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If articles in this Bridal Guide look familiar, we thank you for picking up our publication enough to recognize they are. To celebrate, we’ve compiled our favorite articles and designs to create a “best of” edition.

We write the Bridal Guide for a variety of reasons: to make planning for your big day easier, to provide ideas that cater to a Latter-day Saint audience and to create a fun magazine every woman can enjoy, engaged, married or single.

Doing research for the Bridal Guide teaches us all kinds of wedding tips and tricks and we love writing about them. Trends come and go, but the sanctity and beauty of a temple marriage remains. We are grateful for the opportunity to help share the preparation process for that experience with you.

We hope you enjoy reading our favorite stories and spreads from the past decade.

universe.byu.edu/bridalguide
Creating a GOSPEL-CENTERED Marriage

One night, 16-year-old Merrill J. Bateman noticed something different about Marilyn Scholes. He realized she was more than just his best friend’s little sister. They were at a rehearsal for a church dance festival, and he knew he wanted to dance with the familiar girl who had suddenly caught his eye, but dance partnerships were assigned according to height. This didn’t stop the 6-foot-1-inch teen from dancing with the 5-foot-2-inch beauty. He asked her original partner to switch, and he reluctantly handed her over to young Merrill.

The height discrepancy was noticeable enough that it didn’t take long for the dance instructor to force them to switch back to their original assignments.

“She (the dance instructor) was a little upset and told us we needed to go back to the partners she had assigned,” former BYU president and Provo Utah Temple president Merrill J. Bateman said. “But by the end of the evening we were back together. We ended up dancing together in the festival and that became the very beginning.”

The couple then dated on and off until Merrill served his mission. After returning home, he and Marilyn spent time getting reacquainted and began working toward marriage. While preparing for marriage the couple centered their focus on the gospel.

“The church really and truly was the thing that bonded us together,” Sister Bateman said. “You have to know who you are and build a common goal together.”

They spent time talking, getting to know each other and learning to communicate as a couple.

“We took the time to talk about what we really wanted in life, talk about the gospel, talk about what it would be like to be married, talk about children and building a forever family,” President Bateman said. “The best thing is to share and dream together about what you want in life, where you want to go and what kind of family you want to have.”

According to President and Sister Bateman, learning how to communicate with one another is one of the biggest challenges young couples face. The differences a newlywed couple have must be mended together by giving each other space and time to adjust and accept responsibility.

“The better you get to know each other the better the adjustment will be,” Sister Bateman said. “We all see marriage with different expectations. That is one of the things you need to communicate about and work through.”

“There is enough variance from one couple to another that people do it differently,” President Bateman said. “There is no ‘one right way,’ but that is one of the reasons it is...”
“THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY HANG IN THERE, THEY STAY WITH IT.”

PRESIDENT MERRILL J. BATEMAN

important that you talk before marriage.”

After much preparation President and Sister Bateman were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on March 23, 1959, beginning a lifetime of temple worship together.

“When we decided to get married, we were ready; we felt strongly about it,” President Bateman said. “We didn’t really feel complete without each other.”

“He was an outstanding young man,” Sister Bateman said. “No one else quite measured up.”

Like most couples, the Batemans learned early on in their marriage how to work and struggle together while getting by without all the luxuries of life.

“We worked and scraped,” President Bateman said. “But that was the best part of it. We know a number of young people who have delayed marriage so they could have more things in place. However, in the end that robs you of an opportunity to grow together.”

Living in 20 different areas during their first 19 years of marriage created some unusual challenges. However, this became a defining time in their marriage as they made it a priority, in every area they resided, to become established in the church and involved in their ward.

“The church became the center point of our lives,” President Bateman said. “It drew our family together.”

“It doesn’t make any difference where you live,” Sister Bateman added. “You establish your home and who you are and the way you live your life no matter where you are in the world.”

While working and learning together they came to realize the importance of sticking together through the hard times and making things work as a couple.

