

Weddings: reading

Olga: For us it's quite normal to have two weddings. I had two weddings. The first wedding is the civil ceremony which everyone has. Then, if you want, you can have a church wedding. In Germany we also have a special evening called *Polterabend*. People bring old cups and plates and they throw these on the floor! This is great fun, and we make a lot of noise! Then the new couple sweep up the broken pottery together. _____



Manuela: In Colombia we have a very beautiful candle ceremony. There are three candles, the bride lights the candle on her right and the groom lights the candle on his left. Then, together, the new husband and wife light the middle candle. Now there are three burning candles. Then the two candles on the left and right are blown out and the middle candle is left to burn alone. I was so happy doing this!

Meryem: There are many different kinds of wedding ceremonies in Turkey. Some brides have a separate celebration with their own family and can't see their future husband until the day of the wedding. We have a funny tradition with the bride's shoes. Her girlfriends write their names in her shoes. At the end of the day the bride looks into her shoes. If someone's name is missing that means they are the next person to get married. My sister was very happy because her name was no longer there.

Noshilu: In Kenya and Tanzania the Maasia tribe have quite a simple wedding. The bride wears all her jewellery – lots of earrings, necklaces and bracelets. The most important necklace is the one made by the bride's mother. It's always very beautiful and sometimes it can be very long. My necklace went down to my knees! My new husband came to my family's home and walked me to his family's home. I was then given some cows as a wedding present which now belong to my husband.

Lin: Our weddings have a lot of red because for us it's the colour of love, wealth and happiness. My wedding gown was the traditional red, and so were the invitations I sent out to our guests. The wedding gifts from my husband's family were in red baskets. Nowadays in China it's quite usual to have a video made in a park. The bride and groom give each other handkerchiefs with a picture of a duck on because ducks always stay together. And the colour of the hankies? _____

Barbara: There are many different kinds of weddings depending on where your family comes from. You can get married in a hall, on the beach, at home – wherever and however you want. It's also possible in the US to get married only a few hours after you propose. I was on holiday in Las Vegas and my boyfriend decided he wanted us to get married so we did! _____