

Helpful Wedding Terms

Term	Description
Maid of Honor	An unmarried woman whom a Bride chooses to stand by her side. The Maid of Honor also signs as an official witness on the marriage certificate.
Matron of Honor	A married woman whom a Bride chooses to stand by her side. The Matron of Honor also signs as an official witness on the marriage certificate.
Nosegay	A round arrangement/bouquet of flowers. Usually small in size.
Officiant	One who performs/officiates a wedding ceremony.
Organza	Fabric which is much like chiffon, but is heavier and stiffer.
Semi-formal	Term used to describe a somewhat formal wedding. Several characteristics of a semi-formal wedding: printed invitations for under one hundred guests; Groom attired in either a dark suit or a tuxedo; Bride attired in a floor-length gown; one or two bridesmaids and ushers; reception with buffet or hors d' oeuvres following the ceremony.
Shantung	A fabric usually made of silk and is known for its characteristic nubby texture. Shantung is also a bit coarse to the touch.
Stroller	Black or gray long suit jacket worn with striped trousers. Similar to the cutaway, it is worn in formal daytime weddings.
Taffeta	A stiff and heavy fabric often used in Bridal gowns and bridesmaid dresses.
Thermographed invitations	Invitations that have the same look and feel as engraved invitations, but are significantly cheaper. The raised lettering on thermographed invitations is accomplished by using a special powder. Many can not tell the difference between engraved and thermographed invitations.
Trousseau	Term used in reference to the Bride's wardrobe and belongings; wedding gown, lingerie, accessories, honeymoon wardrobe and even new household linens considered to be part of a Bride's trousseau.
Tulle	Fabric with a net-like appearance. Usually seen in the skirts of certain wedding gowns.
Ultra formal	Term used to describe the most formal, ceremonious wedding. Several characteristics of an ultra formal wedding: engraved invitations for at least two hundred (usually more) guests; up to twelve bridesmaids and ushers; Bride attired in a gown with a long train and long veil; men attired in suit tails (white tie for evening weddings); lavish reception with sit-down dinner and drinks following the ceremony; live band or orchestra at the reception.
White tie	Term used to describe the most formal evening attire worn by men. A tailcoat, white wing collar shirt, white vest and tie are worn.