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## **BUYING ESSENTIALS**

### **1. What does “carat” mean?**

“Carat” comes from the Greek name of a seed and was first used in ancient times to use a measure of weight. A carat weighs approximately seven-thousandths of an ounce and it will take approximately one hundred forty two of them a single ounce. Carats are divided into 100 points. Example: a diamond is a quarter carat is actually 25 points.

### **2. The engagement ring and wedding band-which came first?**

Oddly enough it seems that historians are not able to agree upon this. What can be tracked back is the use of two rings when it was custom to give the soon-to-be bride a ring at the time marriage was proposed. When the wedding took place, the bridegroom indicated that his betrothal assurances were official by presenting another ring, a plain band of holy union.

### **3. What is the reason for wearing the ring on the third finger on the left hand?**

It has been believed in the past that the vein of love ran from that finger to the heart. It sounds very sweet but medical science does not support this philosophy. So some more practical reasons for wearing the ring on this finger is better protection and less action then the right.

### **4. What does jewelry really mean?**

The Latin and French origin means joy. Even in prehistoric times jewelry was actually known around and was also a symbol of happiness.

### **5. What are Cultured Pearls?**

Most of pearls are created by nature with one thing added which is added to the oyster. A small bead of mother of pearl is inserted into the oyster and over time is to cover the bead with layers and layers of nacre.

### **6. What is the spectacle name and power magnification that jewelers use to inspect gems?**

The spectacle or eyepiece is called a loupe and it is small to be able to carry around and the standard power magnification is 10x which stands for ten power. This helps jewelers see very small inclusions in gemstones.

### **7. An “enhanced” gemstone means what?**

Man has looked for ways to improve the look of gemstones; some of the ways are cutting styles (which is the most basic), heating, oiling, and irradiation. Most of these types of enhancements are permanent. If you have a question about your gemstone, ask your jewelry expert.



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**8. Do you know where the word “watch” came from?**

It first started with portable clocks that were carried by the town's watchman when he made his rounds through the towns. The word watches had two other names before it was called “watches”. The previous names were “watchman's clock” and “watch clocks”.

**9. What is the best way to clean my jewelry?**

First, your jewelry should be checked by a jewelry expert every six months to make sure diamonds and gems are secure. Jewelers can clean your jewelry with their vibrating, heated ultrasonic to vibrate out dirt and then steam it away. In between cleanings use lukewarm water, mild soap, and a brush and clean your jewelry at home. In home ultrasonics are not recommended due to the fact that if you have not checked your stones and jewelry, the vibration may cause them to fall out. For a quick buff on your jewelry, a polishing cloth is a great way to accomplish this.

**10. Is there a new “diamond look-a-like” on the market that can make it hard to tell a natural diamond from the synthetic one?**

There is a stone that is a synthetic and is similar to a diamond that was revealed in 1998. The synthetic stone is called Moissanite and it is lab created type of silicon carbide, from a type of mineral not found abundantly in nature. You should rely on your jewelry expert to identify and explain the differences.