



B1 The True Cost of Being a Wedding Guest

Causative (have and get)



EXERCISE 1 IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE GETTING MARRIED. WHICH OF THE THINGS BELOW WOULD YOU ASK SOMEONE TO DO FOR YOU? WHY?



BAKE A CAKE



DECORATE



TAKE PICTURES



BUY THE RINGS



MAKE A DRESS
OR SUIT



DO MAKE-UP AND
HAIR



PLAY THE MUSIC



ORGANISE A STAG
OR HEN PARTY



PAINT YOUR NAILS

EXERCISE 2 DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. How much does it cost to throw a wedding in your country?
2. Have you ever been to a wedding? Where did you go?
3. What was your role at the wedding?
4. How much did you spend on that wedding?

EXERCISE 3 READ THE ARTICLE INTRODUCTION AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. On average, how much do guests spend on pre-wedding celebrations?
2. On average, how much do guests spend on the wedding itself?
3. Is it possible to reduce the amount spent on wedding celebrations? How?



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Wedding celebrations can make for truly joyous nights as we share in the happiness of a friend or family member who's tying the knot, but such festivities rarely come cheap. Indeed, if you have a wedding coming up, it's a good idea to set aside at least €200-€250 for all the costs associated with the day.



There's a gift to be purchased for the bride and groom. You'll need an elegant outfit worthy of the occasion. Then there's the expense of travelling to and from the wedding and, in some cases, the need to book a hotel or alternative accommodation overnight. Add all those up and it's easy to see why €200 is the bare minimum you'll most likely spend.

If you're quite close to the person getting married, you'll probably attend their stag or hen party as well, in which case you can tack on another €200-€250 to the overall wedding costs.

To give you a clearer picture of what you can expect to spend the next time you go to a wedding, Gear Jewellers created this infographic which outlines the individual costs for attending a wedding, based on a survey from Nationwide Current Accounts.

Adapted from [My Dream Wedding](#)

EXERCISE 4 VOTE WHO SPENDS MORE ON PRE-WEDDING CELEBRATIONS AND DISCUSS YOUR IDEAS.

Who spends more...		
in total		
on drinks		
on travelling		
on food		
on accommodation		
on partying		
on clothes		



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EXERCISE 5 WRITE DOWN SIX THINGS YOU NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON AS A WEDDING GUEST.

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.....



.....

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.....

.....

DISCUSS WHICH OF THESE THINGS YOU WOULD PAY SOMEONE TO DO FOR YOU. WHY?

EXERCISE 6 READ ABOUT THE CAUSATIVE (HAVE AND GET), AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

We use *'have + object + past participle'* to say that we pay someone to do something for us.

1. *I styled my hair.*

2. *I had my hair styled.*

a) *In which sentence did you style your own hair?*

b) *In which sentence someone else styled your hair?*

Who?

We can use causatives in all tenses.

1. *I'm having my nails done tomorrow.*

2. *She's been having her house cleaned for years.*

We can use 'get' instead of 'have' without the change of meaning.

1. *I had my dress designed by my mother-in-law.*

2. *I got my dress designed by my mother-in-law.*

Which sentence is less formal?

EXERCISE 7 WRITE DOWN WHICH OF THE THINGS YOU WOULD DO YOURSELF AND WHICH YOU WOULD PAY SOMEONE TO DO FOR YOU, AS A BRIDE AND AS A WEDDING GUEST.



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Bride

Guest

Design a dress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paint the nails	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Style the hair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the make-up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do a facial treatment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

As a bride, I would have my dress designed.

As a guest, I wouldn't have my dress designed. I would buy one in a store.

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

EXERCISE 8 IMAGINE THAT **STUDENT A** IS A BRIDE AND **STUDENT B** IS A BRIDESMAID, AND YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE EVERYTHING DONE BEFORE THE WEDDING. DISCUSS YOUR SCHEDULES USING 'HAVE/GET + OBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE' IN THE CORRECT FORM.

Bride

Guest

Monday	Clean the wedding dress	Deliver wedding favours
Tuesday	Do a facial treatment	Do a facial treatment
TODAY: Wednesday	Clean the car	Clean the dress
Thursday	Pack wedding favours	Paint the nails
Friday	Paint the nails	Arrange the wedding bouquet
Wedding Day	Do the make-up and style the hair	Do the make-up and style the hair

- Arrange the wedding bouquet
- Clean the dress
- Deliver wedding favours
- Do a facial treatment
- Do the make-up
- Do the hair
- Pack wedding favours
- Paint the nails
- Style the hair

Student A: Have you got your dress cleaned yet?

Student B: I'm having it cleaned today. What about you?

Student A: I had it cleaned on Monday.

Teacher's notes

Exercise 1. Lead-in

7 mins

Ask students to imagine that they are going to get married soon. Show the list of things and discuss which of them they would ask someone to do for them and why. Students work in pairs and prepare their answers. Compare them in a group.

Exercise 2. Group discussion 1

5 mins

As a group, discuss the cost of throwing a wedding in their countries. Think if this is a lot and how people typically pay for their weddings. Proceed by asking if they have ever attended a wedding as a guest, and if yes, what their roles were. Think about the cost of being a wedding guest in their countries and whether people decline invitations because of the cost.

Exercise 3. Reading for gist

6 mins

Before reading the introduction of the article, students predict the typical amount that wedding guests spend on pre-wedding celebrations and on the wedding itself. Decide if it is possible to reduce the costs and if yes, how it could be done.

Read the article and check the answers to the first two questions.

Answers:

1. €200-€250
2. €200-€250

Exercise 4. Group discussion 2

7 mins

Give each student two signs labelled 'hen party' and 'stag party'. Ask students who they believe spends more on pre-wedding celebrations, stags or hens. Ask questions and with a show of signs, students predict who spends more. Continue by counting the votes and explaining their reasons.

Answers:

- In total: stags (£240), hens (£202)
- On drinks: stags (£52), hens (£36)
- On travelling: stags (£36), hens (£30)
- On food: stags (£34), hens (£30)
- On accommodation: stags (£31), hens (£27)
- On partying: stags (£20), hens (£20)
- On clothes: hens (£25), stags (£15)

Exercise 5. Pair speaking

7 mins

Students work in pairs and think of six things wedding guests need to spend money on. Compare the notes and write down the six most repeated answers.

Suggested answers: a wedding gift, accommodation, travelling, outfit, taxi, hair, make-up, and nails.

Ask which of these things students would be willing to pay someone to do for them, and which ones they would prefer to do themselves. Collect answers from different groups and compare them with each other.

Exercise 6. Teach - grammar

4 mins

Explain the use and structure of causative with have and get. Go over the examples and answer the questions to check their understanding.

Answers:

In which sentence did you style your own hair? - 1

In which sentence someone else styled your hair? - 2 Who? - probably a hairdresser

Which sentence is less formal? - 2 (get is less formal)

Teacher's notes

Exercise 7. Grammar practice

6 mins

Students work individually. Tell them that they need to write down eight sentences in total about having something done as a bride and a wedding guest. The first two sentences are done for them as an example.

Answers:

- 1. As a bride, I would have my nails painted. As a guest, I would have my nails painted too.*
- 2. As a bride, I would have my hair styled. As a guest, I wouldn't have my hair styled. I would style it myself.*
- 3. As a bride, I would have my make-up done. As a guest, I wouldn't have my make-up done. I would do it myself.*
- 4. As a bride, I would have a facial treatment done before the wedding. As a guest, I wouldn't have a facial treatment done before the wedding.*

Exercise 8. Role-play

10 mins

Divide students into two roles, students A are brides, and Students B are bridesmaids. They need to go over the checklist and find out that everything is done before the wedding. There is an example of how to do this activity below. Monitor the speaking and give any feedback as needed.

Error correction

3 mins

Provide speaking feedback.