



Five College Center for the Study of World Languages

Conversation Preparation Guides

Title: Weddings

Topic: Life Events

Level: Intermediate

Practice on Your Own

Ceremonies and festivals can tell a lot about a culture. Weddings are one special type of ceremony where you can learn about social life as well as the ways people celebrate and show their happiness.

- Prepare a list of terms related to marriage and weddings.
 - Marriage, wedding, ceremony, to celebrate, husband, wife, bride, groom, to marry, gift, to give gifts, to dance...
- Now use each one of the terms in a sentence.
 - These two people are married./They got married two years ago.
 - In the U.S. we celebrate weddings in parks, churches, homes...
 - People give gifts to the couple.
 - At weddings people dance and drink and give gifts...
 - Weddings in my country are very expensive.
- Now write about a past, future, or imaginary wedding that you have attended or will attend. Also practice talking about it out loud.
 - It was two years ago. I went to a wedding. It was in a park. The bride wore white, and the groom wore black. People were happy. People were dancing and drinking. There was food...
 - If you have not learned how to talk about the past or the future, you can do this in the present: I go to the wedding. It is in a park. The bride is wearing white...
- Read about weddings in the country/ies where the language is spoken. Are there different traditions associated with different religions or different parts of the country? What other terms do you need to know in order to describe weddings in that culture? Where do people usually get married? Is it expensive? Who pays the expenses? ...

Practice in Conversation Session

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- Read the terms that you have listed out loud; check your pronunciation with your conversation partner. Show the list to him/her to see if you made any spelling mistakes. Ask if there are some other important terms that you are missing.
- Read the sentences you have prepared out loud for your conversation partner. What are your mistakes? Correct your sentences.
- Now ask your conversation partner about weddings in the country/ies where the language is spoken. Use where, when, what, and who questions.
- Read the passage you have written about a wedding. Then discuss it with your conversation partner. Ask your conversation partner about the weddings he/she has attended or will attend.