My father always wanted to be the corpse at every funeral, the bride at every wedding, and the baby at every christening.

Alice Roosevelt, daughter of American ex-President Theodore Roosevelt

9B Wedding dramas

1 GRAMMAR uses of the past perfect

a Circle the correct verb form, past simple, or past perfect.

Last year, my best friend [1] *asked / had asked* me to be the best man at his wedding. I agreed, although I [2] *was never / had never been* a best man before. The week before the wedding, my friend [3] *told / had told* me what I would have to do on the day and [4] *gave / had given* me strict instructions not to forget the wedding rings. On the morning of the wedding, I [5] *woke up / had woken up* late because my alarm [6] *didn't go off / hadn't gone off*. My girlfriend arrived to pick me up before I [7] *finished / had finished* getting dressed. She [8] *waited / had waited* in the kitchen while I put on my suit and then we [9] *drove / had driven* together to the town hall. My friend asked me if I [10] *remembered / had remembered* the rings almost as soon as he [11] *saw / had seen* me. Of course, in my rush to get ready, I [12] *forgot / had forgotten* about them completely. But I needn't have worried, because my girlfriend [13] *came / had come* to my rescue. She [14] *saw / had seen* the rings on the kitchen table, and she [15] *put / had put* them safely in her handbag. I don't know who was more relieved, my friend or me!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b Complete the third conditional sentences. Use the correct form of the verb: past perfect or *would have* + infinitive.

1 We didn't go by taxi. We were late.
We wouldn't have been late *if we'd gone by taxi*.

2 I didn't wait another five minutes. I didn't see you.
I'd have seen you if _____.

3 Rick didn't use his satnav. He got lost.
If Rick had used his satnav _____.

4 The bride's mother felt ill. She went home.
The bride's mother wouldn't have gone home if
_____.

5 You didn't look after your mobile phone. You lost it.
You wouldn't have lost your mobile phone if
_____.

6 The dress was in the sale. Lily bought it.
Lily wouldn't have bought the dress if
_____.

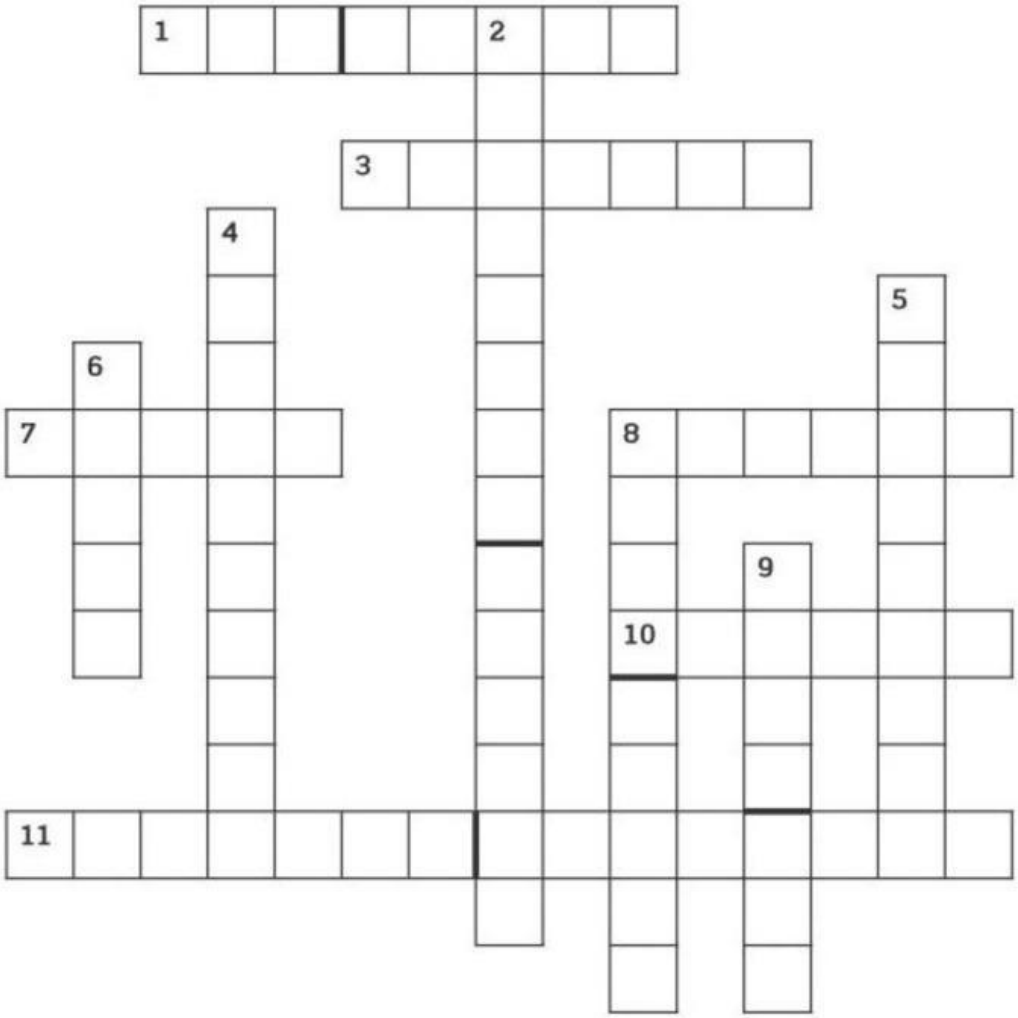
7 They didn't invite us to their wedding. We didn't go.
We _____ if they'd invited us.

