

American Weddings

9:30-9:45 Ice Breaker

For this lesson, if possible, please bring to class any photographs you have of your wedding. In what town or city **did you get married**? In a shrine, church? Indoor wedding or outdoor wedding? What did you wear? How many guests attended your wedding? What was the weather like? Did you have a wedding reception? Where was it?



American weddings usually **take place** in a church or hotel. Outdoor weddings, as shown in the picture on the left, have become more popular and take place in a beautiful garden or on a beach. The person who **performs** the wedding **ceremony** is usually a pastor, minister or priest. The other people in the ceremony include the **maid of honor, bridesmaids, best man, and groomsmen**. The father of the bride walks his daughter down the aisle and gives the **bride** to the **groom**. After the ceremony, there is time for taking pictures of the newly married couple with family members of the bride and groom. This is followed by a **reception** where family and friends celebrate the happy couple. The newly-wed couple usually leave for a honeymoon.



Vocabulary

Take place: happen,

Performs: conducts

Ceremony: a formal event, such as a wedding

To get married: to marry, to wed

Bride: woman getting married

Groom: man getting married

Maid of honor: the chief bridesmaid at a wedding, usually the bride's best friend

Bridesmaids: friends of the bride who help and accompany a bride on her wedding day

Best man: the chief groomsman, usually the groom's best friend

Groomsmen: friends of the groom who help and accompany the groom on his wedding day

Reception: party given to celebrate the newly-wed couple

Honeymoon: a vacation taken by a bride and groom just after the wedding

9:45-10:05 Q & A

Questions and Answers about American Weddings

Compare the answers for American weddings with Japanese weddings. Are the customs the same or different? If different, how are they different?

Q: When guests come from out of town, who pays for their hotel and transportation?

A: The out-of-town guests pay for their own hotel. However, the groom pays for the hotel for his groomsmen and the bride pays for her bridesmaids. The guests usually pay for their own transportation.

Q: When do the bride and groom open their gifts?

A: They open their gifts at home, not at the wedding.

Q: How do the guests know what the bride and groom want as gifts?

A: The bride and groom usually register for gifts at stores. They list the gift items they want and need for their new home, such as dishes, cookware, small appliances, and towels. When the guests go to buy a gift, they check the registry in the store. Of course, money is always a popular gift.

Q: Who pays for the wedding?

A: In the past, the bride's parents paid for most of the wedding. Today only about 20 percent of weddings are the responsibility of the bride's parents. As men and women

are getting married after starting careers and earning money, more and more weddings are becoming the responsibility of the bride and groom.

Q: How do I know how much money to give?

A: Most guests spend about \$100 on a gift. People who are closer to the bride or groom often spend more. Casual friends usually spend less.

Q: What is a shower?

A: A shower is a party for the bride before the wedding. The purpose of the party is to give the couple gifts that will help them start their new home. Typical gifts are towels, cookware, and small kitchen and household appliances.

Q: Who hosts the shower?

A: Usually, the maid of honor hosts the shower. She invites friends and relatives of the bride and groom.

Q: How long does it take to plan a wedding?

A: Most couples plan their wedding for seven to twelve months.

10:05-10:25 Discussion/Agree or Disagree

*In pairs, ask each other the following questions. Then mark each one **A** if you agree or **D** if you disagree. Discuss your answers with your partner.*

- _____ 1. It's important to marry a person from your own country.
- _____ 2. The parents of both the bride and the groom must agree to the marriage.
- _____ 3. People should be free to marry whomever they like.
- _____ 4. Mixed marriages (between races, ethnic groups, religions) have more problems than marriages between people from similar backgrounds.
- _____ 5. Outdoor weddings, for example, in gardens, beaches, etc., are becoming more and more popular.
- _____ 6. The best way to make weddings less expensive is to invite only close family and friends.

10:25-10:40 Practice Asking Questions

Below is a list of answers about weddings. Write WH- questions that correspond to the answers. Any question is okay so long as it fits the answer. Then compare with your group. Tutors may need to review how to ask WH- questions.

Answer: Las Vegas or Hawaii

Questions:

Answer: In a church or synagogue

Questions:

Answer: August

Questions:

Answer: Money

Questions:

Answer: Maid of Honor

Questions:

Answer: Towels and small kitchen appliances

Questions: