

## Uses for Chewing Gum

Improve your digestion. Spearmint is a digestive aid, and is also good for heartburn (but don't expect it to stick a broken heart back together).

Keep your mouth busy. Bite back all the things you want to say to him, that he doesn't want to hear.

Chew over when it started. That book launch they attended together? ("Oh you wouldn't be interested, sweetheart.") The birthday party where you lost track of both of them for an hour, after you'd been trapped in a corner by his mother? It could have been going on for years.

Squish a piece over her face on that photograph. The one of the three of you on Saltburn pier the year you were married, him in the middle with his arms around you both.

Peel it away again, then jab repeatedly at the picture until both of their smiles are removed.

Spit a freshly chewed piece between the pages of your wedding album, while he's busy with the multi-function printer. The expensive high-end model that you paid for because he couldn't afford it. Too busy working on 'The Great Novel' for the last five years. Unpaid. While you worked two jobs to support you both. Take one last look at the two of you making your vows then slam it shut.

Keep your smile bright when he asks if you'll post his precious manuscript on your way to work.

Laugh with confidence as you think about the stuck-together pages, the gummed-up printer, and when he'll notice the piece you stuck in his hair as you gave him a final (fresh-breathed) kiss goodbye.

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