

# Answers to important questions the groom asks

Who pays for the wedding? What are the duties of the Best Man? What should I wear to be correctly attired?

Those are but a few of the questions which may puzzle prospective bridegrooms. Most of the answers to those questions have pat answers, many of them having been handed down from antiquity, others being relatively modern in conception.

Some who can afford it go to wedding counsellors to find out what to wear, what to do and how to do it. The following will answer most, if not all, of the questions that the average groom may pose:

**Q:** Who or what decides if the wedding is to be formal, semi-formal or informal?

**A:** Those decisions are usually up to the bride, and are often determined by the choice of gown that she wears and the site of the ceremony.

If she wears a long gown with a train, the ceremony is definitely formal. If the bride elects to wear only a veil with her gown, the ceremony can be considered to be semi-formal.

**Q:** If the wedding is formal, what do I wear?

**A:** In the daytime, a cut-away coat and

striped trousers. However, in some contemporary weddings the groom will wear a white tailcoat, but traditionalists hold out for the grey cutaway.

For a contemporary evening formal ceremony, the groom may wear a black or white full dress (tailcoat), while the traditionalist will wear the classic white tie and tails.

**Q:** If the wedding is semi-formal, what do I wear?

**A:** For a traditional daytime wedding, a grey stroller with striped trousers.

For a contemporary day-time wedding, a tuxedo of your choice or an updated stroller.

For a traditional evening ceremony, a black tuxedo or a white dinner jacket. For a contemporary evening wedding, a tuxedo of your choice.

**Q:** What do my ushers or groomsmen wear?

**A:** In a traditional ceremony, the same as the groom, with the exception of the boutonniere which in the groom's case should be a sprig of lily-of-the-valley from the bride's bouquet.

In a contemporary wedding, the groomsmen may dress "a step down" from the groom, i.e., if the groom wears a tailcoat, the groomsmen may wear a short coat.

**Q:** What do the fathers of the bride and groom wear?

**A:** The same rules apply to the fathers to the ushers and the groomsmen.

**Q:** Do I give a present to the bride?

**A:** As a rule, the gift of the wedding ring is considered to be sufficient. However, there is no rule against offering her a further token of your devotion.

**Q:** Do I owe a gift to any of the wedding members?

**A:** Yes. Some small gift should be made to your ushers or groomsmen. Dress studs, cuff links, pocket jewelry or the like is appropriate. Those gifts serve as mementos of the occasion.

**Q:** Who decides the type, place and length of the honeymoon?

**A:** Those decisions should be made in agreement between the bride and groom. The type is usually determined by financial capabilities and the available time for the trip.

**Q:** Who provides the bride's bouquet?

**A:** The groom buys his bride's bouquet and also the usher's boutonnieres.

**Q:** Who pays for the honeymoon?

**A:** The groom.

**Q:** Who gives the honorarium to the officiating reverend or judge?

**A:** The groom.

**Q:** Who pays for the rental of the formalwear?

**A:** The groom and the members of the wedding each pay for their own.

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## Groom's attire should accent the bridal gown

Formalwear fashions of the spring-summer seasons offer wide selections of gala attire to wear for weddings, proms and those special evenings on the town or at country clubs according to the American Formalwear Association.

The new styles include both traditional and contemporary versions of those festive clothes appealing to men who insist on holding to a classic line and to those who are more venturesome in their dress.

Presently there are two distinct schools of thought pertaining to the styling of formalwear.

Some believe that the trend is to conservatism featuring white, silver and black as the colors that will be most worn for weddings and proms.

There is also a strong current trend toward wearing of daytime formalwear for ceremonies that take place before a luncheon. For those weddings, the very formal grey cutaway and striped trousers worn with either a matching or light grey vest, a white collar shirt and an ascot tie is the "ne plus ultra".

A semi-formal version of that daytime outfit is worn with a stroller, a dark grey coat cut similar to a business suit.

The accessories can be the same worn with the cutaway, or the shirt can have a regular fold collar, and the tie may be a four-in-hand in a grey striped or a grey finely checked fabric.

Some traditionalists will wear a white linen vest with the cutaway outfit.

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