“When young people get into a relationship and find that there are some rough edges, the important thing is that they hang in there, they stay with it and work through those
things,” President Bateman said. “Sometimes when a problem comes, instead of learning how to hang in there and stay with it they walk away.”

“It is that disposable society that we live in,” Sister Bateman added. “If it doesn’t make us happy and if there are challenges then we get rid of it.”

While the gospel has played a significant role in binding the couple together, their children have also been among their greatest joys in life.

“The greatest accomplishment that I claim are my children,” Sister Bateman said. “They are not perfect, but it is the most satisfying thing in life to raise a family in righteousness.”

Despite the unending scheduling challenges of making time for family, the Batemans put family vacations and recreation at the top of their list. An annual trip to Lake Powell and a Steamboat Springs skiing trip helped unite the family.

“We felt strongly about family vacations and doing fun things together as a family,” Sister Bateman said.

Married couples are frequently advised to have a date night once a week. However, most couples find early on that the demands of life tend to get in the way, particularly when children become part of the picture. In an attempt to meet that challenge, the Batemans instead made it a priority to attend all of their children’s extracurricular activities together. Rather than doing the “divide and conquer” method that many couples tend to master, they did things as a couple.

“We did things together rather than go different ways,” President Bateman said. “It was just a priority.”

Service also became a priority as they took advantage of every opportunity to serve other people, which taught their children the importance of serving others and helped nourish their marriage relationship as a couple.

Through the example of other righteous couples in their lives, the Batemans learned a great deal about becoming better spouses. They decided early on in their marriage that wherever they lived they would identify an older couple they admired to learn from the things they did for each other. They observed how they included the gospel in their marriage, how they raised children and how they treated their spouse. Often they would talk about the things they had noticed and ask themselves if that is something they wanted to do in their own marriage.

“This kept the barriers down between the two of us and allowed us to communicate with each other in a very real way,” President Bateman said.

“There were a few couples along the way that were very important in helping us,” Sister Bateman added. “They were very influential in terms of the kind of marriage that we wanted to have. We recognized the way they related with each other with respect, kindness and compassion.”

Now with 54 years of marriage in retrospect, the Batemans serve as an example of how couples can learn to work and grow together in marriage.
he temple is a sacred place where the faithful can feel God’s love and draw closer to Him. As couples prepare to get married, it also becomes a symbol of the eternal marriage they are about to enter into.

Because of the sacred nature of the sealing ordinance, couples are encouraged to prepare themselves to enter the temple together. President and Sister Bateman, former president and matron of the Provo Utah Temple, advise students to take this preparation seriously and give thought to the significance of the covenants they will enter into as a couple.

“One of the things we do at the temple each week is talk to young people who are receiving their living endowment,” said Sister Marilyn S. Bateman. “We have the opportunity of talking about what they have just experienced, and it is easy to tell for whom this experience is really meaningful. My suggestion is that people be serious about the commitments they are making in the House of the Lord, because they are of an eternal nature.”

Sister Bateman encourages young people to participate in the temple preparation classes, praising the new program that gives young adults a “greater, deeper understanding” of the temple and the covenants they’re about to enter into.

How can a young person prepare? In addition to the scriptures, the Batemans recommend these books.

- Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple First Presidency approved booklet
- The Holy Temple Boyd K. Packer
- The House of the Lord James E. Talmage

President Bateman said their own preparation to enter the temple together was aided by their strong testimonies of the gospel.

“I think the best thing for us was that we both had testimonies,” President Bateman said. “If you’re sort of partially committed to living the principles of the gospel when you go, you’re not really prepared.”

As the Batemans prepared to go to the temple to be sealed, they also looked to the examples of their parents and other family members, President Bateman said. Knowing the important role their parents’ examples played in their own lives as they prepared for the temple, the Batemans recommended that young couples look to their own parents or find other couples to look to as they prepare.

“You should look for good role models,” Sister Bateman said. “You should look for people who seem to be peaceful in their relationship with each other, who regularly attend the temple.”

“Do everything you can to strengthen your testimony of the gospel.... That, in the end, becomes the foundation to your relationship.”

