

Living married and loving every minute

You're just back from the honeymoon, ready to settle into a cozy life as husband and wife. Now comes the "happily ever after" part, right? Well, it's not always that simple. Even couples who live together before saying their vows are likely to find "playing

house" for keeps quite different than they expected, according *Bride's* magazine. According to their research, the following tips might make the transition to married life smoother.

• *Check with your partner before*

making big decisions or social plans. He may dislike the paisley couch you bought for the living room; you might get angry because he's invited his boss to dinner the night you'd planned a long evening in a bubble bath. Making sure something is okay with one's mate

first can head off headaches (and arguments) later.

• *Be flexible.* People come to marriage with different ideas about everything from religion to who should walk the dog. Compromise is key; if you're not thrilled that he expects you to make him breakfast every morning (like his mom faithfully did for his dad), offer to whip up a terrific morning meal for the two of you on the weekends. During the week, he should share in the work.

• *Watch your "fighting styles."* When a heated discussion begins, do

you burst into tears, while he withdraws? Learning to disagree effectively is essential to marital success, as is swallowing one's pride once in a while. All couples hurt or disappoint each other now and then; it's only human.

• *Don't be afraid of change.* It takes some work (not to mention patience and a sense of humor) to create a lifestyle which makes both partners happy. But the reward — a marriage that's able to grow in the face of both prosperity and adversity — is well worth the effort.

Walk down the aisle in style



JUST BECAUSE YOUR WEDDING IS TRADITIONAL does not mean your gown has to be too. Dazzle your groom with this trendy mermaid style gown (left). Accented with a scalloped V-neckline and pearl silhouette, the sequined tulle skirt with chapel length train gives this gown an extra feminine appeal. Traditional is always in fashion—especially when it is as beautiful as this delicately hand-beaded gown (right). The puffed sleeves and drop waist can help give a bride that much sought after slimming effect.

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