



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

When a wedding goes wrong!

Level: Intermediate (B1) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

Audio: Yes



In this fun lesson, your students will discuss the topic of weddings. This practical class will get your students using lots of useful language and all the essential skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Here are some ideas for doing it in class. Good luck!

1 Warm-up

Wedding vocabulary – scroll down for the student pages

First, brainstorm a list of wedding words and write these on the board. Then, add in any of the words or expressions from the **Resource Page** (see below) that haven't been mentioned. Go over the meanings of any your students aren't familiar with. Then, play a game. Students can play it in pairs or small groups, or you can do it as a class. One person (or the teacher) describes one of the words, terms or expressions. Other students have to guess what it is. The first person to guess correctly gets a point for their team.

Teacher: The term for a man who is getting married in a wedding ceremony. =

Student: The groom!

Etc.

2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet: the Pre-reading, Reading I and Reading II activities. You could do this lesson as a *listening* activity. In order to do this, tell your students to turn over the sheet so they can't see the text as they do the exercises.

Remember, for the first listening you should play the recording once without stopping so students get the gist of it. For the second listening, if your students' listening level is low, stop the recording after each paragraph and check their understanding.

After finishing that, and if you've done this as a listening activity (not a reading), let your students read the text as you play the recording again. This is good for developing their listening skills as they can see the connection between the written and spoken language.

3 Follow-up activities

Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (or paragraphs) to each student. Students have a minute or two to try to remember the text. When they're ready, students try to recount the information, using as much of the language as possible. This works well in pairs, with you monitoring the language.

News report

Students write a news report based on one of the stories from the article in this lesson. The news report should include information that answers the following questions: *who, what, when, where, why, how*. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to present their news stories. They should do this by using notes, not reading it word-for-word. They should also present it as if they were reporters in a news studio, sitting at a desk looking into the camera. Other students listen then ask questions, or the person presenting the news could ask them questions. Alternatively, students could film their news report on a smartphone then show it to the class.



Dialogue

In pairs, students write up notes for a dialogue between two or three people at a wedding (the groom and the mother-in-law, the bride and the priest, the groom and the wedding planner...). Tell your students to make the dialogue as funny, silly or serious as they like. They could think about something that goes wrong, such as the groom losing the ring. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to read or act out their dialogues (from memory or by using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones, or ask and answer questions.

Video

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaXaSfHuFu8>

Or, search on YouTube for: "Wedding party falls into lake when dock collapses".

Tell your students to look at the video image still at the start of the video and ask, "What do you think is going to happen?" Then, play the video while they answer these questions [answers below]:

1. Where was the wedding?
2. What are the names of the bride and groom?
3. How many people were on the dock for the photoshoot?
4. How many bridesmaids managed to avoid falling in the water?
5. What were the wet people still doing as the guests began to arrive?



Finally, let your students watch the video again, but this time activate the subtitles so they can read the text and listen at the same time. This is great for developing your student's listening skills.

Video answers

1. Where was the wedding? In Minnesota
2. What are the names of the bride and groom? Jackie and Dan
3. How many people were on the dock for the photoshoot? 22
4. How many bridesmaids managed to avoid falling in the water? A couple
5. What were the wet people still doing as the guests began to arrive? They were still drying off.

Discussion: weddings

Ask and answer any of these questions.

- When was the last time you went to a wedding? Whose wedding was it? Did anything funny or unusual happen? What?
- What happens in a typical wedding in your country?
- Have you ever been to a wedding in another country? What was it like? Whose wedding was it? Where was it? How was it different from weddings in your country?
- Have you seen any stories in the news of incidents that took place in a wedding? What happened?
- What do you think of marriage? What are the pros and cons of getting married?
- What's your idea of the perfect wedding?
- Where would you like to go on your honeymoon? What would your ideal honeymoon be? Or, where did you go if you've already had one? What was it like?





Student's page

When a wedding goes wrong!

Level: Intermediate (B1) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

1 Warm-up

Wedding vocabulary

Look at the list of wedding words below. First, write descriptions of any three of the words. For example:

1. The name for a man who is getting married in a wedding ceremony. =
The groom!

Etc.

Then, play a game. Take turns reading out your descriptions. Other students have to guess which word you're describing. For example:

Student A: The name for a man who is getting married in a wedding ceremony.

Student B: The groom!