Elder Merrill J. Bateman
Former President, Provo Utah Temple

President Bateman added that as couples prepare to go to the temple, they need to keep in mind that going to the temple is an ongoing experience.

“Going through the temple once only gives a glimpse of what it’s about,” he said. “One needs to commit and really understand the importance of having a regular program of temple attendance, because as you show commitment and interest, over time the Spirit provides insights and opens doors for you to see even more clearly the meaning of the ordinances and covenants.”

“The temple is a place where you can feel love, purity and goodness. You can feel the Spirit of the Lord.”

Sister Marilyn S. Bateman
Former Matron, Provo Utah Temple

The Batemans referred to the continual temple experience as an education, and emphasized the importance of staying open to learn more each time you return to the temple.

“It’s a school; it’s an education,” President Bateman said. “If you went to the first day of school and quit, you wouldn’t have learned very much, would you?”

“There’s a story about a little girl who came home from school and said ‘I’m not going back; they were going to teach me to read and I still don’t know how to read,’ and that was after the first day,” Sister Bateman added.

President Bateman explained that just as the little girl thought she’d learn how to read the first day, some people go to the temple the first time expecting to learn everything there is to know about the ordinances there. He encouraged people to stay open and keep returning to the temple.

“We don’t want to make it a mystery. You do learn a fair amount the first time, but you’re just starting,” President Bateman said. “Don’t be critical of what you don’t understand. It takes time for you to open up and understand the eternal nature of what’s going on there.”

President and Sister Bateman encourage all couples to make temple worship a priority in their marriage.

“Our hope,” President Bateman said “is that young people will come to the temple often; that they will feel the importance of the ordinances that are made here and continue to live righteously in order to fulfill those promises.”
Clothing Standards

Brides

Wedding dresses worn in the temple must:

- Be white. No off-white, ivory or cream-colored dresses. Avoid fastened color ribbons, sequins and elaborate ornamentation. Colored sashes, worn for photographs and reception activities, will need to be removed in the temple.
- Have long sleeves. If a dress has short sleeves, the temple can provide a bolero.
- Have a modest neckline, and be modest in design and fabric. Sheer fabric should be lined.
- Have a removable train or one that can be pinned up or fastened out of the way.

If a wedding dress does not meet the guidelines above, a bride may wish to wear one of the temple dresses available at the temple. Temple garments should not be altered or removed in order to accommodate the style of the wedding dress. Brides being endowed the same day as their marriage or sealing may wear a white temple dress (available at the temple if needed) for the endowment session.

Grooms

White temple clothing is worn for the marriage ceremony.

Temple Recommends

Brides and grooms should schedule an interview with their bishop to obtain a Temple Recommend and a Recommend for Living Ordinances for their own endowment (if not previously endowed) and for the temple marriage/sealing. Brides and grooms who have previously been married in the temple should discuss the next steps with their bishop.

After the interview with the bishop, schedule a temple recommend interview with the stake president. Receive the temple endowment on or before the wedding day.

On the day of the wedding, bring to the temple:

- The individual Temple Recommend and attached Recommend for Living Ordinances (both bride and groom)
- Marriage license
In today’s wedding planning, you don’t just choose red, but instead it’s a choice between crimson, rose, vermilion and many more. With so much out there, choosing your wedding colors becomes a little more difficult than picking your favorite color.

Consider the following color schemes to help you narrow down your color choices.

**Monochromatic**
This color scheme uses only one color, but in as many different shades as you want. The advantage of this color scheme is that it is simple and elegant, but limits in diversity.

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**BY REBECCA LANE**

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**Color SCHEMING**

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**Triad**
This color scheme forms a triangle on the color wheel. Although this gives you plenty of options for decorating, it is easier if one of the colors is used as the primary color and the other two serve as accent colors.

**Analogous**
These colors are closely related because they sit next to each other on the color wheel. Choosing this color scheme helps keep things simple and adds a little flair to your wedding.

**Complementary**
Colors in this category are opposites on the color wheel. If you have a color you love but don’t know what color to pair it with, an easy solution is to choose its complement.

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Timeless ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS

BY HUNTER SCHWARZ AND HOLLAND DAVIS
Engagement photo styles have changed over the years. As one of the most lasting memories from a wedding, many couples worry about taking photos that are timeless.

Engagement photos have always been a chance for a bride and groom to introduce themselves as a couple and announce their wedding. Wedding photos first became popular in the 1860s when couples began hiring a photographer to come to the wedding or take professionally posed photos in their wedding clothes after the big day. As photo technology improved, taking wedding photos became more widespread and complex. Taking photos well before the wedding day also became common practice.

“Engagement photos used to be a couple looking dead on at the camera and smiling,” said Kate Lehnhof, associate editor of Utah Valley Bride magazine. “They would usually take boring pictures in boring places.”

The simple photos would often be supplemented by effects, such as have a misty look or placing a second, faded close-up of the couple in the top corner of the photo.

Photographers now rely less on these effects, which today can look dated, especially when the bride and groom have clothing and hairstyles that haven’t aged well.

Couples today typically want more photos than they have in the past. A single photo is needed for the invitation, but couples often want other photos to share with friends and family.

To make sure these photos look timeless, Lehnhof said couples should focus on having a classic look.

“Don’t wear anything too trendy,” she said. “You don’t want your clothes to be the focus. Pick simple clothes that are timeless and use basic colors.”

Many photographers like to take styled photos with props and themes, but Justin Hackworth, a Provo-based photographer, said he chooses not to, and instead focuses on the couple.

“If they’re on train tracks with luggage, it’s distracting from what I think should be a central message, which is what they feel about each other,” he said.

Hackworth said many couples want photos that look like they came out of a magazine, but he said you should be wary. Photos in magazines are intended to sell a product immediately, he said, and may not necessarily look good in 10 years.

Choosing the Photographer

- Check out their blog or website. Find a photographer with a style similar to your own.
- Talk to your friends and find out who they used or considered for their wedding photos.

Getting What You Want

- Voice your questions and concerns to the photographer before the big day.
- Know what type of pictures you want—candid or posed?
- Make sure the photographer knows the specific shots you want.
Live music, fashion shows, food samples, photo booths and giveaways populate bridal fairs. With great access to many vendors and discounts all in one place, you can potentially plan your dream wedding in one day.

“Brides enjoy easy access to almost every type of vendor they could ever need,” said Anna Gleave, owner of Anna Gleave Photography.

Below are a few tips to make your bridal fair experience a success:

Pre-register

There are usually perks associated with pre-registering, such as shorter wait times and more prizes, according to Brian Barney, CEO of Bride and Groom Marketing.

“The brides that come to our show get in for free, and their guests get discounts,” Barney said. “(Pre-registering) also gets them in quicker. We often have long lines of girls hoping to win door prizes.”

Set aside at least a few hours to visit the various vendor booths

With various vendors all in one location, this is an opportunity to connect with those that fit your style and budget.

“Never will you be in a place where there are so many people wanting you!” said Shanelle Bice, bridal fair attendant and newlywed from Rexburg, Idaho. “Because of this they give fantastic deals! … I think the vendors are all really willing to work with"
### UPCOMING BRIDAL FAIRS

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you at these events because they know that you can go right next door and find someone else who might do what you are asking. A lot of vendors have drawings as well.

Not only can you win free prizes, you can also see vendors’ work in person.

“(Fairs) are a wonderful place for ideas and a variety of caterers, photographers, music, tuxes and gowns showcasing what (vendors) have to offer,” said Catherine Kennedy, from Orange County, Calif., who has been married for nine years. “If you don’t know where to start, they give you good ideas.”

Gleave has participated as a vendor in the bridal fair held at Provo High School several times.

“I love getting the chance to talk to brides and future clients one-on-one and get a feel for their style and personality before the first consultation,” Gleave said. “It lets me connect with the bride so that she’s more comfortable with me on their wedding day.”

