NEWS LESSON

# The Wedding Guests Nobody Invited



## BEFORE YOU READ

### 1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Would you enjoy an event if you knew nobody there?
2. What makes a celebration feel welcoming?
3. Who should get to decide the guest list at a wedding?

### 2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **venue** | ☐ | A | people you do not know |
| 2 | **strangers** | ☐ | B | something that people do often |
| 3 | **uninvited** | ☐ | C | people who say something is good and agree with it |
| 4 | **critics** | ☐ | D | the lamps and light in a room |
| 5 | **supporters** | ☐ | E | not asked to come |
| 6 | **polite** | ☐ | F | people who say something is bad or wrong |
| 7 | **practice** | ☐ | G | the place where an event happens |
| 8 | **lighting** | ☐ | H | kind and careful with other people's feelings |

## 3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

**In South Korea, some couples visit other people's weddings before they book their own. They are checking the lighting, the tables and the car park.**

1 Choosing a wedding venue is a big decision. In South Korea, some couples have started visiting other people's weddings to look around the venue. They want to see the room when it is full of guests, check the lighting and find out how everything works. They may look at the parking area, the tables and the way the staff organise the event. A photograph on a website cannot tell them any of that.

2 Imagine you are enjoying your own wedding when you notice two strangers at the back of the room. They are not friends or relatives, and nobody invited them. Perhaps they are planning a wedding of their own.

3 The practice has been called an "undercover tour". It can help couples make up their minds about whether an expensive venue is worth the money. A company may show beautiful photographs or an empty hall, but a real wedding gives visitors a much more complete picture.

4 It is easy to understand why a couple might feel nervous. Booking a venue often means paying a large deposit months before the day, and it is not easy to change your mind later. If the room feels wrong on the morning of the wedding, there is no second chance.

5 However, the idea has made some people angry. A wedding is a private celebration, even when it takes place in a busy hotel or a large hall. Uninvited visitors can make guests uncomfortable, especially if nobody knows who they are. They may also get in the way of the staff and the people taking photographs.

6 Supporters of the practice say that weddings are expensive and couples need good information before they spend so much. Critics say there are more polite ways to do this. A couple can book an official tour, or ask the venue to show them a video of a real event.

7 The story is funny because wedding crashers are usually imagined as people looking for free food and a good party. These visitors are doing something very different. They are carrying out research, and they are studying the room rather than enjoying themselves.

8 Yet the awkward question stays the same. A wedding is somebody's big day, not a shop window. When is curiosity a good enough reason to walk into it?

Sources: Korea JoongAng Daily. Picture: AI illustration.

## 4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Couples can always change their booking after paying a deposit. T F NG
2. A couple can book an official tour instead. T F NG
3. Venues in South Korea have banned the practice. T F NG
4. The visitors are studying the room rather than celebrating. T F NG
5. The couples visit the weddings because they want free food. T F NG

## 5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

| celebration | curiosity | deposit | nervous | private | relatives | research |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1. To keep the room, you must pay a _____ of fifty pounds today.
2. Maria felt _____ before she spoke in front of two hundred guests.
3. At the party, the bride's _____ sat at the front, including her aunts and cousins.
4. His _____ was so strong that he opened the door to see what was behind it.
5. The wedding was a _____ party, so only family could come.

## 6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Imagine you _____ your own wedding when you notice two strangers at the back of the room. (ENJOY)
2. Booking a venue often means _____ a large deposit. (PAY)
3. However, the idea _____ some people angry. (MAKE)
4. Wedding crashers are usually _____ as people looking for free food. (IMAGINE)
5. Booking a venue is hard to undo, and it is not easy _____ your mind later. (CHANGE)

## 7 Language focus: phrasal verbs

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. A phrasal verb is a verb with a small word, like up or off. The small word changes the meaning, so learn the whole phrase.

| across | apart | down | off | on | out | up |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1. After a long talk, the couple made _____ their minds and booked the hall.
2. Couples use a spreadsheet to work _____ how much the day will cost.
3. The manager had to call _____ the tour because of the storm.
4. The band carried _____ playing even when the lights went out.
5. The hall turned _____ the couple's request for a free visit.

SPEAK

## 8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Would you invite a stranger if they helped pay for the party?
2. When does saving money change the meaning of a private celebration?
3. What would matter more at your ideal party: the guests or the setting?

## 9 Role-play: can we visit your wedding?

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

**Student A · the bride or groom**

You are at your wedding. A stranger has come to speak to you. Ask who they are and why they came. Decide if they can stay, leave, or stay with a condition.

**Student B · the visiting couple**

You are planning your own wedding and you came in secret to see the hall. Explain why you came and say sorry. Ask if you can stay for a short time.

**Useful phrases**

Excuse me, who are you?

We're planning our own wedding.

I'm sorry, we didn't mean to upset you.

It's a private day, so I'd rather you left.

Could we stay for ten minutes?

I'd feel better if you'd asked first.

**Afterwards, tell the class: did the couple stay, and was that fair?**

ANSWER KEY

**2 Key words**

1 G · 2 A · 3 E · 4 F · 5 C · 6 H · 7 B · 8 D

**4 True, false or not given**

1 F · 2 T · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 F

**5 Vocabulary**

1 deposit · 2 nervous · 3 relatives · 4 curiosity · 5 private

**6 Verb forms**

1 are enjoying · 2 paying · 3 has made · 4 imagined · 5 to change

**7 Language focus**

1 up · 2 out · 3 off · 4 on · 5 down

---

This lesson is free. If it saved you time, you can support johnplusnews at **ko-fi.com/johnplusenglish**