



Coffee and Conversation for ESL Listening



with Donielle and Khrystyna

Episode 20: Weddings

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations. For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#).

In this episode, Donielle and Khrystyna talk about weddings: culture, traditions, and superstitions, and you'll hear a little about their own wedding experiences!

Here are some words and phrases about the topic that you may find useful:

<p>before the wedding</p>	<p>propose: ask someone to marry you engaged: marital status between acceptance of proposal and wedding bachelor/bachelorette party: big, often wild party to celebrate last days of being single before the wedding bridal shower: pre-wedding event to honor the bride where close friends and family come together for food and fun games and to “shower” the bride with gifts to help set up her new household.</p>
<p>Wedding Party (refers to all the people who perform a role in the wedding)</p>	<p>bride: woman getting married groom: man getting married best man: groom's best friend or closest family member (witness to the marriage) maid of honor: bride's best friend or closest family member (witness to the marriage) bridesmaids: other female friends or family members who stand up with the bride groomsmen: other male friends or family members who stand up with the groom flower girl: young female child who carries the flowers down the aisle ring bearer: young male child who carries the wedding rings</p>
<p>The Big Day (a way to refer to the wedding day)</p>	<p>tie the knot: common informal way to say get married destination wedding: a wedding that is held out of town, for the purpose of getting married at a special or beautiful location (e.g. beach in Hawaii) venue: specific location where an event is to be held walk down the aisle: refers to bride walking from back of church or seated guests between rows of seats to take position to begin the ceremony. (Also used figuratively to mean “get married”) open bar: guests have as many alcoholic drinks as they like for free cash bar: guests pay for their own alcoholic drinks newlywed: word to refer to someone who was recently married honeymoon: romantic vacation for the newlyweds</p>
<p>wedding attire (clothing to be worn for the wedding)</p>	<p>wedding gown/dress: (for bride) veil: lace or sheer face covering as the bride walks down the aisle garter: bridal lingerie worn under a wedding dress (removed and tossed to all single men to determine next man to get married) tuxedo (tux): formal wear for groom and groomsmen</p>

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

break a leg	an expression said to wish someone good luck, especially if they are giving a performance.
third time's a charm	an expression you say after 2 failed attempts at something as a charm to bring you good luck for the third attempt so that it will be successful.
housekeeping	often said at the beginning of a presentation or class to refer to general announcements, not directly related to the content. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before we get into our topic today, just a little <u>housekeeping</u>: I want to remind you to be sure to download the show notes.
It's worth it.	It's sufficiently good, enjoyable, or successful to overcome any effort, trouble, or expense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes quite a bit of time, but I think <u>it's worth it</u>.
wedding	the ceremony and associated reception or celebration when 2 people get married. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're invited to our <u>wedding</u> next year.
marriage	the state of being married; the relationship of a married couple. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We wish you a very happy <u>marriage</u>.
I bet/I'll bet	an expression used to show confidence in the truth of the statement you are making, or to show agreement with another's statement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With your wedding next week, <u>I bet</u> you are very busy this week. A: I've been running non-stop preparing for the wedding next week. B: <u>I bet</u>.
loosey-goosey	notably loose or relaxed; not careful, accurate, or exact enough, or not tightly controlled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have <u>loosey-goosey</u> rules for getting married in Las Vegas.
impersonator	a person who pretends to be another person. In most cases, it refers to a person who dresses up and performs in the style of a celebrity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can get married by an Elvis <u>impersonator</u> in Las Vegas.
credentials	testimonials or certified documents showing that a person has a right to exercise official power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can get your <u>credentials</u> online to perform wedding ceremonies.
bucks	very common slang for dollars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can get your credentials for just a few <u>bucks</u>.
officiant	Person who performs the ceremony at a wedding, funeral, etc.
girly	enjoying things traditionally considered feminine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm not really a <u>girly</u> girl.
bridezilla	a woman whose behavior in planning her wedding is regarded as obsessive or intolerably demanding
guilty pleasure	something, such as a TV show or music that is of low quality and harshly criticized, but you still enjoy it, even though you may be judged for liking it
extravagant	spending or costing more money than is necessary or wise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't see the need for an <u>extravagant</u> wedding.

Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

be/get wrapped up in [something]	so completely involved or interested in something that you don't notice or pay attention to other things. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sometimes brides get so <u>wrapped up in</u> planning the wedding that the important part gets lost.
furnishings	furniture, fittings, and other decorative accessories, such as curtains and carpets, for a house or room.
cold cuts	a variety of thinly sliced meats that are served cold and used to make sandwiches or appetizer trays.
run out [of something]	to finish, use, or sell all of something, so that there is none left. When used in the continuous tense, it means that you are almost out of it. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We're <u>running out of</u> time. [There is very little time left].
rapid fire	deliver questions, information, jokes, etc. one after another in quick succession
toss	throw something somewhere lightly, easily, or casually. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A very common wedding tradition is the bouquet <u>toss</u>.
threshold	the floor or ground at the bottom of a doorway, considered as the entrance to a building or room. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The groom carried his bride across the <u>threshold</u>.
shower	a party at which presents are given to someone, typically a woman who is about to get married or have a baby. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• bridal shower, baby shower

You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.

*Note: you don't need an account to access the podcast; just click "listen now" on the Buzzsprout page to take you to the podcast episode.

Confusing and Double-Meaning Words

marry [a person]	I'm lucky because I <u>married</u> my best friend.
marry [a couple] (perform the ceremony)	The minister who <u>married</u> us is no longer at that church.
get married [to someone]	She wanted to <u>get married</u> before she turned 30. She <u>got married to</u> her high school sweetheart. (focus is on the act/event of becoming married)
dress up (clothing)	Wedding guests are expected to <u>dress up</u> .
dress up [as] (costume)	I <u>dressed up as</u> a fairy for their Halloween-themed wedding.



bride with veil



bouquet toss



feeding/smashing cake



Elvis impersonator



Wedding Party: bride, groom, bridesmaids, groomsmen



ring bearer & flower girl

Join the Conversation

- How are weddings traditionally celebrated in your culture?
- Are there any superstitions related to weddings in your country?
- Are there any specific foods or drinks that are commonly served at weddings in your country?
- What are some typical wedding gifts in your culture?
- Have you ever attended a wedding from a different cultural background? What were some similarities and differences with weddings in your culture?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having a themed wedding vs. a traditional wedding?

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



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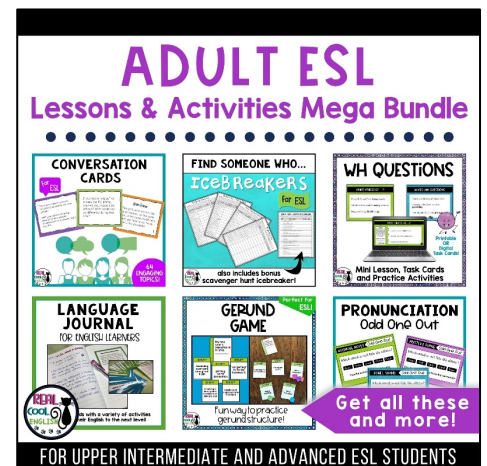
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