

## What's an usher to do?

Being an usher in a friend's wedding is an experience that's an honor and usually a lot of fun, too. But, according to *Bride's* magazine, some ushers do have one complaint: The bride and groom never tell them exactly what they'd like them to do. So they flounder, feeling that they're somehow falling down on the job.

### Make it easy

If you're getting married soon, you can smooth the way for your ushers by making clear plans now:

- Make arrangements for wedding formalwear as soon as possible — to avoid wrong sizes and forgotten accessories. Ushers who live in the area can easily drop by your selected formalwear shop for their fittings. Out-of-town ushers can be measured at a formalwear shop in their respective cities and then send you the measurements.

- Ask one reliable resident usher to be in charge of reminding the other attendants to get measured and to pick up the out-of-town ushers' tuxedos before the wedding.

- Arrange for accommodations for out-of-towners. Perhaps a resident usher could offer his home to groomsmen who are coming from far away? Your ushers might also help reserve rooms for out-of-town wedding guests, either in homes or hotels.

And save the night before your wedding for an early-evening rehearsal dinner — to ensure that out-of-town attendants, who may arrive only one day before the ceremony, will be there.

- Your best man will be responsible for holding the bride's wedding ring. Recommend that he keep the ring in its box — not loose in his pocket (where it may get temporarily lost) — or on his finger (which might swell!).

- Tell your attendants exactly what you want them to do at the wedding: When and where they should dress; when and where they should greet guests; any special seating arrangements; how they can help round up stragglers for the wedding photographer.

- Ushers act as extensions of the host of the wedding. They should keep an eye on the guests — especially those who are elderly. They might drive or direct guests to the reception, get them drinks and food help guests who have overimbibed, or serve as troubleshooters to quietly resolve a problem.

- Ushers can help smooth your departure from the reception. They can carry gifts to your car, as well as transport the presents to your home; hold the car keys, passports, traveler's checks, plane tickets; pack luggage into the getaway car; drive you to the airport or train station; and return formalwear.



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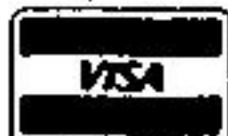
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