



Weddings in the US

Asking Someone to Marry You

Rank these phrases in order of formality:

▣ **To propose**

When he proposed, I instantly said yes!

▣ **To ask for someone's hand in marriage.**

I went to her parent's home to ask for their daughter's hand in marriage.

▣ **To pop the question.**

We were having a romantic dinner at our favorite restaurant when he got down on one knee and popped the question.

Ways to Say You're Getting Married

- ▣ **To get hitched**

So when are you two getting hitched?

- ▣ **To tie the knot**

I can't wait to tie the knot with Jeff.

- ▣ **To say 'I do'**

Only one more week until I say 'I do'!

- ▣ **To walk down the aisle together**

We're so excited to walk down the aisle together.

- ▣ **To elope**

We eloped! We didn't tell anyone; we just went to Vegas.

Ways to Describe a Marriage

- ▣ **A marriage made in heaven**

A happy and harmonious marriage.

- ▣ **A shotgun wedding**

A marriage that is planned quickly because the woman has found out she is pregnant.

- ▣ **An open marriage**

A marriage in which the partners freely conduct relationships with other people outside the marriage.

Members of the Wedding Party

- Bride: the woman getting married
- Groom: the man getting married
- Best Man: The groom's best friend or closest family member
- Maid of Honor: The bride's best friend or closest family member
- Groomsmen: The male friends and relatives chosen by the groom to stand with him at the altar
- Bridesmaids: The female friends and relatives chosen by the bride to stand with her at the altar.
- Flower girl: The young girl who carries the flowers
- Ring bearer: The young boy who carries the rings.

Can you identify the members of the wedding party?



Ways to Celebrate Before and After the Wedding

- ▣ **Bridal Shower:** A gift giving party held for the bride to “shower her with gifts” before her wedding. This tradition originated in the 1890s.





- **Bachelorette Party:** a party held for the woman who is about to get married. This tradition became popular starting in the 1960s and was modeled after the bachelor party.



- **Bachelor Party:** a party held for the man who is about to get married where he can engage in activities his future spouse might not approve of or just to spend time bonding with his male friends

Father of the Bride

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onunl7e5DpE>
- Brian and Annie **exchange vows**. Annie's father contemplates how his little girl is all grown up now.

□ **Reception:** the party held after the marriage ceremony for all of the wedding guests. At the reception the friends and family of the **newlyweds** traditionally give a **toast** to the bride and groom. When they give their toast they often share a funny story about the couple. After eating, the bride and groom share their **first dance**. After watching the first dance, the other wedding guests join them on the dance floor. The newlyweds will then cut their **wedding cake** together and everyone will have dessert. The bride then usually throws her **bouquet** to the single female wedding guests. Whoever catches it, is said to be the next to marry. The groom will then remove the bride's **garter** and throw it to the single men. The couple then will usually depart for their **honeymoon**.

Phrases and Terms



Can you match the idioms to their correct definition?

1. to fall for someone

2. head over heels

3. pop the question

4. get hitched

5. tie the knot

a. to get married

b. to begin to love someone

c. to get married

d. to be extremely in love with someone

e. to ask someone to marry you

When Weddings Go Wrong...

- ▣ **Bridezilla:** a bride who suddenly becomes demanding and unreasonable when planning her '**big day.**'

"So I've known my friend, who I'll refer to as Ella, since I was a child as she's the daughter of family friends but we've only become close in the past 2 or 3 years. She recently became engaged, and I readily accepted her offer to be part of her bridal party.

Yesterday morning I received an email from Ella. It seemed pretty standard but then when she got into the look she wants for her bridesmaids she wrote "Bridehairthrowaway, you'll need to dye your hair for the day, I'll take you to my hairdresser and cover the cost :)". This had never been mentioned to me. I'm a natural ginger, so it's not like I have an outrageous hair colour, although Ella and her other bridesmaids are all brunettes. I texted Ella about it, she told me my hair would clash with the wedding colours and that brides get a veto over pretty much every aspect of her bridesmaids' appearances.

She also mentioned my hair is quite "attention-grabbing" and I'd take away from the cohesiveness of the group. I told her I wasn't comfortable dying my hair. She said she'd get back to me but hoped I'd reconsider.

Am I being reasonable here? I've never been involved in a wedding before so I'm not quite sure what's expected of me. I've gotten some messages from the other bridesmaids who are telling me I should just do it.

- Why do you think brides act like “bridezillas”
- Do you think the bride was fair in asking her bridesmaid to dye her hair?
- If you were to be married, would you prefer a more elaborate or a more simple ceremony? Why?

When Marriages Go Wrong...

▣ **To go through a rough patch**

Ever since he lost his job we've gone through a bit of a rough patch in our marriage.

▣ **To call it a day**

Enough was enough; we kept fighting, so we decided to call it a day.

▣ **To be on the rocks**

After he found out about her affair their marriage has been on the rocks.

▣ **To have a stormy relationship**

▣ Katherine and Sam argue all the time: they have such a stormy relationship.

Sayings

- Marry in haste, repent at leisure.
- Love is blind.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
- Letting your heart rule your head.

Wedding Activity Role Play: Directions

1. List the different roles in the wedding party.
2. Read the wedding invitation and your card that tells you what role you play in the wedding party. The bride and groom are not assigned to anyone, because you all will be gossiping about them. The objective is to tell the gossip you know and to find out the other gossip.
3. For each conversation: (1) Introduce your self and greet the other person, (2) Make small talk using phrases from Appendix A, (3) Share your gossip using phrases from Appendix B, (4) Listen to the other person's gossip and react using phrases from Appendix C.

Phrases to use during role play

Appendix A: Questions to make small talk at a wedding

Are you a friend of the bride or the groom?

What do you do then? (informal, asking about work)

Have you known the bride/groom long?

It's a lovely wedding isn't it?

I don't think we've met, my name is...

Isn't it a beautiful day for a wedding?

Doesn't the bride look wonderful?

Appendix B: Sentence stems for a surprising aspect or a secret

I shouldn't really say this but...

I know this isn't the time to talk about it, but...

Well, between you and me...

Did you know that...

You may not believe this but...

Well, I heard that...

Please don't tell anyone I told you...

Somebody told me that...

Appendix C: Reacting to surprising news

Really!

No way!

I can't believe it!

You're kidding!

That's terrible!