

## MANNERS MATTER

# thanks, but no thanks

There are no *IFS* and no *BUTS* with this one—thank you notes must be sent out thanking anyone and everyone who was part of the great day. It's easy to put this task into the too hard basket—the thought of putting pen to paper overwhelming for some—but approached with zeal, this chore can become a pleasure.

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IT'S ALL ABOUT SINCERITY, ABOUT GENUINELY THANKING THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THE WEDDING PERFECT, THOSE WHO PUT THOUGHT AND TIME INTO CHOOSING A GIFT AND THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF FRIENDSHIP. THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE COURIER WHO DELIVERED FLOWERS AFTER HOURS, THE MAID OF HONOUR WHO MADE SURE EVERYTHING WAS IN ORDER ON THE DAY AND FAMILY WHO ENTERTAINED INTERSTATE FRIENDS. DON'T SCRIMP ON THE THANKS, IT TAKES A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE TO PULL A WEDDING TOGETHER.

The lion's share of notes will be to thank guests who have kindly bestowed a gift either before or during the wedding. Tradition dictates gifts are to be delivered to the bride-to-be before the wedding, at which time she will respond, on the same day, with a heartfelt note of thanks on behalf of herself and her prospective husband. The stationery she uses must bear her unmarried address and monogram, if she has one, and she must sign with her maiden name. Only after she is married can she use stationery with her husband's monogram, sign with her new surname and finish with the marital home's address. Although the bride would traditionally write all the notes, the easiest way to tackle this task is to have the groom respond to his family and friends, and the bride to hers. It will mean the thank you will be heartfelt.

As a gift arrives, make a note of who sent it, what it is and the date received. This little bit of housekeeping will make responding much easier and avoid any embarrassing gaffs if cards come loose from their package.

When gifts are left at the reception, the couple must respond with a note of thanks for each and every one. Three months is the limit, this allows ample time to honeymoon and settle into life together, but a note sent a year later is better than none at all.

It must be handwritten. There is no place for pre-printed cards or hastily written emails here. It must be personalised for each recipient and written by hand, regardless of penmanship skill, just make sure it's legible and has no spelling mistakes. Stationery can vary, it might be a folded card, a single-sheet card or a letter, but keep in mind, the bigger the surface area, the more will need to be written! If words don't come easily or there are many notes to be completed, choose a smaller format.

The thank you note can complement the rest of the wedding stationery suite, include a photo taken at the wedding or be newly-designed to signify the merging of families, just make sure it's stylish and good quality to reflect the message of gratitude.

## STATIONERY

Start by addressing the thank you note to the person who signed the gift card. If the gift came from a number of people, mention each and every one of them in the body of the text. Next, reference the gift itself and include a way in which it might be used. If the gift was money, don't mention the amount, simply acknowledge it and the way in which it will be put to work. Include a personal expression of thanks, and make sure it's from the heart. If the gift was ghastly, don't say so, just show appreciation for the thought that went into choosing it. Sign off with the bride's name if written before the wedding or both partner's names after the wedding, and put it in the mail. The most perfectly composed and beautifully written note is worth nothing if it remains unsent and therefore unread.

## BEFORE THE WEDDING



Dear Mr and Mrs Deyrolle,

The silver champagne bucket you sent today is lovely and I just know it will be perfect when we celebrate each anniversary. Thank you for your very generous gift and the kind words in your card, we really are most grateful.

With love from us both,  
Arabella

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- 1.} BRIDE'S MAIDEN NAME SYMBOL OR MONOGRAM
- 2.} ADDRESSED TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THE GIFT CARD
- 3.} EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT AND DESCRIPTION OF HOW YOU MIGHT USE IT
- 4.} SIGNED BY THE BRIDE BEFORE THE WEDDING
- 5.} BRIDE'S UNMARRIED ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

## AFTER THE WEDDING



Dear Stephanie and David,

The dinnerware is just divine, we can't believe how brilliant it looks on the table. You must come for a long, long lunch so we can show it off to you. Thank you for choosing the perfect gift.

With love,  
Arabella and Brett

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- 1.} SYMBOL FROM THE WEDDING, MARRIED MONOGRAM OR NEW SYMBOL
- 2.} ADDRESSED TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THE GIFT CARD
- 3.} EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT AND DESCRIPTION OF HOW YOU MIGHT USE IT
- 4.} SIGNED BY THE BRIDE AND GROOM AFTER THE WEDDING
- 5.} COUPLE'S MARRIED ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS