



Siobhan

Hi everyone! My name's Siobhan and I'm from Dublin, Ireland. My family and I have been living in Kazakhstan for six months now – my dad works for an international company in Aktobe. We've made a lot of friends here already, and one of them ¹_____ us to her wedding, which is going to be this Sunday. I'm really excited, but I'm also a bit confused. I've been reading about Kazakh wedding traditions and I've found out the ²_____ is very different from the one in Ireland. And it seems there are several parties! Can you tell me more about the traditions and the different parties?



Zukhra

The wedding usually starts around noon, when the bride arrives in the groom's house and meets his ⁶_____. There's a song ⁷_____, in which the guests sing the folk song *Zhar-zhar*. The most important ceremony is called 'Neke qiyu' and it only takes about half an hour. It's a religious ceremony for Muslim couples. Later, they go to the registry office for another ceremony. After that, the ⁸_____ often go on a tour of the city's sites and pose for photos. This is followed by a wedding ⁹_____ for family and friends.



Kuanysh

When my eldest sister got married last month, we had a big party. I'd never been to a wedding before, and I was really looking forward to it. I wasn't disappointed! It was a traditional wedding, so the ³_____ wore a white dress, a ⁴_____ and a special hat called saukele, which she'd made herself. My favourite part of the wedding was 'Kyz uzatu' – the goodbye party for the bride. Have you got an ⁵_____ for the bride's party, or are you only going to the main wedding?



Aisulu

I've got a big family and I've been to more than ten weddings – the first one was when I was only five. There are always a lot of ¹⁰_____ (sometimes more than 600!), and one thing I find strange is that no one ever arrives on time. If the wedding invitation says five o'clock, you shouldn't go before six, because you'll be the only person there! All guests must bring ¹¹_____ – if you aren't sure what to buy, you can just ¹²_____ some from the market.