

Wedding Vocabulary

http://www.learnamericanenglishonline.com/images/Vocabulary%20Images/Wedding/Wedding_Vocabulary.html

get married

When people fall in love and stay in love, they eventually decide that it's a good idea to get married.

This couple is going to get married.



bride

The woman who gets married is called a "bride."

The bride often wears a **wedding gown** or a **wedding dress**.



groom

The man who gets married is called a "groom."

The groom often wears a **tuxedo** or a **suit**.



the maid of honor

The maid of honor is a woman selected by the bride to assist in the wedding ceremony and help the bride.



the best man

The best man is a man selected by the groom to assist in the wedding ceremony and help the groom.



bridesmaids

The women who stand up in support of the bride are the bridesmaids. Bridesmaids wear **matching dresses**, but their dresses look different from the wedding gown worn by the bride. The bride wears white while the bridesmaids wear something other than white.



groomsmen

The men who stand up at a wedding in support of the groom are the groomsmen.



tuxedo

The groom, the best man, and the other men **standing up** at the wedding (the groomsmen) wear a tuxedo.



wedding party

The wedding party consists of the bride, the groom, the bridesmaids and the groomsmen.



wedding band / ring

A wedding ring or wedding band is placed on the finger of the bride and the groom.



Many people get married inside a **church**.
During a CEREMONY



It's also very common to get married outside of a church, in a **public building** or outside **in the fresh air**.



cold feet

Before the wedding ceremony begins, sometimes the bride or the groom begins to have second thoughts about getting married.

In this case, we say the person has "cold feet."

It looks like he's starting to get cold fet.



After the wedding:

reception

A reception is a party that follows the wedding.



champagne

Champagne is served at the reception. A toast is made to the future happiness of the newlywed couple. A **toast** is **a short speech**.



wedding cake

A wedding cake is served during the reception.



dancing

There's often a lot of dancing during the reception. The bride and the groom dance together, and the wedding guests also dance.



wedding bouquet

It's a tradition for the bride to **throw a bouquet over her shoulder** towards unmarried women. Whoever catches the bouquet increases her chances of being the next woman to get married.



just married

When the groom and the bride leave the wedding ceremony, they drive off together as a "just married" couple.



Newlywed(s)

People who have just married are referred to as "newlyweds."



A **hen party** is a festive celebration held before a wedding, and attended by the bride and her female friends. These parties are basically the female equivalent of the male **bachelor party** or stag party. Known as "**bachelorette parties**" in the United States, and "stagette parties" in Canada, they are called "hen parties" or "hen nights" in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia.



A **bachelor party** (in the United States), also known as a **stag party**, **stag night**, **stag do**, **stag weekend** (in Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Zealand), or a **buck's night** (in Australia) is a **party** held for a man shortly before he enters **marriage**, to celebrate his "last night of freedom". A bachelor party is usually planned by the **best man** or other friends of the groom, occasionally with the assistance of a **bachelor party planning company**. As it is a celebration of a man's last night of freedom, it is quite common but not always the case that friends of the groom will organize female company such as strippers or topless waitresses as a last goodbye to that part of the groom's life. **STAG = adult male deer**



Marriage and wedding vocabulary

It all starts with a **proposal**. Traditionally the man **goes down on one knee** to **pop the question**. If he receives a "yes", the couple are **engaged**. It is customary for the man to buy his **fiancee** an **engagement ring**, most commonly a diamond ring. Engagements can last for years, and if neither of the couple **breaks off the engagement**, the next step is marriage.

Planning the wedding

Most weddings in the UK take the form of either a **civil ceremony** (conducted at the **Registry Office**) or a traditional **white wedding**, held in a church. (There are other ceremonies for different religions.) If the couple chooses a church service, the planning can become quite complex. The church must be booked, the service has to be chosen, flowers arranged and so on. Other arrangements (for both traditional and civil) are to **draw up a guest list**, send out invitations, **book a reception venue** (for after the ceremony), choose **bridesmaids** (the girls who traditionally accompany the bride in the church) and the **best man** (the bridegroom's friend who accompanies him to the ceremony), buy the wedding dress, **arrange a honeymoon** (the holiday after the wedding), compile a **wedding list** (a list of presents that guests can choose to buy the couple) and of course, to select the **wedding ring(s)**.

+ flowers
+ decorations...

