## Look at these 11 zany wedding traditions from around the world

After the ceremony the bride and (sawing the log) two-person cromonscut handsaw to cut a large have to io ine a two-person crosscut handsaw to cut a large log in half

- while still in their bridal clothes. This symbolizes the ways in which they must work together in the future (although, to make it a bit quicker, the log has sometimes already been partially sawed through by the fathers of the bride and groom).
In some parts of USA: Burying the bourbon a (full!) bottle of bourbon upside-down at or near the site where they'll say their vows. This must be done one month before the wedding in order to ward off rain on the wedding day and, whether the weather plays along or not,
the bourbon will be dug up, shared and enjoyed during he reception.

3. Canada: Silly sock dance

In Quebec and other French-speaking parts of Canada, he older, unmarried siblings of the bride and groom per-
orm a dance at the reception while wearing ridiculous, brightly-colored, knitted socks. Guests can show their approval of the dancing display by tossing money at the
siblings, which is then (generously) donated to the bride siblings, wh
and groom.
and groom.
4. Guatemala: Breaking the bell
After the wedding, everyone typically goes to the groom's house. Hanging over the doorway is a white ceramic bell filled with rice, flour and other different
types of grain - all of which represent abundance. As the cypes of grain - all of which represent abundance. As the
couple arrives, the mother of the groom welcomes them and ceremonially smashes the bell, bringing the couple good luck and prosperity.
5. Scotland: The blackening of the bride
of the Bride" where the bride (and sometimes the groom) are "captured" by friends and family, covered in filthy then paraded through the streets for all to see. The plan is that, if they can get through this trial, marital strife will
be a breeze.
6. France: Le Pot de Chambre (yes, the chamber pot!) As the wedding reception draws to a close, French
newlyweds are presented with a real chamber pot, filled with the leftover bits of alcohol from the wedding (and sometimes extra delights like melted chocolate, banana or
even toilet paper.) The couple must consume it all before leaving, so as to build up strength before the, er, taxing wedding night ahead.
7. India: Joota chupai (hiding the shoes)

When the groom takes off his shoes on the way to the mandap (altar), the bride's family promptly try to steal
them and hide them. The groom's family must try and protect the shoes at all costs - and so the battle of the families begins! If the bride's family gets away with the shoes, the groom must pay to ransom them back.
8room's tie) Cortar la corbata del novio (cut the groom's tie)
After the
groom will be surrounded by his groomsmen and closest friends, who will cut the tie from around his neck. The tie will then be cut into small pieces and auctioned off to
the wedding guests, bringing good luck to everyone who manages to get a piece.
9. Czech Republic: soup from a single spoon
9. Czech Republic: soup from a single spoon
The first course of a Czech wedding meal is sou
'I do,' take two: Guide to a second marriage
Couples are returning to
the altar in increasing num-
bers, as second and third
weddings are becoming
ever more popular.
Pee Research Center
indicates that, as of 2014 ,
64 percent of divorced or
widowed men have remar-
ried, compared with 52
percent of previously mar-
ried women. Lavish sec-
ond weddings were once
uncommon, but that trend
is also shifting.
Couples who are taking
another crack at marriage
are tying the knot with
renewed vigor and with
weddings that may rival
some first-timers'.
Men and women who are
remarrying after divorce
or being widowed may
not know how to approach
planning their upcoming
nuptials.
The following are some
guidelines to making the
wedding sequel a success.
Wardrobe

and then must eat their soup from one bowl, with one spoon between them - sometimes with their hands tied
together, too. This symbolizes the way in which they will have to work together in the future.
10. Mexico: El Lazo (the lasso)

After a Mexican couple has pledged their vows, their family and best friends "lasso" them together with a
special rope. This rope can often be very elaborate, made special rope. This rope can often be very elaborate, mad
of crystals or beads and is tied in a figure-eight shape to symbolize the couple's lasting unity. This has some similarities to a Celtic hand-fasting (thought to be the origin of
the phrase "tie e he knot") the phrase "tie the knot!"
When a Russian grevesty (buying out the bride) When a Russian groom comes to pick up his bride, the
bridesmaids will meet him at the door with a list of challenges he must pass before he can proceed. He might have to sing songs, recite poems - or pay a ransom. Often, his
first ransom offer will buy him an alternate bride (usuall first ransom offer will buy him an alternate bride (usually
a male friend in a dress and veil) before he offers more and finally gets his love.

