



Hints and Tips for your invitations

Wedding Guest List Politics - who to invite

Creating a guest list can cause complete and utter chaos. Whether it is your mum wanting you to invite all her closest friends or your husband-to-be insisting you don't invite people or family that you haven't spoken to for years, you are bound to come across some dilemmas in your guest list planning.

Do not panic, follow these tips, and they will help to minimise the turmoil and will leave you with a guest list full of the right people.

Split the guest list fairly

Perhaps you have mostly mutual friends, but if not, try and split the list fairly evenly, and if not evenly at least in a way which you both agree on.

If parents are helping financially (and even if not) it's nice to allocate a small proportion of your guest list to them and their friends.

Save headaches further down the line by being clear about whether or not this is acceptable to you at the outset.

The plus one debate

Don't feel forced to offer plus ones! It's not entirely necessary, and is definitely not expected! If you've met a friend or relatives' significant other at least a couple of times and they're in a fairly serious relationship, then invite them both.

Dishing out plus ones to accommodate your cousin's 'latest boyfriend/girlfriend' is expensive.

Keep organised

Make sure you keep the guest list organised!

If someone has told you they cannot attend, remove their name and either leave the space open for another guest you wish to invite or reduce the numbers accordingly.

It is a good idea to have a second list of people who you could invite if your previous guest cannot attend. The sooner you get your guest list finalised the better.

Make your invitations specific and personal

The last thing you want to do is write, "Dear family, you are invited to..." This can definitely be read as, "the whole family are invited, children, our daughter's boyfriend, our neighbour."

Keep your invitation really specific and personalised, stating the name of the person, or people, that you want to invite.

The people from work

Do you socialise with these people outside of work? Have you spoken to them about the wedding? Are they truly your friends? If so, invite them! Try not to get wrapped up in office politics and people feeling left out.

If somebody isn't exactly your friend outside of the office, they won't expect an invitation, or perhaps invite them to the evening party if you are having one.

Budget friendly

Keep your budget in mind when drawing up your guest list. If your budget is limited but your guest list large, the average price per head for the wedding breakfast will need to be taken into consideration when you are choosing catering. If your budget is small, we suggest keeping the guest list small too.

The wording for your wedding invitations

No matter their style or your degree of formality, when it comes to the right wording for your wedding invitations, be sure to include:

- Invitations are always sent from whoever is hosting the wedding
- first name and surname of the couple including their titles (Sir, Lady, Dr etc)
- where the ceremony is taking place
- date, month and year of the wedding ceremony
- location of the wedding reception
- address to which guests should reply
- a reply date

You might also wish to include:

- details of any dress code or theme
- time guests can expect the day to come to an end
- whether children are invited

Your friendly printers can always advise you on the wording and etiquette for your invitations.

Inviting children to your wedding

Many couples choose not to invite children to their wedding. Some couples want to have a fun, inclusive event. If children are invited, make this clear by including their names on their parents' invitation.

Parents might assume that the invitation is for them alone if their children's names are not specified.

It can be tactful to include a short note to parents, such as: 'Much as we would like to invite all the children of our friends, it is only possible to accommodate the children of close family', or, 'We are sorry we are unable to accommodate children'.

If you are inviting children, let parents know if you have made special childcare arrangements: 'We have arranged child-minding facilities for the duration of the service and/or reception'.

And finally

It's your big day! Don't feel pressured into sending an invitation, or feel you have to invite the world and his wife. Invite all the people who you love and cherish the most, and planning your guest list should be a breeze!



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