

UNIT 11: Culture



A Match the definitions with the words. Write the letters a-h.

1. This person finds someone a partner. ____
2. This man has just gotten married. ____
3. This woman has just gotten married. ____
4. This man helps the groom. ____
5. These women help the bride. ____
6. The mother and father of the man who has just gotten married. ____
7. At a Western-style ceremony, they show guests where to sit. ____
8. The couple that has just gotten married. ____

- a. best man
- b. bride
- c. bridesmaids
- d. groom
- e. groomsmen
- f. matchmaker
- g. newlyweds
- h. parents of the groom

B Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the box.

aisle	bachelor	civil ceremony	host	reception	Western-style
arranged	✓ bachelorette	exchange	performs	vows	

1. Before the wedding, the bride and her female friends have a bachelorette party.
2. In the same way, the groom and his male friends have a _____ party.
3. The parents of the groom _____ a dinner the evening before the wedding.
4. In some weddings – for example, _____ weddings – the bride and her father walk down the _____.
5. During the ceremony, the bride and groom _____ rings – often simple gold or silver bands.
6. As the bride and groom give each other the rings, they exchange _____, promising to love each other forever.
7. Some couples prefer to have a religious wedding; others prefer a _____.
8. In some weddings, a celebrity look-alike _____ the ceremony.
9. After the wedding, the bride and groom and the guests go to the _____.
10. People that meet each other through a matchmaker have an _____ marriage.

C Answer the questions with information about typical weddings in your country.

1. What kinds of weddings do people typically have?

2. What kinds of traditions are associated with weddings?

3. Are bachelor and bachelorette parties popular? What other traditions are there before a couple gets married?

- A** Complete the blog post with *when*, *where*, or *whose*. Add commas where necessary. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

BLOG

I live in a small town _____ everyone gets married before they're 30, so I have a lot of friends _____ only ambition is to get married. To me this seems like a waste of your youth, which is a time _____ you should be enjoying yourself. What's even worse is that I have some friends _____ parents are almost forcing them to find a partner. They feel ashamed if they're still single at 30 _____ people say they're "over the hill" – as if 30 is old! I just think this is a very old-fashioned view, especially in today's society _____ there are so many opportunities to do other things. I think it's better to wait and get married in your thirties _____ you know exactly what you want. I'm sure you get to a point in your life _____ you want to settle down with one special person. I think, though, you have to make your own choices and not be persuaded by people _____ own life choices might be different from yours.

- B** Rewrite each pair of sentences as one sentence, using relative clauses. Replace the words in bold with *when*, *where*, or *whose*. You may need to change the word order and the punctuation.

1. I'll always remember my best friend's wedding. Nothing went right **there**.

2. The day before the wedding, we had a rehearsal. **Then** everything went really well.

3. However, later that evening, the couple was late because their taxi broke down. **Their** parents hosted a really expensive dinner.

4. There was a very funny moment during the ceremony. **At this moment**, the groom got the bride's name wrong as he was saying his vows.

5. The best man left the groom's ring in his car. **His** job was to take care of the rings.

6. After the ceremony, we all got into cars to go to the hotel. The reception was being held **there**.

7. The car took me and the other bridesmaids to the wrong hotel, and we didn't realize till the very last moment. **That was the moment** we saw the car drive away.

8. For the newlyweds, the reception was the best time. **Then** everything finally went according to plan.
