

In (1____), Hindu wedding traditions vary from state to state. But most families are known to go out of their way to make a (2____) a huge celebration which can last for as long as five days or more. It is common for wedding preparations to start a year before the actual date. After a (3____) gets engaged to be married, the date for the wedding is chosen very carefully based on the bride and groom's (4____)—and other details—to bring good luck.

(5____) days before the wedding, celebrations begin at the groom's home. This is called "Making the Groom." Musicians visit his home as early as four in the morning and play traditional (6____) while the groom's relatives and neighbors come to see him. While there, they make decorations from mango leaves, which will later be used at the wedding ceremony. Next, someone washes the groom with (7____) or olive oil. His face is painted with a black dot on each cheek and a spot between his eyes. Then an older person in the family offers the groom (8____) as a gift.

The bride goes through a ceremony before the wedding called "Making the (9____)." Her face, arms, hands, and feet are painted attractively by her relatives, leaving her skin a (10____) color. This process takes many hours to do and requires a lot of patience.

The wedding ceremony is usually held in the (11____). When the bride and groom arrive, there is a lot of noise and music. Members of the family wash their (12____) and sprinkle flowers and water on them. The couple sits in chairs under a special roof made of leaves and flowers. While the bride is seated behind the (13____) so the groom can't see her, the guests eat and enjoy the wedding feast. Then when it's near the end of the feast, the cloth is removed and the music is played again. It is considered bad (14____) to sneeze at this moment. All the guests clap their hands while the music is playing. Then one by one the guests come to the couple and throw (15____) grains at their heads for prosperity. Everyone wishes the couple well. Then the couple gives each other rings made of flowers and handfuls of rice. The groom places a (16____) necklace over the bride's neck.

Finally, the groom places a second necklace around the bride's neck to signify the (17____) of the wedding.