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# HAPPENINGS

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## WEDDING GUIDE



# Which Bread Plate is Mine?

& Other Questions Wedding Guests Want Answered but Never Knew How to Ask

With Jill Evans Kryston,  
Etiquette Consultant, A School  
of Contemporary Protocol in  
Shavertown



**Q. If I can't go to the wedding, do I still need to send a gift?**

**A.** This depends on how intimate you are with the bride, groom and their families. For families that you see at least once a year, you may want to consider sending a gift. You must always send a present to one who is marrying into your immediate family.

**Q. Do I need to buy a gift from the registry?**

**A.** The bridal registry is a guideline to the couple's style and personal taste; however, there is no obligation to buy from the registry, especially if the selections are out of the guests' price range.

**Q. Do I still need to cover my shoulders in a house of worship?**

**A.** It used to be a sign of respect for a woman to properly cover herself, including her head, in a house of worship. There are places where this custom is still observed. However, in this day of strapless wedding gowns, it seems like a tradition that has gone by the wayside for the most part. When in doubt, err on the conservative side.

**Q. At the table, how do I know which bread plate and glass are mine?**

**A.** By remembering three simple initials: B.M.W., which stands for bread, meal and water, placed in front of you, left to right (see above).

**Q. How do I know if I can bring children or a date?**

**A.** If the invitation reads "and family" it means that everyone living under one roof is invited. If it reads "and guest" it means you may invite a friend of your own choosing.

**Q. How much money should I give?**

**A.** There is no formula - the size or elaborateness of the wedding should not affect your decision on the amount to spend or give as a wedding present. Your decision should be based on a combination of two things - your affection for the bride, groom and their families and your financial capability.

**Q. Is it ok to take photos?**

**A.** It is in poor taste to take pictures during a ceremony with electronic flashes because they detract from the solemnity of the service. Also, flash photography can interfere with the pictures of the professional photographer. Generally, when the service is over and the bridal procession is coming down the aisle, pictures may be taken.

**Q. How do I remember which silverware to use during which course?**

**A.** Always begin from the outside and work towards the plate.

**Q. Is it ok for ladies to wear white or black to a wedding?**

**A.** Although more and more brides are resorting to the use of black, colors for guests are still preferable over black and white.

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