

# Tips for the ultimate wedding reception

By: Robert Houle

Your wedding day will be one of the most spectacular days of your life! Make it memorable, stress-free, and fun with just a few extra special moments of pre-planning and preparation.

**1. Generously Invite.** Writing the guest list... what a challenge! How do you agree on whom to invite and still stay within your budget? Here's the bottom line. You are preparing for the most magical day of your life and in the end only one thing will matter - the public declaration of your love and commitment and each and every person there to witness it.

**2. Designate Your Celebratory Space.** Before you plan your reception know exactly where you want people to mix and mingle. Fantastic receptions brim with family and friends who feel comfortable, meet, talk, dance, and become acquainted with one another. Define the space with ribbons or closed doors. Don't be afraid to close off certain areas or rooms. The liveliest receptions have a common area where guests are mingling and activities are taking place. A designated space ensures guests catch and capture each wonderful moment as it unfolds.

**3. Special Activities Just For The Joy Of It.** Remember, 80% of your guests won't know each other. The greatest wedding memories are the new friendships and extended family bonds created at your wedding. Use interactive games, specialty dances, bold announcements, or fun activities during the reception to break the ice and help people get to know one other.

**4. Let Go, Have Fun & Toss Your Worries Aside.** The bride sets the stage and the tone for reception party. This is the time and place for all brides to let go, have fun, and toss any last minute worries aside. You only have one job - to be the most radiant and loveliest guest of honor. Show up and celebrate! If you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, your guests will sense it and feel uncomfortable too.

**5. Dance Your Little Heart Out.** One saucy shoe must be the first to step out on the dance floor. Guests will be looking to you for permission and timing to dance. As soon as you get up and dance, they'll let loose and do a little rumba too! Plan to play music you love so you are comfortable. Your physical cues can create a safe space for them to dance, toe-tap, celebrate, toast, and party. Watch friends and family get up and dance, thoroughly enjoy themselves, then talk about what a fabulous reception it was in the morning.

**6. Embellish, Adorn, and Decorate.** The décor sets the mood at the reception. Simple décor is not only best, it is marvelously elegant. Elegant doesn't have to mean expensive. Think sentimental instead of expensive and you'll amaze yourself with the brilliant ideas that come to mind. Since flowers are typically 15% of the overall wedding budget, you can save money by intermingling silk flowers. Want a discount, ask for one! Many places give quantity and wedding discounts.

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