8 You left the door open. The cat got out.
If you hadn't left the door open,
_____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 VOCABULARY weddings

Complete the crossword.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Clues across →

1 A social occasion for women only that is held shortly before a woman's wedding day.

3 A small boy who helps or follows a woman at her wedding.

7 A woman on or just before her wedding day.

8 A formal talk given to a group of people.

10 People who are invited to a wedding.

11 The couple say 'I do' during this.

Clues down ↓

2 A public building where a marriage can take place.

4 A woman or girl who helps the woman who is getting married.

5 A party to celebrate a wedding.

6 A man on or just before his wedding day.

8 A social occasion for men only that is held for a man just before his wedding day.

9 A man who helps and supports the man who is getting married.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 READING

a Read the article once and match photos 1–4 to paragraphs A–D.

Weddings around the world

A wedding is a very special occasion, and everyone wants theirs to be perfect. But perfection varies from one country to another. Here's a look at some of the wedding traditions celebrated all over the world.

A Japan

In a contemporary Japanese wedding, on the day the bride and groom first go to a beauty salon where the bride is often painted white from head to toe. Then they are both dressed. The bride wears a kimono and a wig and chooses a headdress. When they are ready, the couple proceeds to the religious wedding ceremony. A Shinto priest leads the ceremony, which is followed by a reception. During the reception, the bride changes clothes several times. The three most important parts of the wedding are the drinking of sake, which takes place during the religious ceremony and during the reception, the speeches, and finally, the ceremonial lighting of a candle. Before the religious ceremony, the couple has to sign some state documents which make them husband and wife.

B Kenya

When a young Maasai man takes an interest in a girl, he goes to praise her and puts a chain around her neck. Some time later, he brings honey to the girl's mother and then he asks the women of his tribe to make beer from some more honey for his future father-in-law. When the future father-in-law has finished drinking the beer, the young man states his intention to marry the daughter. After that he brings the family gifts. On the day of the wedding, the groom brings the bride's 'price': three black cows and two sheep. The bride's head is shaved and decorated with beautiful beads, and she is led to her husband's home. On arrival, she is blessed with fresh milk and is given a cow of her own. She wears her wedding beads and clothes for three more days, then puts on her usual clothes, and finally, the bride and groom are husband and wife.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C Mexico

A Mexican wedding ceremony traditionally takes place in a church. Family and friends play an important role in the tradition. A close family member or friend is chosen to carry the *lasso*, which is a traditional, decorated rope that is placed around the couple's necks while they say their vows. Another person carries 13 coins which symbolize the joint finances of the couple. One woman is chosen as the person who will always help and advise the bride. Other relatives and friends carry wine glasses for the wedding toast. At the reception, which follows the religious ceremony, the guests take part in the 'money dance', where they dance with the couple and pin some money on their clothes. The newly-weds then use this money to set up their new life together.

D Morocco

In Morocco, the wedding ceremony typically lasts several days. A group of older women called *negaffa* play an important role in preparing the bride for her wedding day. First, they give her a purifying bath, and then they decorate her hands and feet with floral and geometrical henna designs to bring good luck. Black make-up is applied to her eyes and she is dressed in her richly decorated wedding dress and heavy jewellery. On the wedding day, plenty of delicious food is prepared and men and women sit separately, chatting and eating snacks while they wait for dinner to arrive. Guests can only start eating their dinner after the bride and groom have visited their table to break the bread. Before the bride becomes the mistress of her new home, she has to walk around her new house three times.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b Read the article again and choose the right answer.

1 In Japan, a couple are officially married…
   a when the religious ceremony is over.
   b before the religious ceremony.
   c after the reception.

2 On the day of a Maasai bride's wedding,…
   a she gives a present.
   b she leaves her parents' house.
   c she drinks a special drink.

3 In Mexico, all the guests…
   a pay for the wedding.
   b give presents to the bride and groom.
   c participate in the wedding.

4 In a Moroccan wedding, the bride…
   a wears a flowery wedding dress.
   b doesn't put her own make-up on.
   c serves dinner to the guests with the groom.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

c Match the highlighted words in the text to the definitions below.

1 create or start doing something _____
2 a covering made of real or false hair that you wear on your head _____
3 a group of people from the same background and upbringing who usually live in a small area and are led by a chief _____
4 decorated with pictures of flowers _____
5 a couple who have recently got married _____
6 formal and serious promises to do something _____
7 say something nice to someone to express your admiration _____
8 removing harmful or dirty substances _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 LISTENING

a iChecker Listen to five speakers talking about memorable events at a foreign wedding. Tick (✓) the speakers who enjoyed the weddings and put a cross (✗) if they didn't enjoy them.

Speaker 1 ☐ Speaker 3 ☐ Speaker 5 ☐
Speaker 2 ☐ Speaker 4 ☐

b Listen again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

1 Speaker 1 was upset when she was advised to take her garland off. ___
2 Speaker 2 nearly missed his own wedding. ___
3 Speaker 3 got stressed while the photos were being taken. ___
4 Speaker 4 watched his cousin give gifts to all the wedding guests. ___
5 Speaker 5 is glad that she gave away her dress. ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS