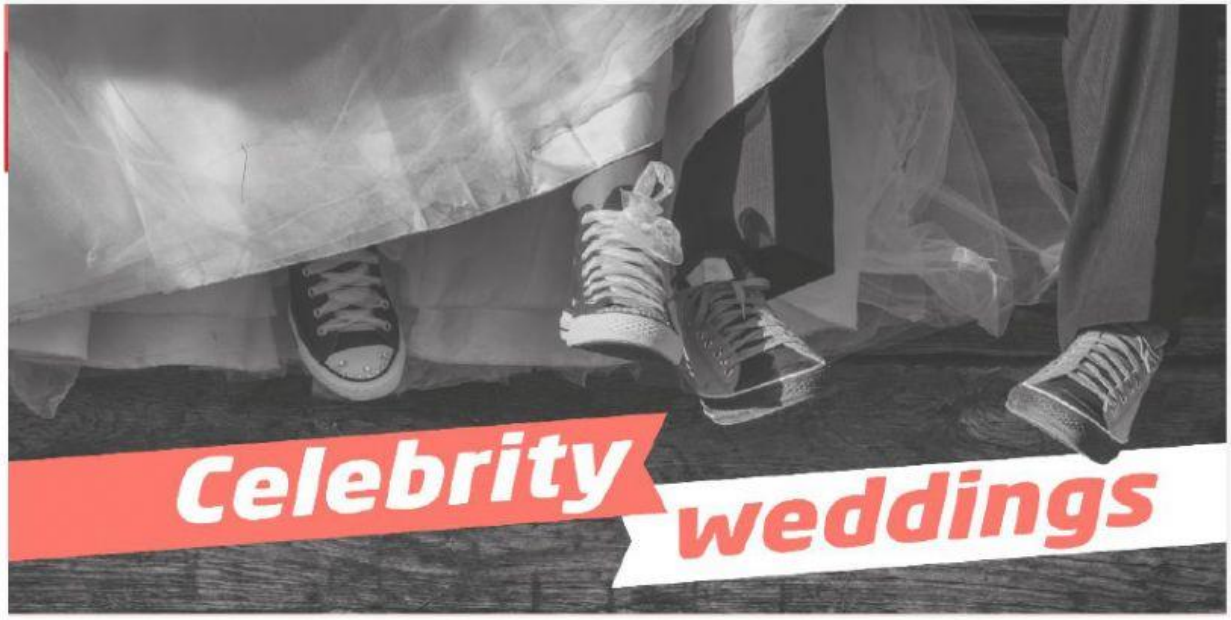

Celebrity weddings

A reader commented on my article from last week. He said it was wrong to be so interested in the weddings of people we don't even know – why do we want to find out all the details of an actor or pop star's big day? I think really it's because we see their faces and read about their lives so often – we feel like we know these people.

At the same time, famous people are like characters in a fairy tale to us. Their lives seem exciting and glamorous. A celebrity wedding is a bit like Cinderella getting married to her prince, and we all want to be there to watch. But we forget that what we see is a public image. They may look perfect but these are actual people, not characters in a story.

Because of all this attention, many celebrities nowadays get married in secret, to keep the crowds of fans and photographers away. But it's not easy to keep the event out of the spotlight. To do this, some celebrities have to hold the ceremony in a faraway location. For instance, actors Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander got married on a farm on the island of Ibiza, which was difficult for most photographers to get to.

Yolanda Burton, a celebrity wedding planner I spoke to recently, says she usually advises couples not to 'hide completely'. 'Photos of a secret wedding will be worth thousands of dollars, so photographers will do anything to get them – even use helicopters or drones to take shots from the air!' she said. 'I think the best idea is for the couple to sell exclusive photos to only one magazine. That way, the couple have control over the moments they share. So, the fans get their "fairytale pictures" and the couple also have their own private memories of their wedding day.'

I too love looking at celebrity wedding photos, but I do think it's a shame if you have to hide on your special day. No one should have to worry about that. It's all about respect, really: celebrities or not, the bride and groom should be the ones to decide how to spend the happiest day of their life – and who to share it with.

Zoom In

1 Complete the sentences with these words.

attention backs due right stress thing

1 No one has the ..... to judge you because of how you look!

2 I've got exams soon, so I'm under a lot of ..... at the moment.

3 The bus is late? That's the last ..... I need!

4 His bad behaviour gets him negative ..... from the teacher.

5 It's sad that her old friends have turned their ..... on her now she's famous.

6 The delay in filming was ..... to a problem with the cameras.

2 Read the article quickly and find:

1 the name of a fairytale character: .....

2 a place where two film stars got married: .....

3 two things photographers may use to get photos from above: ....

3 e **Read the article again. For each question, choose the correct answer.**

1 In the writer's opinion, we are interested in the weddings of celebrities because

A we want to see their faces on their wedding day.

B they are like friends to us.

C we want to know what their lives are like.

D they are our heroes.

2 What does the writer say about celebrities in the second paragraph?

A Their weddings are private events.

B They can't look perfect all the time.

C Their lives are more exciting than ours.

D They are just people like us.

3 The writer mentions Fassbender's wedding as an example of how some stars

A keep their relationships private.

B prefer to get married in another country.

C get more attention from photographers.

D try to avoid the public.

4 In Yolanda Burton's opinion, how can celebrity couples keep photographers away from their wedding?

A by doing a deal with one publisher

B by using technology

C by posting free photographs online

D by hiding

5 What would the writer be most likely to say?

A Famous people should always keep their weddings private.

B Only photographers should be allowed to attend the ceremony.

C Getting married in the spotlight ought to be the couple's choice.

D Being so interested in the lives of people we don't know is wrong.

4 **Read the text again and decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F).**

1. The writer knows lots of celebrities. .....
2. The writer thinks celebrities' lives are always glamorous. .....
3. What we see of celebrities is not always real. .....
4. Yolanda Burton suggests ways to help couples keep control of their big day. .....
5. The writer feels sorry for celebrities who get married in secret. .....

5 **Find words in the article that have these meanings. The first letter of each word is given.**

1. attractive, interesting and unusual (para 2): g.....
2. large groups of people (para 3): c.....
3. place (para 3): l.....
4. available only to one person or group of people (para 4): e.....
5. a children's story (para 4): f.....
6. things you remember from the past (para 4): m.....

6 **Choose the correct word from Ex 5 to complete the sentences.**

1. When buying a house, decide what is most important to you -- ..... or space.
2. Working on a farm isn't ..... but it's rewarding.
3. I like films to have a ..... ending.
4. The ..... at the new shopping centre were huge.
5. I have the most wonderful ..... of my time at summer camp.
6. The ..... interview with the pop star was fascinating.