

WEDDING SUPERSTITIONS

In England the wedding preparations, ceremony and feast have all become loaded with ritual practices to ward off evil and bless the marriage with fortune and fertility.

The choice of date is important. May is traditionally unlucky for weddings. The tradition that the bride's parents should pay for the wedding dates from two or three centuries ago, when wealthy families would pay an eligible bachelor to take an unmarried daughter off their hands in exchange for a large dowry.

At most formal weddings, brides still get married in virginal white — many other colours are considered unlucky. A bride will also ensure that her wedding outfit includes "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue". "Old" maintains her link with the past; "new" symbolizes the future; "borrowed" gives her a link with the present; and "blue" symbolizes her purity.

Even a modern bride will observe the taboos about wearing her dress before the ceremony. The groom must not see her in it until she enters the church. The veil should be put on for the first time as she leaves for the church.

It is a lucky omen if the bride should see a chimney sweep on her way to church. Sometimes a sweep is paid to attend the ceremony and kiss the bride - a relic of the idea that soot and ashes are symbols of fertility.

After the ceremony, the couple are showered with confetti. One old custom was for the bride and sometimes the groom to negotiate some obstacle as they left the church — guests would impede them with ropes of flowers, for example, or with sticks that had to be jumped over.

After that the bride is faced with the feast. The most important item is the wedding cake, whose richness symbolizes fertility, just as it has done since Roman times. Today, the first slice is cut by the bride to ensure a fruitful marriage.

Exercise I.

Для слов и словосочетаний из колонки **A** подберите правильный вариант перевода из колонки **B**.

Например: **1 – m**).

A

1. feast;
2. to load;
3. to ward off;
4. evil;
5. to bless;
6. fertility;
7. eligible;
8. to take off one's hands;
9. dowry;
10. virginal;
11. to ensure;
12. a wedding outfit;
13. borrowed;
14. to maintain;
15. a link;
16. purity;
17. to observe;
18. a taboo;
19. a veil;
20. an omen;
21. a chimney sweep;
22. a relic;
23. soot;
24. ash;
25. to symbolize;
26. to negotiate an obstacle;

B

- a) фата;
- b) связь;
- c) сбыть с рук, отдать;
- d) обеспечивать, гарантировать;
- e) сажа;
- f) знак, знамение;
- g) плодотворный брак;
- h) след, остаток, пережиток;
- i) гирлянда цветов;
- j) свадебный ужин;
- k) отгонять, отвращать;
- l) запрет;
- m) плодородие;
- n) ломтик, кусочек;
- o) благословлять, наделять;
- p) взятый взаймы;
- q) зло;
- r) преодолевать препятствие;
- s) пепел;
- t) суеверие;
- u) свадебный наряд;
- v) чистота, целомудрие;
- w) приданое;
- x) трубочист;
- y) девственный;
- z) палка;

- 27. a rope of flowers;
- 27. a stick;
- 28. a slice;
- 29. a fruitful marriage;
- 30. to impede;
- 31. a superstition;

- ах) задерживать, препятствовать, мешать;
- бх) грузить, заполнять;
- сх) подходящий, желательный;
- dx) поддерживать;
- ех) соблюдать, следовать;
- fx) символизировать.

Exercise II.

Для слов и словосочетаний из колонки **A** подберите синонимы из колонки **B**.

Например: **1 – f**).

A

- 1. to be loaded with;
- 2. fortune;
- 3. fertility;
- 4. eligible;
- 5. outfit;
- 6. link;
- 7. omen;
- 8. to impede;
- 9. to attend;

B

- a) connection;
- b) sign;
- c) to be full;
- d) to block;
- e) to go;
- f) luck;
- g) fruitfulness;
- h) dress;
- i) suitable.

Ответы: 1c; 2f; 3g; 4i; 5h; 6a; 7b; 8d; 9e.

Exercise III.

Для глаголов из колонки **A** подберите существительные с предлогами из колонки **B** так, чтобы составить словосочетания. Например: **1 – f**). При необходимости воспользуйтесь текстом.

A

- 1. to ward;
- 2. to bless;
- 3. to leave;
- 4. to shower;
- 5. to impede;
- 6. to jump;
- 7. to marry;

B

- a) with confetti;
- b) with ropes of flowers;
- c) for the church;
- d) off evil;
- e) over a stick;
- f) with fortune and fertility;
- g) in white.

Exercise IV.

Для глаголов из колонки **A** подберите существительные без предлогов из колонки **B** так, чтобы составить словосочетания. Например: **1 – f**). При необходимости воспользуйтесь текстом.

A

- 1. to symbolize;
- 2. to observe;
- 3. to attend;
- 4. to kiss;
- 5. to negotiate;
- 6. to ensure;
- 7. to wear;

B

- a) a taboo;
- b) a fruitful marriage;
- c) a dress;
- d) purity;
- e) a ceremony;
- f) an obstacle;
- g) a bride.

Exercise V.

Вместо многоточия поставьте слова из текста, подходящие по смыслу.

Например: 1. Institutes, universities and academies provide ... for people. 1. **Education**

- 1. There's a ... on smoking in this office. You have to go outside if you want to smoke.
- 2. Parents and mostly nature ... their children with talents and abilities.
- 3. Breaking a mirror is considered to be a bad
- 4. European countries ... friendly relations with Russia.
- 5. Police suspect there may be a ... between the two murders.

6. The pyramids in Egypt are ... of ancient civilizations.
7. There's an old ... that killing a spider brings you bad luck.
8. Don't drop cigarette ... on the carpet.
9. Old people usually ... customs and traditions.

Слова: a link; ash; a taboo; relics; to observe; to bless; an omen; superstition; to maintain.

Exercise VI.

Скажите, верны ли следующие утверждения. Если да, то поставьте **T**; если нет, тогда – **F**.

Например: **1 – F**.

1. The choice of date for the wedding ceremony is very important.
2. May is traditionally lucky for weddings.
3. It was a tradition that the bride's parents took a large dowry from the groom in exchange for their daughter.
4. Brides get married in red – this colour brings luck.
5. The bride's wedding outfit should include "something old, something new, something borrowed, something new."
6. "Old" means a link with the past.
7. "Borrowed" symbolizes the bride's purity.
8. A modern groom should observe the taboo about wearing a wedding tuxedo before the ceremony.
9. The veil should be put on as the groom mustn't see his bride's face before the ceremony.
10. It's a lucky omen when the bride should see chimney ashes on her way to the church.
11. Soot and ashes are symbols of fertility.
12. After the ceremony, the couple are showered with confetti.
13. The bride and the groom shouldn't negotiate any obstacles; all problems are supposed to be left in the past.
14. The most important item in the wedding feast is the wedding cake.
15. The first slice is cut by the bride and the groom together.