

## **Bridal Couple Tips For The Perfect Day**

**1) CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY** - If you do a candle lighting during the ceremony, you might want to select a short interlude song to be played during it. Silence for a minute or two will seem awkward but also playing long a song can drag out the ceremony. A classical song is a nice choice, it will be elegant and yet no one will notice if it is faded out before finishing. You can also select any appropriate love song to play and have it faded out when lighting is finished but the fading of a popular known song sometimes can also seem awkward to your guests. One suggestion is to get an instrumental version of your first wedding dance song.

If you are having an outdoor ceremony without any kind of shelter from the wind you could run into problems with the lighting ceremony. If there is a wind of any sort, this can make it difficult to almost impossible to get the candles to light. To help with this problem you should pre light the wicks of the candles for a few seconds to burn off the wax that covers the wicks. Have a Groomsman do this before your guests arrive for the ceremony. When lighting the first candles use the kind of lighter with a long barrel (used commonly for fireplaces) this will help to keep the flame away from any possible lace or other materials worn by the couple and avoid a terrible accident.

**1A) CANDLES AT THE RECEPTION** - Candles at the reception can really add a romantic feel to the celebration. Candles can also add a DANGER to your ceremony. Only use very short, low lying candles that can not easily be tipped over. Do not have any other decorations near the candles that can accidentally start on fire. Never use any kinds of aerosol sprays around fires, this includes hair spray and SILLY STRING. Yes, a fun toy but silly string is very flammable and dangerous. Make sure the reception site has plenty of fire extinguishers that are readily accessible in case of an emergency.

**2) BEST TIME TO TAKE PICTURES** - Tradition states the Bride and Groom should not see each other before the ceremony. If you don't mind disregarding this, taking pictures before the ceremony can be a very opportune time. You can shorten the gap between the ceremony and the reception for your guests, and the photographer will not be as rushed to get all the necessary pictures. Before the ceremony the make up, hair and clothing will look fresher for the photos. The longer your guests have to wait for you at the reception, the longer they have to wait to eat and then dance. The chance of your guest leaving early greatens with every moment they are left sitting and waiting. Boredom is the number one reason people leave events early. If you decide to take pictures between the ceremony and the reception, make sure you have appetizers, drinks and some form of entertainment (Music) for them to enjoy until you arrive.

**3) LEAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR PHOTOS** - Whenever you take your formal pictures, between the ceremony and reception, or before the ceremony, it is important to allow adequate time. The suggestion is to plan 3-4 minutes for each person in the bridal party, including parents, grandparents and any other special family portraits. For example, let say that you have a maid-of-honor, a best man, two bridesmaids, two groomsmen, a flower girl, two sets of parents, two sets of grandparents and yourselves, a

total of fifteen people. Allow for 45 to 60 minutes for your formal pictures. You should speak extensively with your own photographer before finalizing the times. Then once a time frame is designed, make a copy of the time frame, the people in each picture, the general location the picture will be taken and the approximate times they will be needed. The more information you can give the faster and easier it will be to accomplish your photo session.

**4) YOUR FIRST DANCE AS HUSBAND AND WIFE** - Try to pick a wedding couple first dance song that has meaning for both you and your fiancé. If you choose something that just happens to be popular today, you may not even remember it when your first anniversary comes around. If you choose a song that is special to you both, maybe something that was "your song" when you first started dating or a ballad that has significance to you as a couple, then you will never forget it. The first slow song you danced together, the love song of the first movie you went to see, a song that tells the way you feel for each other are all great examples of the type of song you should select.

**5) CHILDREN AT THE WEDDING** – Not inviting children to a Wedding is becoming more and more popular. When deciding whether to include children at the ceremony and reception, the bride and groom should examine the atmosphere they envision. Children can provide a great presence of charm and levity and they often look precious in their little formal wear. Since a wedding is a family event it may seem appropriate to have the entire family in attendance, but the bride and groom need to feel comfortable with the "spontaneity" of children. Children can have a very short attention span and may lose patience in the middle of the ceremony. You should select children who have a very mature nature and will not begin to cry from fear or parent separation. If you plan to have children attend the reception, you should inform their parents to bring quiet toys and books to keep them busy. Children can bring magical moments to the wedding or a lot of added stress - it depends on the children's personalities and the atmosphere you would like to create. Children can also be a reason for your guests to leave early. Those with children will need to get them to bed at an appropriate time, those without children might not see the child like qualities as charming and will leave to avoid them.

**6) THE WEDDING RECEPTION** – Relax and enjoy yourself at the reception! There will always be little problems, little mistakes and little annoyances at every reception, it's just the law of nature. Try not to allow these little situations to overshadow your beautiful day. Don't let the night go by without dancing and having a good time. You are the reason everyone is there. They want to share in your happiness and the celebration of your marriage. Every one of your guests will want to chat with you and tell you how great you look and as important as this is, if you are not careful, the reception will be over before you know it. If you like to dance and want to be a part of celebration, make a conscious effort to get out there and ENJOY! The most important thing is to have FUN! This day will only happen once for you, don't let it slip you by.

**7) "OVER PLAYED" WEDDING SONGS** - Many people are sick of songs like "Celebration" and "We are family" and if you definitely can't stand songs like that, please tell your entertainer and insist that they not be played. There are hundreds of awesome

party songs and the few hours of the dance is a short time; you shouldn't have to sit through something you hate during your own wedding. Please remember that although this is your special day, you have to keep in mind all of your guests and what music they may enjoy and wish to hear. Your guests will stay longer if they are dancing to the music stylings that they enjoy, which could include those "Played out" songs. Sometimes over played songs will do wonders to get a party kick started. I always say, Celebration got "played out" for a reason, it's a fun party dance song!

**8) THE LAST DANCE** - Ending a party is sometimes just as important as how you begin. Many Bridal Couples like to personalize this moment to leave the right "last impression." If you select a slow song, the party will wind down with a romantic tone. Some couples select a nice romantic slow song and some ask me to replay their wedding dance song. Either way is appropriate and will leave an impression that your party was all about the love between the newlyweds.

Going out the door with an upbeat song is the other option and will leave your guests with the impression that the "Celebration" went on all night. Everyone is pumped and dancing and having a great time and not want it to end. They will walk out the door singing and laughing like it was the greatest party ever.

You can combine the two methods to really bring the night to a fantastic end. Start by playing the slow love song and at the end of the song have your guests give you a big group hug. Then jump into a couple fast up beat fun song everyone knows and loves. What an ending!

The most important thing for the Bridal Couple is to leave the room while the excitement and dancing is still going on. The reason for this is the last portion of the night will always be the memory that you have of the event. You want to leave before the lights come up and you see the once beautiful room a complete mess with the staff cleaning it up. You don't want to get stuck hanging around the mess saying your last goodbyes to everyone left at the party. You want to go out with a bang and remembering how beautiful, elegant and FUN your reception was. Have you ever been in a bar at the end of the night when they turn on all the bright lights? Remember how that hurts your eyes and ruins the mood? You really don't want to experience this at your reception.

**9) THE HONEYMOON** - Try to avoid leaving for your honeymoon immediately after the reception. This can invite disappointment and ill feelings since both of you will be extremely exhausted right after the wedding. Give yourselves a day or two to open gifts, sleep late and slow down from the stress and pressure of your wedding day and to enjoy your new union. You also don't need the added burden of packing for your honeymoon before your wedding, this can be done after the big day. Airfare and many hotels will be cheaper if you leave and return on a weekday instead of the weekend. Many honeymoon destinations (Hawaii, Vegas, and Disney World) will have fewer guests during the week then on the weekend making it easier to enjoy the whole experience.