

A traditional Irish wedding

Bride [braɪd] - невеста

Groom [gru:m] – жених

Bouquet [bu'keɪ] – букет

Wedding cake ['wediŋ keɪk] – свадебный торт

Invitation [ˌɪnvɪ'teɪʃn] – приглашение

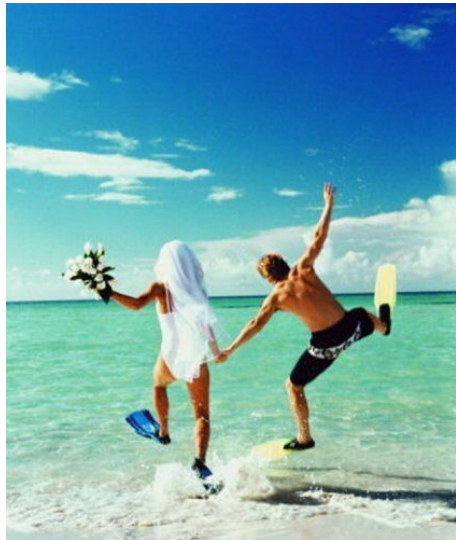
Reception [rɪ'sepʃn] – банкет

Honeymoon ['hʌnɪmu:n] – медовый месяц

Tradition [trə'dɪʃn] – традиция

Superstition [ˌsu:pə'stɪʃn] – суеверие

- ▶ Task: match words to pictures.
- ▶ Bride, groom, bouquet, wedding cake, invitation , reception, honeymoon, tradition.



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"Marry in April if you can, joy for maiden and for man"

So says one Irish wedding tradition which, like many others, has its roots in ancient history, folklore and interesting superstitions! Even in these modern times, many couples try to include ancient customs in their wedding, in the hope that it will bring them luck and happiness. Here are some of the traditions that Irish people follow on their wedding day.

A treat for the groom

In the past, the groom was invited to the bride's house just before the wedding and a goose was cooked in his honour. Many Irish people believe that showing such generosity to the groom will make sure that he won't change his mind about the wedding at the last minute!

Bride, be beautiful!

A traditional Irish bride doesn't spend a fortune on bouquets of exotic flowers. Instead, she usually wears a wreath of wild flowers in her hair, freshly picked on the morning of her wedding. She carries more wild flowers in her hands, as well as a 'magic' handkerchief and a horseshoe for luck. Part of the bride's wedding dress is usually used to make the christening robe for the first-born child.

The icing on the cake

In the old days, an older female member of the family would take great pride in producing a traditional three-tier fruitcake for the reception. Nowadays, however, most Irish couples visit their local baker and order a cake which is decorated with Irish themes such as swans or fairies. According to tradition, the couple save the top layer of the cake. They often store it in a tin and use it as the christening cake for their first baby.

Fairies and luck

Whether you believe in them or not, Ireland is traditionally the home of fairies, who are said to love beautiful things – especially brides! For this reason, Irish wisdom advises brides never to wear green on their wedding day or to dance with both feet off the ground, as both of these things will tempt the fairies to carry them off forever!

