

WEDDING AND MARRIAGE

A wedding is usually a very important event in someone's life. With marriage we show the world that we are in love and we want to spend the rest of our life with that person.

In different countries people have different customs when it comes to weddings. In India for example a traditional wedding is arranged. **Arranged marriages** are sometimes even better because you don't expect too much from your partner.

A traditional Slovene and British wedding are quite alike but with some differences.

In Britain and Slovenia you get married either in **a church** or **a registry office**. In the US people often get married in a house, garden or in a wedding chapel.

There are special names for some people in the wedding ceremony. The woman who is getting married is called **the bride** and the man is called **the bridegroom or groom**. The man has a male friend with him called **the best man** and the bride has some female friends called **the bridesmaids**. The bride is usually wearing a long white dress, a white veil and flowers in a bouquet. She is also supposed to wear something old, new, borrowed and blue. The groom wears a suit or a tuxedo, everyone else wears their best clothes.

In traditional British wedding the groom is not supposed to see the bride on the day of the wedding until they meet in church. The groom arrives at the church first and waits inside, near the altar. Friends and families sit in rows in the church.

In traditional Slovene wedding the groom comes to pick the bride up at her home. First, parents don't want to give him their daughter and send some old woman. When he finally gets his bride, he wants to take her away but the local boys don't let him so he has to pay ransom – this is the so called "**šranga**". The groom must even prove if he is going to be a good husband.

The ceremony is practically the same in both countries. The bride and her father come down the aisle and when the groom and the bride are together at the altar the priest or minister begins the wedding. During the service the bridegroom gives the bride a wedding ring. In Britain the bride only sometimes gives the ring to the bridegroom but in Slovenia the bride always gives the ring to her groom. End of the ceremony is when the priest or minister says "**I pronounce you man and wife**". The bride and the groom then sign the register. Outside the church friends and relatives throw confetti or rice over them. In Slovenia rice is more popular.

At **the reception** they have a special meal and party to celebrate the wedding. They cut the wedding cake and have speeches. After the reception the bride and the groom go to the honeymoon.

In Slovenia the reception is called "**ohcet**". At ohcet the bride is stolen. Speeches are very rare. The newlyweds rarely go to the honeymoon right after the reception.

Nowadays, **prenuptial agreements** are very popular. People often write them to protect their personal belongings, so in case of divorce they don't have to give their partner half of their things. It is also a good way to see if someone is going to marry you only because of your money. Some write down only things involving money but others go even further. As the couple we read about; in their prenuptial agreement they even wrote how many times a week they have to have sex, when they will have children, how much money they can spend, who is making the big decisions...

Today, you get married when you are in love. I don't imagine my dream wedding yet. I first have to find the right man and then I will think about marriage.