

# How to have a perfect make-up for excellent photos



When you think about your **wedding pictures**, no one wants to show a bright nose, circles round the eyes or any other imperfections that the camera is not capable of hiding.

First, think if it will not be worth hiring a professional and don't forget that you don't get a second chance for pictures! If you think you should do the make-up yourself, pay attention to these advices:

- After using a hydrating lotion and having applied a correction stick in all the areas that need it, put a very soft and well applied *fond de teint*, so that it won't look like you're wearing a mask.
- To avoid shining, don't use powders or shinny correction sticks, always use an opaque make-up so that it won't reflect any shine.
- Enhance the most important parts of your face. In order to do that, apply some eyelashes in the outer part of your eyelids, put some gloss in the centre of your lips so that they will look bigger, put some extra blush.
- Before the formal photos, correct your make-up, especially on the lips and face with some compact powder.

# 12 tips for the bride to look her best



Although a wedding can be very stressful, especially its planning, it should never be a source of unease or exhaustion. On your wedding day, a time when you are supposed to be more splendid than ever, you shouldn't look tired or exhausted... After all, you've planned everything so this could be a day full of harmony and happiness.

1. **Plan everything in advance.** Make your appointments beforehand, and make a detailed plan for the wedding day and for the previous days.
2. Book a **massage for the morning of your wedding day** so you can start your day relaxed.
3. Make an appointment for **pedicure and manicure, preferably in the same place** so that you don't have to run around from place to place. Remember that problems such as traffic may occur and you might run late.
4. Book the hairdresser and the make-up also in the same place for the reasons mentioned above. If you can **do everything in the same place...** excellent!
5. Before your wedding day, about two weeks in advance, do a **make-up test** to check for eventual allergies to products and take a picture so the make-up artist can reproduce it

faithfully on your wedding day. Look at the make-up in the light you will be exposed to on your wedding day and take one or more pictures on those conditions.

6. Do the same for the hairstyle **at the hairdresser before your wedding day**. **Take pictures**, put the veil or other accessories you intend to wear, take one or several pictures, and see yourself in them since this is how you will look like in your wedding photos. Don't forget to check if everything is as you want. This also applies to the gown, the colours at the reception and the make-up.

7. **Make facials and wax at least two weeks before** your wedding day. Imagine you get a rash... You will need at least that time to cure the problem.

8. **Cut your hair at least two weeks before the wedding**. This will allow time for the hair to look more natural and even if you colour it you can always change it if you don't like it.

9. If your hair is going to be pinned up during the wedding, **wash your hair the night before** and not on your wedding day for it will be easier to pin it up and style it. If you're wearing a veil or a hat and you intend to take it off after the ceremony, ask the hairdresser to be there so he/she can help you remove it with care and make eventual adjustments.

10. If the wedding takes place in the summer or in a very sunny place don't forget to **wear sunblock** underneath your make-up and in the parts of your body that will be exposed to the sun.

11. If the ceremony lasts until the night, ask the make-up artist to **retouch the make-up** by the end of the afternoon for the make-up must always be a little stronger and heavier at night for the photographs and also for the mood.

12. Don't go to a solarium **before your wedding day**, don't even go out in the sun since your skin may get spotted or sun burned. This is never pleasant least of all on your wedding day!

# Who invites who, and how to do it



Traditionally, **the bride's parents are the ones who make the invitation**, but you can also do it, or even the groom's father. The purpose of the invitation is not, unlike what most people think, to know who is paying for the wedding. Even if the bride pays for the wedding, the invitation should be made in the name of the bride and groom or both your parents. If you are the ones inviting, the bride's name always comes first.

**When the wedding takes place at home**, it usually contains the words "we require the honour of your presence", when it takes place anywhere else, usually the invitation will present the phrase "we require the pleasure of your company".

For **divorced parents** there are rules like: each parent's name in different lines on the invitation, without "and" or "with" between the name of the parents, although if there is any special bond between one of you and the current husband or wife, the name of that person can be added to the invitation.