Guest, bouquet, wedding, food, drink, ceremony, marriage, wedding dress, registry office, suit and tie, honeymoon, church, priest, bride, groom, cake, tie the knot, a stag party, a hen party, a marriage made in heaven, a slice of the cake, a father/mother in law, the big day, the bride to be, the bridesmaids, a marriage of convenience, a shotgun wedding, wedding ring, engagement ring, the best man, the best man's speech, till death us do part, wedding planner, bridal shower...
Other?



Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you went to a wedding? Where was it? What was it like? How would you describe it? Did anything go wrong? What? Have you heard any other stories of wedding disasters? What did they involve?

Exams This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

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ARE YOU ENJOYING THE WEDDING?



When a wedding goes wrong!

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

What could go wrong at a wedding? Use the words below to think of as many ideas as you can.

the guests the bouquet

the drinks the food

the ceremony the party

clothes the wedding dress

transport the weather

the hotel the honeymoon

the church...

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why did the bride from Connecticut get angry?
2. What did the elderly guest throw instead of rice?
3. Why did the man from Liverpool cause a bomb scare?
4. What's the name of the place and the state where the wedding guests fell into the lake?
5. What were the wedding guests fighting over in what was described as a "large fight"?
6. What happened to the pilot of the plane that crashed?

Preparing for a wedding can be stressful. There's so much to think about and a lot can go wrong... as these wedding disasters clearly show.

Wedding arrest

A young **bride** from Connecticut (USA) was arrested at her wedding after getting drunk and throwing cake and glasses at her new husband. **Witnesses** said she "flipped out" when the bar at the **reception** stopped serving drinks for the night.

Rice attack

Instead of throwing a **handful** of rice at the **happy couple** as they came out of the church, an 88-year-old wedding guest accidentally threw her glass of wine at them, including the actual glass. The glass missed the bride, but **struck** the **groom** in the eye. He was rushed to hospital, where he was treated for **minor trauma**.

Bomb scare

A young man from Liverpool was arrested after causing a **bomb scare**. The unfortunate man had forgotten to book the **registry office** for the wedding, but **didn't have the heart** to tell his fiancée. So, he called them up and said that a bomb had been left inside

the building. He's now facing a jail sentence after admitting to the hoax call.

Wedding fall

Almost a whole wedding party fell into a **lake** after the **jetty** they were standing on collapsed. The group, who were in a wedding in Crosslake, Minnesota, were waiting for a photo to be taken when the wooden structure broke under their weight.

Wedding fight

A couple's wedding celebrations were interrupted by a **brawl** over a **pork pie**. Police were called to deal with what was later described as a "large fight" in which one woman had her ear bitten. Apparently, the fight broke out after one guest **reached** for the last pork pie but it was **grabbed** by another guest at the last minute.

Bouquet crash

A couple **hired** a small plane to fly past their guests and drop the bride's **bouquet** to a line of women standing below. But as the plane flew over the crowd the flowers were **sucked back** into the engine, causing it to catch fire and explode. Fortunately, the pilot only suffered minor injuries. ✪

VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the wedding party fall in the lake. Search YouTube for "Wedding Party Falls into Lake".

GLOSSARY

a bride *n*
the woman who is going to get married in a wedding

a witness *n*
someone who sees an event or crime

to flip out *exp informal*
to become extremely angry

a reception *n*
a party that takes place after a wedding

a handful *n*
a "handful" of rice (for example) is an amount that you can hold in your hand

the happy couple *n*
the two people who are going to get married

to strike (past: struck) *vb*
to hit

the groom *n*
the man who is going to get married in a wedding

minor trauma *n*
an injury (a cut on your body, for example) that isn't very serious

a bomb scare *n*
if there's a "bomb scare", there's a report of a bomb in a building

the registry office *n*
an official, state-run office where you can get married

not have the heart to do something *exp*
if you "don't have the heart to do something", you can't do it because you know it'll make someone sad

a lake *n*
an area of water surrounded by land

a jetty *n*
a wooden platform on a lake where boats stop to let people get on or off

a brawl *n*
a fight

a pork pie *n*
a type of pie with meat in it

to reach for *exp*
if you "reach for" something, you try to take it with your hands

to grab *vb*
to take something suddenly and with force

to hire *vb*
if you "hire" something, you pay to use it for a limited time

a bouquet *n*
a bunch of flowers that are tied together and that look nice

to suck back *exp*
if an object is "sucked back" into an engine (for example), it's pulled there by the force of the engine