



Etiquette: The Basics

Getting married is as American as apple pie, but many Americans aren't schooled on what's proper and what's not when it comes to weddings.

Wedding etiquette is important — and any faux pas can be remembered for years to come — but it doesn't have to be complicated or stuffy. Here are the basics:

Dress up

Unless otherwise stated, weddings are formal affairs. Women should adorn themselves in non-white dresses, and men should wear suits.

These styles of clothing help commemorate the importance of the occasion. They also look good in pictures.

Arrive early

Plan to be at the wedding venue at least 30 minutes early. You need time to greet other guests and be seated. In addition, you don't want to miss a portion of the wedding because the ceremony has already begun and you have to wait to enter the room.

Be cordial

Do you have a grudge against a relative who is also attending the wedding? Wedding etiquette dictates that you — at least temporarily — bury the hatchet.

Refusing to acknowledge another guest or starting a fight is a no-no. As a result, be polite to everyone regardless of how you feel.

Reserve judgment

Despite what you think about the accommodations or food, keep your opinions to yourself.

Your duty as a guest is mainly to support the bride and groom. As long as they are happy, you should be, too.

Say good-bye

Before you leave the wedding, say good-bye to the bride and groom. Thank them for inviting you. In addition, congratulate the pair on their new union.

Wedding etiquette isn't difficult to master. Employ these basic tips and you won't embarrass yourself or be the butt of a few unwelcome jokes.