Launched in 2013 About EliteSingles
brand within the serious onling des is a leading premium Available in 16 countries, the platform connects single professionals aged 35 -plus, who are looking for meaning EliteSingles uses ataionships. manual verification process to target successful, accom plished and educated users, the majority ( 91 percent) of whom are un
degree level.
Cars4Kidneys Donate your Car, Truck,
 to help people needing organ transplants on MatchingDonors.com.

All you need to do is call: Free Vacation Voucher giff for yo may dictate the number of guests couples

In case you have to trim the wedding list Weddings are a time to When jotting down poten- $\begin{gathered}\text { gated to invite them. } \\ \text { celebrate, and many cou- tial guests' names, write } \\ \text { - Have we met? If you }\end{gathered}$ $\begin{array}{lll}\text { celebrate, and many cou- } & \text { tial guests' names, write } & \text { - Have we met? If you } \\ \text { ples hope to invite as many } & \text { down everyone you want } & \text { don't temember interacting }\end{array}$
heir excitement A 2014 study by researchers at the
University of Denver found that couples who invite at least 150 guests to the wedding may have happier ined 418 people who were single at the beginning of he study and married five years later. It found that who had gotten married in front of at least 150 guests had "high-quality marriagewer guests fell short 50 or fewer guests fell short.
While guests make dings more enjoyable, and may increase the propensity to enjoy a more suc-
cessful marriage, couples must be practical and consider their wedding budgets when creating their guest lists. The average American wedding includes 120
guests, according to a 2015 uests, according to a 2015
Newlywed Survey released by WeddingWire. Couples who are finding it difficult to create and pare down heir guest lists can employ Create initial lists.
uests for the must-have guests for the wedding. This
hould include the family and friends with whom you interact on a regular basis. Create a separate column
for guests who don't make or guests who don - Separate friends from friends' friends. If you don't see people outside of events set up by mutual friends,
you should not feel obligated to invite those people to the wedding. They are more likely friends of your friends and not your close
friends - Kno ceiling. Catering halls or reception rooms often can only accommodate a certain
number of people. Know this number before making a final list. The limits of the space may serve as the catalyst for trimming the guest list.
ers carefully. Think about whether you'd still be friends with your coworkers if the company dis-
solved tomorrow. If not you should not feel obli-
ctibles
for daily living that fins timers may not, registering
for these gifts is not necesthe same guests may have been present at first mar-
riages and gifted then In lieu of gifts, couples may

around. Guest list The guest list doesn't have to be a source of anxi-
ety. Others will understand that there may be a melange of people at a second wed-
ding. Children from peviding. Children from previ-
ous marriages as well as ous marriages as well as
divorced spouses or former parents-in-law are not out of the question. Even if exes will not be included,
make sure they know about make sure they know about
the nuptials in advance of the nuptials in advance of
others. It's common courtesy, and it can help head off feelings of ill-will.
Some couples chosing Some couples choosing to tie the knot again scale
back the size of the wedding this time around, feeling something smaller and more intimate - with only the closest of friends and
family - is more suitable. Registries and
wedding gits wedding gifts
Considering couples have been married previ-
ously likely have many of
the housewares and items
for daily living that first-
timers may not, registering
for these gifts is not neces-
sary. What's more, some of
the same guests may have
been present at first mar-
riages and gifted then. In
lieu of gifts, couples may
ask guests to donate to a
specific charity or forgo
gifts altogether.
Vows
Couples can use expe-
rience to draft vows that
have personal meaning to
their unique situations and
make the wedding ceremo-
ny even more special.
People getting married
again can impart their own
personalities into the cer-
emony and party to fol-
low. There are no hard rules
governing second wed-
dings, so couples can plan
their weddings with good
times in mind. specific charity or forgo gows Couples can use expe-
rience to draft vows that have personal meaning to make the wedding ceremony even more special.
People getting married again can impart their own personalities into the cer-
emony and party to follow. There are no hard rules
governing second wed-
dings, so couples can plan their, weddings with good


## Supersighs


your proposal
 pinion. Give the edititing pen to someone else if you This person may help weed out extraneous guests. Paring down a wedding guest list can be a difficult process, but couples should
work together and respect each other's concerns wh
creating their final list. creating their final list. with a person (your par-
ent's long lost friend from ent's long lost friend from
high school) or the person
has never met your signifihas never met your signifiably can be cut. If parents insist on inviting someone
you barely remember they ou barely remember, they
should help defray the costs. - Cut out the kids. Even
though children's dinner though children's dinner adults', inviting children can significantly increase the guest list. A no-child
policy at the reception can policy at the
save money. $\qquad$ situations. Unless you have remained particularly close, keep former boyfriends and girlfriends off of the guest
list. list.

- Ask for an unbiased you

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