The big day

The groom and best man arrive at the church first, and then the guests arrive. Last to arrive is the bride, normally dressed in a long white **wedding dress with a train** (material from the dress that covers the floor behind her), her face covered in a **veil**, carrying a bouquet of flowers, and accompanied by a couple of bridesmaids in matching dresses. Usually **the bride's father walks her down the aisle** until they reach the priest / vicar at the **altar**. The church **organ** plays the **Wedding March**, and the guests **rise to their feet** to watch the procession. Once they reach the altar, the bride stands with the groom, and the **service** begins. The service lasts for about half an hour, and contains **readings** (extracts from the Bible) and a couple of **hymns** (religious songs). The priest always asks if there are any **objections to the marriage** (someone can **speak or forever hold their peace** = never have the opportunity again to object), and at the end of the service, the couple **exchange rings** and are **proclaimed "man and wife"**. At that point, the groom is allowed to kiss his wife. The guests leave and the couple then **sign the marriage register**. When they come out of the church, the guests often throw **confetti** (small pieces of coloured paper), and the photographer takes various formal photographs.

Next in the big day is the **reception**, which is often a formal lunch in a hotel. After lunch there are various **speeches**. The bride's father normally gives a speech, then the best man gives a speech (which is often a funny speech designed to embarrass the groom), and the bridegroom and / or the bride give a short speech to thank their guests.

Some couples also arrange an **evening reception**, and hire a disco or band to play music for their friends.

At the end of the day, the **happy couple** traditionally **leave on honeymoon**.

Italian "Confetti" are called SUGARED ALMONDS
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Other wedding vocabulary

pre-wedding nerves = when you are nervous before the wedding

wedding bells = the traditional tune that the church bells play as the couple leave the church

wedding **vows** = the **promises** that the bride and groom make to each other during the ceremony.

Some of these vows could be to love each other "**until death do us part**" and to love "**for richer or poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in good health**".

wedding cake = a traditional cake with three "tiers" eaten at the end of the wedding meal

If you're feeling romantic, take a look at our page on [love idioms](#)! (see next page)

A guide to idioms of love.

<http://www.english-at-home.com/idioms/love-idioms/>

Falling in love

catch someone's eye = to be attractive to someone: "The shy man at the back of the class caught my eye."
to fancy someone (British English) = to find someone attractive: "My friend fancies you!"
to have a crush on someone = to only be able to think about one person: "When I was at school, I had a crush on a film star."
to have a soft spot for someone = to have a weakness for someone: "She has a soft spot for Richard – he can do anything!"
to have the hots for someone = to find someone very attractive: "She's got the hots for the new office manager."
to go out with someone (British English) = to date someone: "They've been going out together for years!"
to go steady = to go out with someone: "They've been going steady since their first year at university."
to fall for someone = to fall in love: "He always falls for the wrong types!"
to fall head over heels for someone = to completely fall in love: "He fell head over heels for her."
to be lovey-dovey = for a couple to show everyone how much they are in love: "They're so lovey-dovey, always whispering to each other and looking into each other's eyes."
to have eyes only for = to be attracted to one person only: "He's dropped all his old friends, now that he has eyes only for Susie."
to be the apple of someone's eye = to be loved by someone, normally an older relative: "She's the apple of her father's eye."
to be smitten by someone = to be in love with someone: "I first met him at a party and from that evening on, I was smitten."
a love-nest = the place where two lovers live: "They made a love-nest in the old basement flat."
to be loved-up (British English) = to exist in a warm feeling of love: "They are one loved-up couple!"
to be the love of someone's life = to be loved by a person: "He has always been the love of her life."

Types of love

puppy love = love between teenagers: "It's just puppy love – you'll grow out of it!"
cupboard love = love for someone because they give you food: "I think my cat loves me, but it's only cupboard love!"

Getting married

to get hitched: "They're getting hitched next Saturday."
to tie the knot: "So when are you two tying the knot?"

If it goes wrong...

to go through a bit of a rough patch = when things are not going well: "Since the argument, they've been going through a bit of a rough patch."
to have blazing rows = to have big arguments: "We had a blazing row last night."
can't stand the sight of someone = to not like someone: "She can't stand the sight of him any more!"
to call it a day = to agree that the relationship has ended: "We decided to call it a day."
to be on the rocks = a relationship that is in difficulty: "Once she moved out, it was clear their marriage was on the rocks."
to have a stormy relationship = a relationship with many arguments: "I'm glad we don't have a stormy relationship."
a love-rat = a man who betrays his girlfriend / wife: "He's had affairs with three different women – he's a complete love-rat."
Marry in haste, repent at leisure = if you marry too quickly, you have the rest of your life to regret it!
Love is blind = when you love someone, you can't see their faults
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder = beauty is subjective
Let your heart rule your head = allow your emotions to control your rational side
Wear your heart on your sleeve = show other people how you are feeling
See also our page on [marriage and wedding vocabulary](#) for more words and phrases to do with love!

