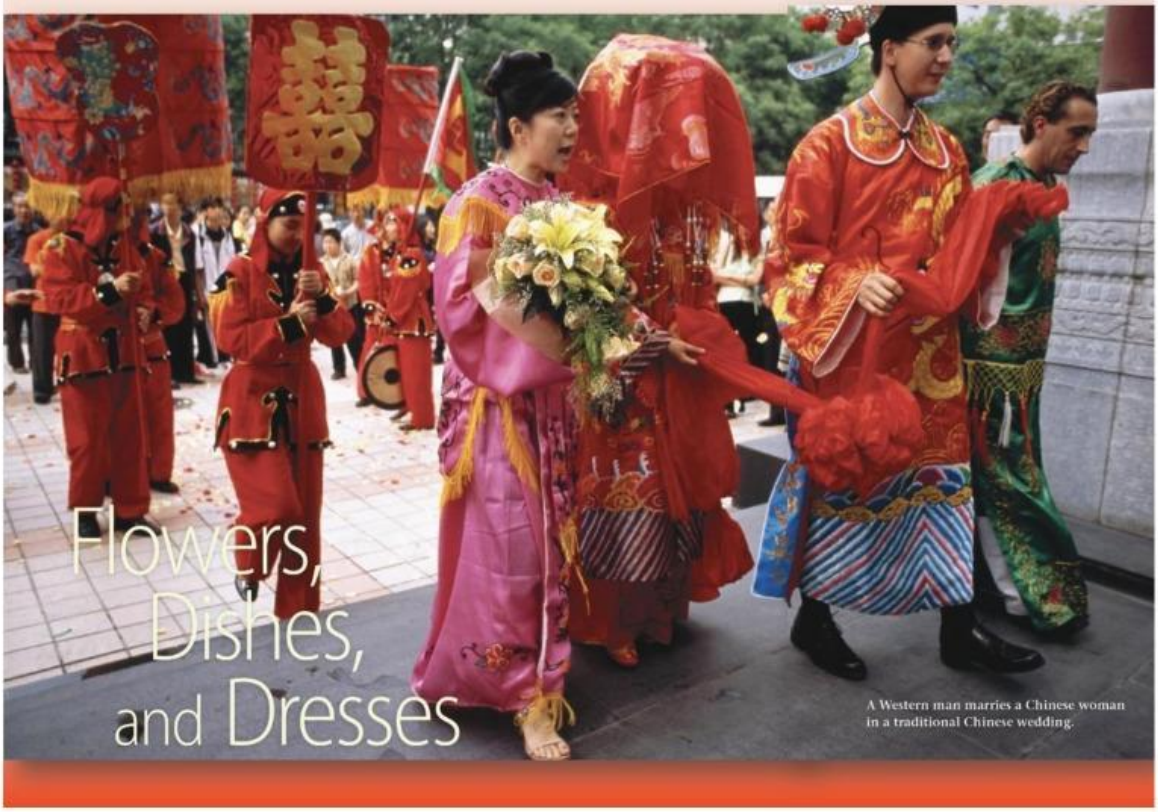


KEY VOCABULARY

Do you know these words? Match the words with the meanings.

1. _____ charms
2. _____ symbols
3. _____ a bride
4. _____ a groom
5. _____ informal
6. _____ an aisle
7. _____ faithfulness
8. _____ a crown

a. signs or objects that represent or mean something
b. walkway in a supermarket or church
c. a circle made of gold or jewels that a king or queen wears on the head
d. a woman who is getting married
e. not official; relaxed and friendly
f. truthfulness
g. a man who is getting married
h. objects that people think have magic powers



Flowers, Dishes, and Dresses

A Western man marries a Chinese woman in a traditional Chinese wedding.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Track 13

1 Wedding traditions are different from culture to culture. Most people follow the traditions of their culture but usually do not know what the traditions mean. In the past, friends and relatives of the newlyweds wanted them to be happy and to have good fortune or good luck. This was the start of traditions to bring good luck to the couple. It was also the start of using **charms** and **symbols** for good luck. Many of these traditions still continue today.

2 To make sure the wedding goes well and the couple will have good fortune, many people around the world follow the old traditions. In Germany, before the wedding day, friends and family of the **bride** and **groom** bring old dishes. They throw the dishes on the floor. The dishes break in front of the bride and groom, who then must clean them up. The people all have fun doing this and have an **informal** party. This tradition prepares the couple for married life and brings them good luck. Similarly, at an English wedding, church bells ring when the bride enters the church and walks up the **aisle**. Sometimes there are flower petals where the bride walks. Likewise, in some countries, there are flower petals on the marriage bed to wish the couple happiness in the future.



