

## ETIQUETTE

## THE INS AND OUTS OF MODERN DAY ETIQUETTE

THE WEDDING DAY IS A TIME TO CELEBRATE THE LOVE BETWEEN BRIDE AND GROOM; HAVING A CLOSE CIRCLE OF PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THE COUPLE NEARBY, MAKES THE DAY EVEN BETTER.

## THE *IN* CROWD

The bridal party can have any number of people and it's not even imperative to choose the exact same number of bridesmaids and groomsmen.

There aren't rules.

The key roles go to the maid of honour and best man, they should be people who have been important in the lives of the couple. If having to choose between two best friends or best friend and a sister is difficult, choose them both.

It's more expensive to have a large bridal party as all members should be given a gift and the bridesmaids' bouquets have to be bought. Also, the more people in the bridal party, the more dilemmas there could be, especially when it comes to deciding on colours and styles for bridesmaids' dresses.

Accepting the honour to join the bridal party can be expensive, set a budget for the wedding attire so the chosen members are aware of the cost involved before accepting the offer. Additional costs to consider are the hen's night, buck's night, shoes, make up; the tally goes on.

The bride and groom should list the bridal party candidates together so there aren't any misunderstandings. Usually brothers, sisters, close relatives and best friends are included. Children may also be given roles as members of the bridal party or as attendants.

Once the final list has been chosen, make everyone aware of the selection to avoid confusion or conflict caused by uncertainty. This is especially important if only a few people have been selected from a group of close friends. It is courteous to be upfront, remember, a true friend will understand.

Consider compiling a list of everyone's contact details so each member of the bridal party can contact each other when required.

It is also helpful to organise a list of your bridal party's particulars including dress and shoe size for the women and shirt and suit size for the men. Then when you happen across the perfect bridesmaid's shoes on sale, you can snap them up confident in the knowledge you'll have the right sizes.

If someone important has been left out of the bridal party, think of other ways to include them in the wedding, maybe as a reader or personal attendant. There are many kind ways to save hurt feelings and avoid rejection.