



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم
Abu Dhabi Education Council



ADEC ENGLISH TEACHING RESOURCE BANK

GRADE 12 | TRIMESTER 2
CHINESE WEDDINGS







Before you read

What do you know about traditional Chinese weddings? Complete the chart.

Three things I know	Three things I want to know	Three things I have learned

Chinese Wedding Traditions



Red is the Color of Weddings in China

1) Red is central to the wedding theme of China. It signifies love, joy and prosperity and is used in a variety of ways in Chinese wedding traditions. The bride's wedding gown is often red, as are objects associated with the ceremony such as the wedding invitations and wedding gift boxes or envelopes for cash gifts. Even the bride and groom's homes are decorated in red on the wedding day.

Before the Chinese Wedding Day

2) Before her wedding celebration, a Chinese bride traditionally goes away with her closest friends. This Chinese custom gives the bride-to-be some time to symbolically mourn the loss of her friends and family.

3) Some time before the couple are married, the groom's family carries wedding gifts in red

baskets and boxes to the bride's house. One of the baskets will contain *uang sus* or 'milk money.' Others will contain personal things for the bride, so that on her wedding day all of her personal belongings will be in the groom's house. The bride takes the gifts to another room where they are sorted through. Three days before the wedding day, women from the bride's family reciprocate, bearing gifts in red wrappings to the groom's family.

The Day of the Wedding Ceremony

4) Wedding dates in China are carefully chosen according to astrological signs. It is also customary for couples to be married on the half-hour on their wedding day rather than at the top of the hour. In this way, the couple begin their new life together on an 'upswing,' while the hands of the clock are moving up, rather than down.

5) On the morning of his wedding day, the groom is symbolically dressed by his parents. The groom arrives at the house of his bride on the way to the wedding chapel. He brings gifts of cash, wrapped in red tissue, to give to his bride's friends, in exchange for 'letting her go.' In some families, the wedding couple serves tea to both sets of parents while kneeling in front of them, a symbolic gesture of asking for permission. The bride and groom then leave for the wedding site together. *Chinese Marriage Ceremony and Wedding Reception*

6) The wedding ceremony is usually attended only by the couple's immediate families. Just after the ceremony and before the wedding reception,



the bride who honors tradition will serve tea to her in-laws in a formal ceremony. The couple will usually go to a professional studio for wedding photos before they proceed to their reception, an elaborate standing only affair.

7) A welcoming speech is usually performed by a person who is hired for the occasion. The speech is followed by a cake cutting ceremony. The traditional wedding cake is immense, with many layers. The layers symbolize a ladder that the couple will 'climb to success,' so couples will cut the cake from the bottom and work their way up. The cutting of the cake is the only event of the reception. The bride and groom feed each

other a piece of cake with arms entwined, trying not to destroy the bride's elaborate make-up. A piece is then cut for each of the parents and for the grandparents, who are fed by the bride and groom holding the cake together. The guests are invited to greet the newlyweds and their parents. Musical entertainment, which ranges from a simple keyboard player to a symphonic orchestra, accompanies the receiving line. It is customary for guests to shake hands again before leaving the reception. At more elaborate Chinese weddings, a sit-down reception may feature a nine or ten-course meal as well as musical entertainment.



Reading Comprehension

Read the text and answer the questions. The first one is done as an example.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 0) What is the purpose of this text? | <u>To inform readers</u> |
| 1) Which color is central to the wedding theme in China? | _____ |
| 2) Before the wedding celebrations, what does the bride do? | _____ |
| 3) What does the groom's family carry to the bride's house? | _____ |
| 4) Who usually attends the wedding ceremony? | _____ |
| 5) After the ceremony, but before the reception, what is traditional for the couple to do? | _____ |
| 6) What does the wedding cake symbolize? | _____ |
| 7) How do the bride and groom eat the cake? | _____ |
| 8) Who makes speeches at the wedding? | _____ |
| 9) What do guests do before they leave the wedding reception? | _____ |



Vocabulary

Find synonyms for these words in the text. The first one is done as an example.

- 0) happiness _____ *joy* _____
- 1) wealth or good fortune _____
- 2) the man who is getting married _____
- 3) dress _____
- 4) to feel sad _____
- 5) return in kind _____
- 6) huge _____
- 7) interlocked _____

Grammar

A) Identify which word family each of the words below belongs to: *noun, verb, adjective, conjunction, article, adverb* or *preposition*. The first one is done as an example.

- 0) wedding _____ *noun* _____
- 1) go _____
- 2) usually _____
- 3) clock _____
- 4) in _____
- 5) red _____
- 6) reception _____
- 7) and _____

B) Write the infinitive or root words for the following verbs. The first one is done as an example.

- 0) entwined _____ *entwine* _____
- 1) dressed _____
- 2) chosen _____
- 3) is _____
- 4) hired _____
- 5) arrives _____



Critical Thinking

Discuss the following questions.

- 1) Why does the bride-to-be symbolically 'mourn' the loss of her friends and family?
- 2) Why do the parents of the groom dress him on the morning of the wedding?
- 3) Why does the groom bring gifts of cash to give to the bride's friends?



Writing

Choose one of the following topics. Write a paragraph in your notebook.

- 1) Compare and contrast a traditional Emirati wedding ceremony with the traditional Chinese wedding ceremony you have read about.
- 2) What significance do the symbolic elements (such as the red theme) have for the wedding ceremony?



Extension

Find out about a particular country's wedding ceremonies or a wedding ceremony from the past. Prepare a short presentation for your class.