

# How about—guest list, gloves, cake, seating?

There are a certain number of questions usually asked by brides planning their wedding. Here are these questions and the corresponding answers.

**Q** How is the engagement announced?

**A** Call the society editor of the papers in which you want the announcement to appear and find out the procedure they prefer.

**Q** What should the groom's family do about the wedding guest list?

**A** After being advised by the bride's family how many guests they may invite, the family of the groom should put together a well-organized readable list as soon as possible. Names should be written out in full and kept within the boundaries stipulated by the bride's family.

**Q** When should wedding invitations be mailed?

**A** Invitations should be mailed to arrive three weeks before the wedding, so be sure to order invitations a good two months in advance. Arrange to receive the envelopes as soon as possible so they can all be addressed when the invitations are delivered.

### ACCEPTABLE HOURS

**Q** What are the traditionally accepted hours for the ceremony?

**A** These are different in different parts of the country, varying from late morning to eight o'clock in the evening.

**Q** Are a veil and gloves necessary?

**A** This is now almost entirely a matter of preference if you choose to wear gloves the seam of the ring finger may be slit or entirely removed.

**Q** If my father isn't living, who gives me my veil?

**A** A brother, uncle, or close friend may have the honor.

**Q** What is the organist's fee?

**A** It varies in different communities. The safest procedure is for the bride's family to ask how much it is.

### WEDDING CAKE

**Q** Is there any rule about the wedding cake?

**A** Only that it must always have white icing. It is placed at the centre of the buffet table.

**Q** When is the cake cut?

**A** After the wedding party has finished eating, the bride and groom, his hand over hers, cut the first slice from the bottom tier, which they share between them as a symbol of their new life.

**Q** How is the seating arranged at the bride's table?

**A** The bride and groom sit together usually midway in the table. At the right of the bride is the best man, at the right of the groom is the bride. At the left of the groom is the maid of honor. Bridesmaids and ushers then alternate toward the table.

### PLACE CARDS

**Q** Are husbands and wives of the bridal party seated at the bride's table?

**A** No, they are, however, invited to the parties preceding the wedding.

**Q** Are place cards necessary for the bride's table?

**A** Yes, they should be at each place, with the exception of the bride's and the groom's. They should be written by hand, and it is more permissible to use the guests' first names.

**Q** The groom has been married previously but the bride has not. May she wear white?

**A** Yes.

**Q** Which ring is worn first on the third finger, the engagement or the wedding ring can be slipped on.

**A** The bride has been married previously. May her children attend her?

**A** If she is a widow, yes, if she is divorced, no.

### DRESS LENGTH

**Q** The bride is wearing a long gown. May her attendants wear ball-length or street-length frocks?

**A** Yes.

**Q** Both bride and groom have been married previously. What kind of ceremony may they have? Is a reception in good taste?

**A** The ceremony, whether it is religious or civil, should be small. The reception, as a social occasion, may be of any size.

**Q** Are engraved invitations sent to attendants and members of the groom's family?

**A** It is not necessary but they may be sent as a matter of sentiment—preferably with a friendly note of explanation.

### MOTHERS' DRESS

**Q** Must the mother's costume be styled open?

**A** They should confer and the bride's mother has the choice of color. Their dresses should be similar in style—both short or both long—complementary in color, and suited to the hour for the ceremony.

**Q** Who pays for the reception?

**A** Traditionally the bride's family. Depending on circumstances the groom's family may offer to offset some of the expense if it is a problem.

**Q** May the groom's family give the wedding if the bride's family is not in a position to do so?

### INVITATIONS

**A** Yes. This is acceptable when the bride works in the city and the groom and her family live at a great distance or abroad, or if she has no family.

**Q** How soon should invitations and announcements be addressed?

**A** Three months in advance of wedding date.

**Q** Must invitations be engraved?

**A** Yes. Some simulated processes look like engraving but are cheap.

**Q** What is the difference between an invitation and an announcement?

**A** The announcement goes to persons who could not be invited to the wedding because of cost or distance. It is sent a day or two after the ceremony.

### DIVORCED PARENTS

**Q** If divorced parents of the bride seated together in church?

**A** No, the mother sits in front, the father in the third row.

**Q** If the bride's parents are divorced who makes the announcements and arranges the wedding?

**A** Generally the bride's mother. If she is remarried, invitations are worded, "Mr. and Mrs. George Smith request your presence at the marriage of Mrs. Smith's daughter, etc."



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## Bride's mother first to be met

The receiving line is little more than a grouping of participants at a wedding to receive greetings from the guests.

As the hostess, the bride's mother is the first person the guests will meet. Next to her is the father of the bride, followed by the mother of the groom, and father of the groom. The bridal couple and the bride's attendants. The bride always stands on the right of the groom.

A receiving line will look less stiff if there is a space between the various groupings with the current easing in formality the fathers need not maintain their places in the line, but can move about greeting guests.

### HARD ON HEAD

Guests taking home pieces of the wedding cake to tuck under their pillows in hopes of dreaming of their future spouse don't generally realize that the custom originated in Roman days.

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