

# Weddings

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. How much does a typical wedding cost in your country?
2. Who usually pays for the wedding in your culture?
3. What is the most expensive part of a wedding?
4. What are some ways couples reduce the cost of their big day?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. expense             | a) people who "stand up" with the bride and groom at the wedding |
| ___ 2. get carried away    | b) money owed  |
| ___ 3. debt                | c) demands or needs from others                                  |
| ___ 4. fund                | d) a concept where all drinks are paid for by the host           |
| ___ 5. wedding party       | e) a trip the bride and groom take after the wedding             |
| ___ 6. greenback           | f) to help pay for   |
| ___ 7. Jack and Jill party | g) a gender-mixed party before the wedding                       |
| ___ 8. honeymoon           | h) cash (US slang)   |
| ___ 9. second mortgage     | i) to do more than necessary                                     |
| ___ 10. budget             | j) a loan for a previously purchased home                        |
| ___ 11. pressure           | k) a set amount of money to spend                                |
| ___ 12. in-laws            | l) people who become relatives after marriage                    |
| ___ 13. the wrong foot     | m) to get married  |
| ___ 14. open bar           | n) a financial cost  |
| ___ 15. tie the knot       | o) a bad start   |

## Reading

### WEDDINGS

*Paying a price for the big day*

1. Saying “I do” is a big deal. It is also a big **expense**. Celebrities spend more than a million dollars on their big day. These marriages rarely last forever. Everyday people also **get carried away**. Many couples can’t afford their dream wedding. They have student loans or credit card **debt**. This doesn’t stop them from **tying the knot**.
2. Weddings these days are often **funded** by friends and families. Members of the **wedding party** host events like **greenback** (money gift) showers or **Jack and Jill parties**. The money that is received goes toward the wedding reception or photographs. It may also go toward a **honeymoon**. Some parents even take out a **second mortgage** to pay for their child’s wedding.
3. Most couples have difficulty sticking to a wedding **budget**. They may choose an **open bar** because that’s what their friends expect. There may also be **pressure** from the family to lengthen a guest list. No bride wants to start off on **the wrong foot** with her **in-laws**.

*“Wedding fever is one of the scariest diseases I have ever seen.”*

—Jessica Valenti, writer

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What rarely lasts forever, according to the reading?
2. Why can’t many couples afford an expensive wedding?
3. Name two events that couples use to collect money for their wedding.
4. What do many couples spend money on after *tying the knot*?
5. What do couples have difficulty sticking to?

## Vocabulary Review

### A. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. The more guests you invite, the higher your wedding <u>expenses</u> will be.</p> <p>a) costs<br/>b) fun<br/>c) difficulties<br/>d) plans</p> | <p>3. Our friends <u>pressured</u> us to place free bottles of wine on all of the guest tables.</p> <p>a) prevented<br/>b) asked<br/>c) required<br/>d) convinced</p>  | <p>5. Our wedding was <u>funded</u> by work colleagues and relatives I don't even know.</p> <p>a) financed<br/>b) attended<br/>c) celebrated<br/>d) chosen</p> |
| <p>2. We're going to pay off our <u>debt</u> before we plan our wedding.</p> <p>a) budget<br/>b) loans<br/>c) account<br/>d) greenback</p>         | <p>4. Even though our mothers got off on the wrong foot, we are still planning on <u>tying the knot</u>.</p> <p>a) having a budget<br/>b) getting married<br/>c) having children<br/>d) paying for ourselves</p> |  |

### B. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1. You may need to change the word forms.

1. My parents are thinking about taking out a \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for our reception.
2. Weddings these days are \_\_\_\_\_ by friends and family.
3. To keep my \_\_\_\_\_ happy, I added all of their cousins to the guest list.
4. All of the adults in our \_\_\_\_\_ will be invited to the \_\_\_\_\_ party.
5. We went over our \_\_\_\_\_ by having an \_\_\_\_\_ at the reception.
6. They used the money from the \_\_\_\_\_ shower to pay for their Jamaican \_\_\_\_\_.

## Discussion

1. What is the best wedding you have ever gone to?  
Was it the most expensive wedding?
2. Do wedding party members in your country typically go into debt for a wedding?
3. Should couples wait until they can afford their dream wedding?
4. What can a bride and groom do in order to stick to their wedding budget?

## Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.  
Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Is the wedding day the most important day of a person's life?	What is the most important thing to spend money on for a wedding?	Who typically puts the most pressure on the bride and groom?

# Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

## WEDDINGS

*Paying a price for the big day*

1. Saying “I do” is a big deal. It is also a big \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Celebrities spend more than a million dollars on their big day. These marriages rarely last forever. Everyday people also get carried away. Many couples can’t afford their dream wedding. They have student loans or credit card debt. This doesn’t stop them from \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Weddings these days are often \_\_\_\_\_ by friends and families. Members of the \_\_\_\_\_ host events like greenback (money gift) showers or Jack and Jill parties. The money that is received goes toward the wedding reception or photographs. It may also go toward a \_\_\_\_\_ . Some parents even take out a second mortgage to pay for their child’s wedding.
3. Most couples have difficulty sticking to a wedding \_\_\_\_\_ . They may choose an open bar because that’s what their friends expect. There may also be \_\_\_\_\_ from the family to lengthen a guest list. No bride wants to start off on the wrong foot with her \_\_\_\_\_ .

# Answer Key

### LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about and discuss the high costs of weddings and the pressures that brides and grooms face when preparing for their big day.

### TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

**LEVEL:** Int

**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours

**TAGS:** discussion, wedding, weddings, marriage, relationships, love, money

## Pre-Reading

### A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

### B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. n | 4. f | 7. g | 10. k | 13. o |
| 2. i | 5. a | 8. e | 11. c | 14. d |
| 3. b | 6. h | 9. j | 12. l | 15. m |

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

- Celebrity weddings rarely last forever.
- Many couples who want to get married have student loans or credit card debt.
- Greenback showers and Jack and Jill parties are events that help couples raise money for their wedding.
- Many couples spend money on a honeymoon after their wedding.
- Couples have difficulty sticking to a wedding budget.

## Vocabulary Review

### A. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

1. a      2. b      3. d      4. b      5. a

### B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. second mortgage | 4. wedding party, Jack and Jill |
| 2. funded          | 5. budget, open bar             |
| 3. in-laws         | 6. greenback, honeymoon         |

## Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

## Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

## Listening

- expense, tying the knot
- funded, wedding party, honeymoon
- budget, pressure, In-laws