

Before You Begin . . .

Weddings have changed greatly since you were married. Etiquette has now become more of a guideline, rather than the rule. The traditional ways of doing things are now being turned upside down for some of the following reasons:

- Couples are getting married later in life and have definite ideas for their wedding dependent on their lifestyle.
- Both Bride and Groom are in the workforce and can cover more of the expenses themselves.
- Divorced and/or remarried parents present challenges to traditional roles and seating.
- Weddings have become bigger productions with more choices and greater costs.
- Churches and reception halls have stricter rules for their use.
- Bridal consultants play a greater role in coordinating weddings so that the Bride, Groom, and their families can enjoy the event.

In addition, did you know that honor attendants can now be of the opposite sex, Brides are wearing actual colors on their dresses, couples aren't saving the tops of their cakes any more, and it isn't unusual for guests to RSVP on the computer?

This guide will move you with ease through the trends and rules of today's weddings. It was written for both sets of parents

so that each can see the traditional responsibilities of the other and will hopefully stimulate productive and enjoyable conversations. See each other as allies in Operation “W” Day. So strap on your helmet, lace up your boots, and read this battle-plan before you hit the trenches. You’ll need all the ammunition you can muster. Congratulations and good luck!