**Tip:** It is no longer in use to hand the invitation personally, so, enjoy that time to be with each other instead of running around from guest to guest delivering the invitations.

# What not to do

Sometimes, more important than what you should do is what you should not do. There are some conduct rules that sometimes are thought to have no reason to exist, but the truth is that they demonstrate some respect towards others and, above all, they help creating some harmony and pleasure in socializing.



If you show up at some party with an inappropriate outfit, do not decide to make a problem out of it. Act nicely, friendly and very polite. No one will care about the fact that you are not properly dressed (unless you show off, just like in the *Bridget Jones*' film, where she shows up at a wedding dressed as a bunny), and believe that people will remember you as a nice, funny and polite person and not as the person who "showed up with an inappropriate outfit".

Remember that an appropriate outfit, just like an attitude of misbehaviour or a lack of education, is not enough to create a good image of you! Because what remains in people's memories for a long term are the attitudes and not the looks! For example, you will only choose to have as your friend someone who treats you with respect and not someone who is impolite or even inconvenient, right? As I have mentioned before, the rules of education say that most important than knowing what to do is "knowing what not to do", so don't be impolite, conceited, arrogant, a show-off, because knowing how to listen also shows some good education. Always have in mind other people's feelings when you express your opinions and avoid starting very polemic subjects. Have you imagined how unpleasant it would be for you to ruin someone's wedding or party with loud arguments in the middle of the room with someone who doesn't share your opinion?

As for the bride, it is very important for this day to be your day, but by this I do not mean that you have the right to disrespect your guests or your suppliers. Don't be late for the wedding (well... ten to fifteen minutes, it's ok)... more than that, although people think that is typical for the bride, is not appropriate! The reception is scheduled for X o'clock and, if you are late, everything will be late, from guests to suppliers, uncomfortable waiting moments.

# A million thanks



Everyone knows that you should send an invitation before the wedding, to announce a celebration which you would like people to be part of, but... **What about after the wedding?**

One of the most “impolite” things I have seen happen with many couples is the lack of gratitude with their guests.

If you invite someone to share such an intimate moment as your wedding it is because you like that person. If it is so, you should treat her with respect and consideration. By this I mean that guests should always receive a thanking card right after the honeymoon, during a maximum of six weeks, thanking their gift and their presence at the wedding, as also everyone else who has accompanied you. This demonstrates to your guests that you really appreciated their presence and their gift, making them feel truly special because of what they did for you. This is such a simple gesture and all you need is to take an envelope, a blank card and write a phrase, by hand, or else, why not send an e-mail? If you think this is the only way to thank...

An easy way to do this is to take up the wedding list and note down all the gifts by the name of the people who offered them, making a small comment on the gift so that you won't lose track of who offered what. It is not convenient to thank something that has not been offered to you! Even if you thank someone by telephone, you should always send a written note.

## How to write a thanking note:

- You should always start by the person and only after mention the gift, always being quite brief. It is not important to use unnecessary formalities.
- When thanking a gift, you could write something like this: “Thank you very much for the tea set. We can barely wait to use it with you, one of these days! Thanks for taking part in such a special day for us”.
- Always send a card with personalised phrases. After all, it's only one or two phrases per guest.
- If they give you money, you should always mention how you are planning to spend it, for example: “Thank you very much for your kind offer, we are thinking about buying a set of crystal glasses which will be of great use at the parties to which we intend to invite you”.
- Don't forget the most important people, like your parents, friends or relatives who helped you celebrate your wedding. In these cases, a thanking card should never be sent without a special gift like flowers, a box of the best chocolates, a box of cigars, a nice bottle of wine, whatever you think best fits the person's personality. In this case, the notes should be a bit longer, writing things that show your thankfulness and gratitude, saying that without them your wedding day wouldn't have been so special. A nice way to do this could be to add, along with the thanking note, a special photo of your wedding.