast:**

**the divorce is on the decline** – the number of couples that choose to divorce goes down

**live between two homes** – live in two households in turn

**stick together** – remain united, keep the family united

**cohabit** – live together as a couple without being married

**struggle to stay together** – have difficulty keeping the family united

**marital advantages** – benefits arising out of the married status

**alimony** – provision for an ex-spouse after divorce to be paid on a regular basis

**child support** – money paid by a parent for the living expenses of a child when a parent is no longer living with the child

**divorce settlements** – agreement between spouses undergoing marital dissolution regarding family assets, property and payments

**feud** – long-lasting bitter quarrel or dispute

**pursue marital benefits** – making it a goal to get the marital advantages

**put up a good front** – to hide one's true feelings or real state of things

**fall apart at the seams** – to be in a very bad state