English for Weddings

<https://edition.englishclub.com/survival/wedding/>



Weddings are very visual. There are so many people to watch and so many events to see. You can enjoy a wedding even if you don't understand the language. Here is some wedding vocabulary to learn:

The Wedding Party

The wedding party refers to all of the people who are in the wedding. These people typically stand at the front during the ceremony. They often wear clothing that matches the theme of the wedding. They also sit with the couple for dinner.

bride: woman getting married

groom: man getting married

best man: groom's best friend or closest family member (witness to the marriage)

maid of honour: bride's best friend or closest family member (witness to the marriage)

groomsmen: other male friends or family members who **stand up** with the groom

bridesmaids: other female friends or family members who stand up with the bride

flower girl: young female child who carries the flowers

ring bearer: young male child who carries the wedding rings

Other People at Weddings

guests: all of the people who go to the wedding

priest/minister/justice of the peace: person who legally marries the couple

emcee: host; person who does most of the talking at the wedding reception

DJ: person who plays the music

photographer: person who takes the wedding pictures

caterer: person (or company) who makes the food for the reception

Typical Wedding Schedule:

1. Guests arrive at the ceremony
2. Wedding party walks down the **aisle** to music
3. Bride's father **escorts** her down the aisle to music
4. Bride and groom exchange **vows** (promises to be together forever)
5. Groom kisses the bride
6. Minister invites the guests to congratulate the **newlyweds**
7. Wedding party walks back down the aisle to music (sometimes confetti is thrown)
8. Wedding party **poses** for professional photographs (break time for guests)
9. **Reception** (party) begins
10. Emcee introduces him or herself
11. Dinner is served
12. Friends and family deliver **speeches** (ex. stories about the couple or **cheers** to the couple)
13. Bride and groom have first dance
14. Dancing continues
13. Bride and groom cut the wedding cake
14. Dessert is served
15. Bride throws her **bouquet** (flowers) to single women
16. Groom removes the **garter** (small band worn around bride's leg); throws to single men
17. DJ announces last song
18. Bride and groom depart (some guests are already gone)
19. Bride and groom take a **honeymoon** (a vacation to celebrate the marriage)

What to say to the bride and/or groom after the wedding

Congratulations!

You look stunning. (very beautiful)

You look handsome. (very good looking; say to males)

Your dress is gorgeous.

The food was delicious.

Thank you for inviting us.

We really enjoyed ourselves.

The wedding was beautiful.

When's the honeymoon?

Questions you may need to ask at a wedding

Where is the gift table?

What time is the reception?

Where should I sit? (You may need to tell the groomsmen if you are a guest of the bride or groom.)

Who are the *bride's* parents?

Which one is the *best man*?

What is the *maid of honour's* name?

How do you know the bride and groom? (What is your connection to the couple?)

Can I take your photograph?

When will the dancing start?

Where is the washroom?

TASKS

Watch an untraditional wedding entrance and take a [wedding vocabulary quiz](#).

Challenge: Share the "typical" schedule of a wedding in your culture. Use a step by step system

Individual Tasks: *landscape* – PDF

1. Be the best wedding guest
2. How to find your wedding dress
3. Best wedding decorations
4. Best reception venues
5. Best wedding reception
6. Celebs' weddings
7. Best wedding dinner/food
8. Best wedding cake
9. Wedding most unconventional/romantic vows
10. Proposals in films / tv series
11. Weddings in films / tv series
12. Hen party nice ideas
13. Bachelor party nice ideas
14. Famous (still married) couples
15. Famous break-ups
16. [selection of] Idiomatic expressions (with pictures)
17. Steps to arrange a wedding (the wedding planner checklist)

Useful links:

7 ways to be a great wedding guest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/375558056400585157/>

SAYING YES TO THE DRESS <http://eachandeverydetail.com/before-you-say-yes-to-the-dress/>

