

LAUGH AND LEARN

JUNE

WEDDINGS!



Right: Cutting the wedding Cake

In the USA, June is best known for the end of the school year, the beginning of summer, strawberries, and weddings...especially weddings.

THE LEARN

Last weekend I went to my **cousin's** wedding in Michigan. He had been **engaged** for a while so it was time for him to **tie the knot**. They really **pulled out all the stops** with the wedding; it was a **lavish** occasion with well over 200 guests in attendance. The ceremony was held in a **Baptist** church and the bride looked beautiful in her long white dress. The ceremony included seven **bridesmaids**, seven **groomsmen**, **maid of honor** and **best man**, a ring bearer, a flower girl, and the bride's sister sang a wedding song. The **pastor** gave a brief and practical wedding message before the couple spoke their **vows** and gave each other a ring.



The **wedding reception** was in a beautifully decorated **banquet hall**. I spent most of the evening **catching up** with family members, but also greeted and enjoyed many friends. I saw some people that I hadn't seen for years. Everyone had a great time; there was plenty of great food, toasts, a PowerPoint slide-show of the bride and groom from childhood until now, some dancing, and traditions like cutting the cake and throwing the flower bouquet. I think the newlyweds are going on a **honeymoon** in Jamaica. I'm sure they'll have a very happy life together.



Key Words

Cousin (*noun*)- the child of your aunt or uncle

Engaged (*adjective*)- having formally agreed to marry

Tie the knot (*idiom*)- get married

Pulled out all the stops (*idiom*) - to spend money without restrictions on celebrating something

Lavish (*adjective*)- more than enough, especially if expensive; very generous

Baptist (*adjective*)- a denomination or type of protestant church

Bridesmaids (*noun*)- girls who assist and accompany the bride in the church

Groomsmen (*noun*)- friends and relatives who assist and accompany the groom

Maid of honor (*noun*)- female friend or relative who acts as a witness at the wedding

Best man (*noun*)- male friend or relative who acts as a witness at the wedding

Pastor (*noun*)- The teacher and leader of a church, a minister or priest

Bride (*noun*)- a woman who is about to get married or has just got married

Groom (*noun*)- a man who is about to get married or has just got married

Wedding reception (*noun*) - a party to celebrate the marriage ceremony of two people

Banquet hall - (*noun*)- A building designed for banquets, receptions and special events

Catch up (phrasal verb) - to discuss the latest news with people you haven't seen for a while

Honeymoon (*noun*) - a holiday taken by a man and a woman immediately after their marriage

Statistics on Weddings in the United States

> 2.3 million couples wed every year in the US. That breaks down to nearly 6,200 weddings a day

> the average age of a bride in the US is 25.3 years, while the average age of a groom is 26.9 years

> average number of guests invited to a wedding is 178

Timing of weddings

> June is the most popular month for weddings, then August, followed by September and October

Where do weddings take place?

> 80 percent of weddings are performed in churches

THE LINKS

Wedding Ceremony at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Galveston, Texas

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcINI0zJ_YU

Mr. Bean's British Wedding:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYp3y4JXLg>

Speidi Wedding Pics, inside church & at reception

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PezMNeMQsko>

THE LAUGHS

Wedding Jokes - One Liners by the Famous

The best way to get most husbands to do something is to suggest that perhaps they're too old to do it. (Ann Bancroft)

I think men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain and bought jewelry. (Rita Rudner)

Keep your eyes wide open before the wedding, half shut afterwards. (Benjamin Franklin)

By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. (Socrates)



A husband is like a fire, he goes out when unattended. (Evan Esar)

My wife dresses to kill. She cooks the same way. (Henny Youngman)

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong. (Milton Berle)



I bought my wife a new car. She called and said, 'There's water in the carburetor'. I said, 'Where's the car?' She said, 'In the lake'. (Henny Youngman)

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked. (Kimberley Broyles)

Try praising your wife, even if it does frighten her at first. (Billy Sunday)

Hey Guys, remember this line, it could come in handy.... "How do you expect me to remember your birthday when you never look any older?"

If a man is in the forest, and there isn't a woman around, is he still wrong?

Note: This is part one, The next Laugh and Learn will continue with more information about wedding customs in the USA