

Exercise 1

Vocabulary: Match each word with its definition:

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|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. bride: | | 7. officiant: | |
| 2. groom: | | 8. ceremony: | |
| 3. bridesmaids: | | 9. reception: | |
| 4. groomsmen: | | 10. vows: | |
| 5. maid of honor: | | | |
| 6. best man: | | | |

a) the person who performs the marriage (sometimes a priest or church official)

b) the men who stand with the groom (close friends and family)

c) the groom's best friend

d) the man getting married

e) the bride's best friend

f) the informal part of the wedding when the guests eat and dance

g) the women who stand with the bride (close friends and family)

h) the words that the bride and groom say during the ceremony

i) the woman getting married

j) the formal part of the wedding when the couple becomes married

Exercise 2

Reading: A Traditional Irish Wedding

“Marry in April if you can, joy for maiden and for man”

So says one Irish wedding tradition which, like many others, has its roots in ancient history, folklore and interesting superstitions! Even in these modern times, many couples try to include ancient customs in their wedding, in the hope that it will bring them luck and happiness. Here are some of the traditions that Irish people follow on their wedding day.

A treat for the groom

In the past, the groom was invited to the bride’s house just before the wedding and a goose was cooked in his honour. Many Irish people believe that showing such generosity to the groom will make sure that he won’t change his mind about the wedding at the last minute.

Bride, be beautiful!

A traditional Irish bride doesn’t spend a fortune on bouquets of exotic flowers. Instead, she usually wears a wreath of wild flowers in her hair, freshly picked on the morning of her wedding. She carries more wild flowers in her hands, as well as a “magic” handkerchief and a horseshoe for luck. Part of the bride’s wedding dress is usually used to make the christening robe for the first-born child.

The icing on the cake

In the old days, an older female member of the family would take great pride in producing a traditional three-tier fruitcake for the reception. Nowadays, however, most Irish couples go to their local baker and order a cake which is decorated with Irish themes such as swans or fairies. According to tradition, the couple save the top layer of the cake. They often store it in a tin and use it as a christening cake for their first baby.

Fairies and luck

Whether you believe in them or not, Ireland is traditionally the home of fairies, who are said to love beautiful things – especially brides! For this reason, Irish wisdom advises brides never to wear green on their wedding

day or to dance with both feet off the ground, as both of these things will tempt the fairies to carry them off forever!

Mark the statements true (T) or false (F):

1. In the past, the wedding cake was decorated with Irish themes.
2. Nowadays, the groom is invited to the bride's house before the wedding.
3. Irish brides don't carry expensive bouquets.
4. It is unlucky for Irish brides to dance at their wedding.

Exercise 3

Grammar: Complete the sentences by typing 'must', 'might', or 'can't' into the gaps.

1. It be her - she's in Italy this week. I'm sure you've confused her with someone else.
2. Come in and make yourself at home. You be exhausted after your flight.
3. Who's this postcard from? It be from my brother - he never sends postcards.
4. The exam results should be out soon. It..... be this week or it be next week.
5. She always gets such good grades at school. She work very hard.
6. That be Danny. I recognize his jacket.
7. I'm leaving for work now but I be a little late if there's traffic on the road.
8. Of course Ross isn't here today. He went clubbing last night. He be at home with a serious hangover.
9. You possibly be tired. You've just woken up.
10. You know Laura because she went to the same high school that we went to but she is a few years younger than we are.
11. I'm sorry, you be confusing me with someone else, that's not my name.
12. He be at his parent's house, but I'm not sure.
13. Paul be at home. His car is still in the parking lot.
14. I still have your book, but I'm not certain.
15. This be the right answer. The others are definitely wrong.