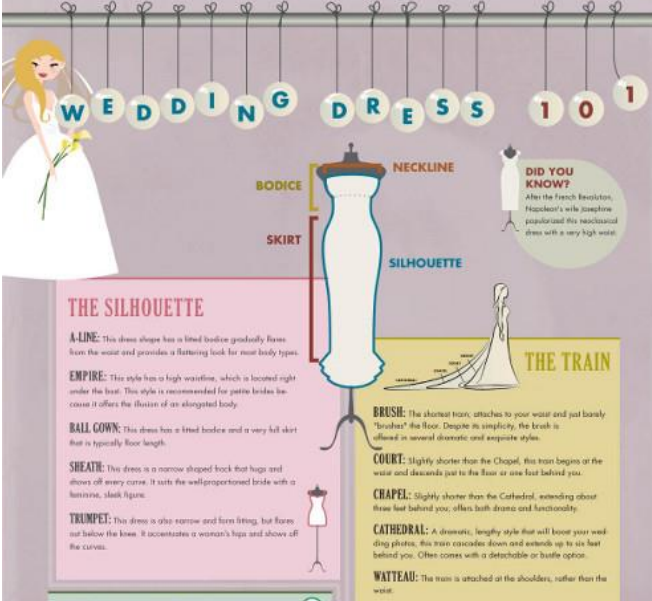
WWW.THEENGLISHSTUDENT.COM

7 WAYS TO BE A GREAT WEDDING GUEST

-  Return RSVP's as soon as possible
-  Buy gifts from the couple's registry. Don't buy what you think they'll like.
-  Send a gift, even if you can't attend the wedding.
-  Don't wear white! Only the bride should wear white!
-  Don't bring uninvited guests!
-  Don't get too drunk!
-  Don't leave the wedding before the cake is cut.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.CARDIGANPHOTO.COM

WEDDING DRESS 101



BODICE
SKIRT
NECKLINE
SILHOUETTE
THE TRAIN

DID YOU KNOW?
After the French Revolution, Napoleon's wife Josephine popularized this neoclassical dress with a very high waist.

THE SILHOUETTE

A-LINE: This dress shape has a fitted bodice that gradually flares from the waist and provides a flattering look for most body types.

EMPIRE: This style has a high waistline, which is located right under the bust. This style is recommended for petite brides because it offers the illusion of an elongated body.

BALL GOWN: This dress has a fitted bodice and a very full skirt that is typically floor length.

SHEATH: This dress is a narrow shaped look that hugs and shows off every curve. It suits the well-proportioned bride with a feminine, sleek figure.

TRUMPET: This dress is also narrow and form fitting, but flares out below the knee. It accentuates a woman's hips and shows off the curves.

THE TRAIN

BRUSH: The shortest train, attaches to your waist and just barely "brushes" the floor. Despite its simplicity, the brush is offered in several dramatic and exquisite styles.

COURT: Slightly shorter than the Chapel, this train begins at the waist and descends just to the floor or one foot behind you.

CHAPEL: Slightly shorter than the Cathedral, extending about three feet behind you, offers both drama and functionality.

CATHEDRAL: A dramatic, lengthy style that will boost your wedding photos, this train cascades down and extends up to six feet behind you. Often comes with a detachable or bustle option.

WATTEAU: The train is attached at the shoulders, rather than the waist.

THE NECKLINE

BATEAU: Also known as Boat or Sabrina, this style runs straight across, just below your collarbone to the tips of your shoulders.

COWL NECK: Fabric drapes loosely around the neck, creating a romantic, gathered look at the bust; can be designed high or low at the bust.

DIPPED: This neckline is slightly curved above each breast, but is not as dramatic as the Sweetheart style.

HALTER: The bodice ends in straps that fasten around the back of your neck, ideal for tall brides with broad shoulders.

PLUNGING: A dramatic neckline that drops to the middle of the chest or lower.

PORTRAIT: A soft, and shawl-like style that wraps from one tip of the shoulder to the other tip, showcases the collarbone and can extend off the shoulders for dramatic flair.

SCALLOPED: Curves of fabric line the neckline, can be incorporated into other styles, for example, a "scalloped sweetheart neckline."

SCOOP: This classic neckline will take the shape of a U, and can be either modest or dramatic.

SWEETHEART: The neckline is draped like the tip of a heart, with a curve over each breast dipping to a V in the middle. Suits heavy-chested brides and will make the neck look longer.

THE FABRIC

CHIFFON: Light and sheer, this transparent fabric is often layered with other fabrics, such as silk, rayon cotton or polyester.

ORGANZA: Crisp, nearly translucent fabric that contains a light weave.

SATIN: Smooth, heavy and shiny, satin is a long-favored bridal fabric.

TAFFETA: Add sparkle to your movements with this crisp yet smooth fabric.

TULLE: This soft netting adds volume and poof.

BALL GOWNS: Popularized by Dior in the 1950s, and now long out of fashion, this style defines the waist & conceals curve bottoms.

Simply Bridal