



WEDDING INVITATION ETIQUETTE

WHAT TO INCLUDE ON YOUR WEDDING INVITATION

A. HOST LINE

The first line of the wedding invitation is where you list who is hosting the wedding (a.k.a. who is paying for the wedding).

These days, couples are either paying for their wedding themselves (in this case, you can omit the host line entirely) or if receiving financial contributions from parents on both sides which you can list all parents' names or opt for something simpler like, "Together with their parents" or "Together with their families."

- One Set of Parents Hosting (Married)- *include your parents' full names, with middle names (for very formal weddings), and never their initials. If they have different last names, write "and" to join the two names.*
- One Set of Parents Hosting (Divorced) *Include your mother's name first, followed by your father's name. Do not use "and" to connect the two names*
 - Mrs. Mary Jones
 - Mr. Brian Smith
- Both Sets of Parents Hosting *For different-sex couples, list the bride's parents' names at the top of the invite, then the groom's parents' names. For same-sex couples, list the names according to preference or in the order that looks best with the invitation design.*
- Couple is hosting with their families *When the couple and both of their families are contributing to the cost of the wedding, many choose to add a line such as "Together with their families" as the host line.*
- Couple Is Hosting- *If the couple is hosting the wedding themselves, start the invitation wording with a warm and welcoming introduction, such as:*
Together with full hearts
With great joy

B. REQUEST LINE- The request line is where you invite people to attend your wedding

REQUEST LINE WORDING EXAMPLES:

request the honour of your presence (for formal, religious ceremonies)

request the pleasure of your company

cordially invite you to attend

invite you to celebrate with them

invite you to their wedding

invite you to celebrate their marriage

invite you to join them

invite you to the celebration of

invite you to share in their joy

would love your presence

C. ACTION LINE

Here, you are outlining what you are inviting people to share in.

ACTION LINE WORDING EXAMPLES:

at the marriage of their daughter (if the bride's parents are hosting)

at the marriage of their children (if both sets of parents are hosting)

at the celebration of their union (hosting yourselves)

as they tie the knot (hosting yourselves)

as they say "I do!" (hosting yourselves)

in celebration of their marriage (hosting yourselves)

to celebrate their marriage (hosting yourselves)

D. COUPLE'S NAME- whose name goes first?

For different-sex couples, the bride's name typically goes first, followed by the groom's name. If the bride's parents' names are listed at the top, the bride's name can just be her first and middle name (without last name), while the groom's name is listed in full, or his first and middle names are listed, followed by the line "Son of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Wong."

For same-sex couples, you can list the names in alphabetical order by last name, or in the order you choose (or perhaps in the order that looks best with the invitation design).

For a less formal feel, you may opt to list first names only.

E. DATE & TIME

4:00 p.m. can be spelled out as:

four o'clock (traditional)

four o'clock in the afternoon (also acceptable)

4:00 p.m. (informal)

4:00 p.m. in the afternoon (informal)

4:30 p.m. can be spelled out as:

half after four o'clock (traditional)

half past four o'clock (also acceptable)

four-thirty in the afternoon (also acceptable)

4:30 p.m. (informal)

4:30 p.m. in the afternoon (informal)

Evening begins at five o'clock, otherwise it is considered afternoon from noon until four o'clock.

F. LOCATION

List the ceremony venue as follows: "Venue Name" on one line with "City, State" on the following line; for formal weddings, the state name is usually spelled out (instead of abbreviations).

The venue's street address is traditionally not included (although you may decide to list it), unless it is a private residence.

Zip codes are not usually included.

G. RECEPTION LINE

RECEPTION LINE WORDING EXAMPLES:

Reception to follow

Reception immediately following the ceremony

Dinner and dancing to follow

Cake, punch, and merriment to follow (if you're not serving a full meal)

Join us after the ceremony for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and dancing. (if you're not serving a full meal)

A dessert reception following the ceremony (if you're not serving a full meal)

The celebration continues with a reception

An evening of celebrating to follow

A celebration with dinner, drinks, and dancing will follow

Join us for dinner, dancing, and celebrating

Fabulous food, fun, and festivities to follow

Dine, dance, celebrate...

Some dinner, some dancing, and all eternity to follow

Feasting and fun to follow

Dining, dancing, and happily ever after to follow

To share in our happiness, kindly join us for a dinner reception

Dinner and dancing under the stars

Shake, rattle and roll with us

Bring your dancing shoes! Dinner and music immediately following the ceremony.

H. DRESS CODE: If you don't include dress code information on the invitation, then guests will infer attire details based on the formality of the wedding invitation itself

Information courtesy of <https://www.minted.com/>