3 The date of the wedding can be important for a couple's good fortune, too. There are many traditions about wedding dates. In China, the couple may see a fortune-teller,[1] who will find a favorable day based on the dates when the bride and groom were born. In the United States today, no special day or month is favorable for weddings. However, June is a popular month. The month of June is named after the Roman goddess Juno. She is the goddess of love and marriage. On the other hand, in some countries, the day of the week is important. For example, in Italy a wedding is usually on a Sunday, but in the United States it is usually on a Saturday.

1 *fortune-teller:* a person who tells one's future

LIVEWORKSHEETS



4 Many countries around the world use good-luck charms or symbols for good fortune for the bride and to make bad spirits go away. On the wedding day in the United States, brides wear white dresses.

Some brides follow the old tradition of wearing "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue." Each "something" has a special meaning. "Something old" symbolizes a connection to the bride's family and the past. "Something new" symbolizes the success and good fortune in the bride's new life. For "something borrowed," the bride borrows something from a friend or family member and then returns it after the wedding. This symbolizes love and support of family and friends. "Something blue" is because the color blue stands for **faithfulness**.

5 Likewise, in Norway, a bride wears a white dress. However, some brides may wear a traditional **crown**. The crown is silver and has charms hanging from it. When the bride walks, the charms make a beautiful sound. The sound is to tell bad spirits to go away. Similarly, in Sweden, there is an old tradition for good luck that some people still follow. The mother of the bride gives her daughter a gold coin for her right shoe. The father of the bride gives her a silver coin for her left shoe. The bride wears the coins in her shoes on her wedding day. In this way, the parents hope she will never be poor.

6 Brides usually wear white in the West; however, in some Asian countries, brides wear red. Red is the color of happiness, good luck, and life. At a Chinese wedding, the bride usually wears a red dress, and sometimes all candles and decorations for the wedding are red, too. Similarly, an Indian bride wears a red sari,[2] which is a symbol of life and energy.

7 In conclusion, there are many different wedding traditions around the world. Most traditions come from long ago when people believed in the power of charms, symbols, and special ceremonies to bring good luck and keep bad luck away. Similarly, people today want to celebrate the newlyweds and wish them good fortune and happiness in their new lives.

---

2 *sari:* a dress that is worn by Indian women and made of one long piece of material that is wrapped around the body

LIVEWORKSHEETS

VOCABULARY

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

A Complete these sentences with the words in the box.

aisle	charms	faithfulness	informal
bride	crown	groom	symbols

1. In most western countries, the _____ usually wears white.
2. In most western countries, the _____ usually wears a dark suit.
3. In a church, the bride walks down the _____.
4. In Norway, some brides wear a traditional _____ on their heads.
5. Some brides in Norway wear _____ that make a beautiful sound.
6. In Chinese weddings, red brides' dresses and decorations are _____ of good luck.
7. In Germany, some couples have a(n) _____ party before the wedding.
8. The color blue represents _____ in the United States.

VOCABULARY BUILDING

Complete these sentences with the words in the boxes.

symbolize (*verb*)	symbol (*noun*)	symbolic (*adjective*)

1. He is a _____ of freedom for his people.
2. The wedding ring has a _____ meaning. Do you know what it is?

charm (*verb*)	charm (*noun*)	charming (*adjective*)

3. He knows how to _____ ladies.
4. That's a _____ house!

faithful (*adjective*)	faithfulness (*noun*)	faithfully (*adverb*)

5. John has been a _____ friend for 20 years.
6. Mr. Sims worked for the company _____ all his life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING COMPREHENSION

LOOKING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. In Germany, the tradition of breaking dishes is supposed to _____.
   - **a.** show the couple that friends and family support them
   - **b.** bring the couple money in the future
   - **c.** allow the couple to share their feelings before the marriage
   - **d.** prepare the couple for their life together
2. In many countries, the date of the wedding is _____.
   - **a.** set by the bride's parents
   - **b.** important for the couple's good fortune
   - **c.** not part of the old wedding traditions
   - **d.** decided by a fortune-teller
3. Wedding traditions are _____.
   - **a.** almost the same around the world
   - **b.** a way for relatives and friends to enjoy themselves
   - **c.** meant for celebrating the couple and bringing them luck
   - **d.** a way to make the bride and groom wealthy

LOOKING FOR DETAILS

Decide if the following statements are True (*T*) or False (*F*).

_____ **1.** In China, a fortune-teller sometimes sets the wedding date based on the couple's birth dates.

_____ **2.** The month of June is named after Juno, the goddess of good fortune.

_____ **3.** Many brides wear blue dresses in the United States.

_____ **4.** "Something borrowed" symbolizes the love and support of family and friends.

_____ **5.** The charms on a crown are a symbol of faithfulness.

_____ **6.** In many Asian countries, red is the color of happiness and good luck.

LIVEWORKSHEETS