### Bring a backpack

Bridal fairs give goodie bags to everyone who attends, plus other giveaways.

“I ended up winning five getaways total from my four bridal fair experiences,” Bice said. “I also won a free engagement photo shoot, 250 personalized postcard thank-you cards, necklaces and ring cleaner.”

“I went to tons (of fairs) when I was engaged,” said Natalie Banta, a recent newlywed. “I won a $50 gift card to Smith’s, a free tux rental and a $20 gift card to Shutterfly from David’s Bridal. I also found my photographer and videographer. The bridal fairs were very successful for me. If you want to keep things more frugal, go to the Provo High Bridal Fair. The prices seemed all around lower than any bridal show I attended in Salt Lake.”

### Bring address labels and record your favorite things

Barney suggests brides bring a few essential items for the day – a pen, paper, address labels or contact cards and a digital camera.

“Bridal Fairs are the 3D Pinterest,” Bice said. “Take pictures to get color ideas. Look at all the photo books on display and use their ideas.”
Brides-to-be give new meaning to the phrase "shop till you drop" as they spend countless hours in pursuit of the dress of their dreams. This search is one of the most exciting parts of planning a wedding, but may also become a daunting task for the bride who is unaware of what to look for. Fortunately, with an understanding of a few wedding dress fundamentals, the perfect gown can be found in no time.

Finding a dress that flatters your figure is the first step to narrowing the search. Gowns come in all designs, allowing a bride to find one that complements her figure.

Whether she looks to hide problematic areas or accentuate others, there is a dress for every bride and on her day she will undoubtedly look beautiful.

**EMPIRE WAIST**
Defined by its skirt that extends from the bust-line, this dress hides any problem areas around the waist or lower half of the body. Perfect for brides who are slim or pear-shaped.

**STRAIGHT CUT**
Simple yet elegant, this gown may flare softly or hug tightly. It neither accentuates nor covers up and is perfect for the slender bride.

**BALL GOWN**
A timeless tradition with a form-fitting bodice and fuller skirt. This dress makes the upper body appear slimmer by creating proportion. Perfect for busty brides but flattering on most body types.

**A-LINE**
A tight-fitting bodice and flowing A-shaped skirt allow this dress to flatter most body types.

**MERMAID**
Form fitting and body shaping, this dress emphasizes an hourglass figure by flaring out at the knee. Perfect for the slender bride looking to show off her curves.
The Fabric

In addition to deciding on an appropriate wedding dress style, the bride-to-be must also choose from a variety of fabrics. The fabric may play an important role in giving her dress a polished look for the season.

**SILK/SATIN** Gives a look of elegance and has a shimmering appearance.

**TAFFETA** Smooth and elegant with a soft luster in the light.

**TULLE** Often used for skirts and veils, it helps create layers.

The Decoration

After the style and fabric of a wedding gown are chosen, it is time to think of accessorizing. Adding embellishments can be a simple way to make a dress more unique and exciting.

**RUCHING** Beautifully gathered fabric to help add shape and direction to the dress.

**LACE** A delicate flare that adds a touch of femininity.

**EMBROIDERY** A classic addition for a bold or subtle look.

**NETTING** The perfect overlay that gives a whimsical effect.
Not all diamonds are created equally. A diamond’s quality and value is rated according to four Cs. These categories allow jewelers to price diamonds and ultimately price engagement rings. It is essential to know the basics before walking through any jeweler’s door.

The Four Cs

Color  Two diamonds of the same carat weight can have different price tags, but there might be a visible difference in the color. Diamonds are graded on a color scale: D being the most colorless and Z being diluted yellow brown.

Clarity  Most diamonds have flaws, meaning inclusions and blemishes. The amount of flaws a diamond has determines its clarity grade ranging from flawless (FL) to imperfect (I3), which helps determine the value of the diamond. However, some internal flaws do not necessarily affect the appearance of the diamond.

Carat  Carat weight is the measure of the size of the diamond. It has the largest effect on a diamond’s value.

Cut  When measuring the value of a stone, perhaps the most important C is the cut grade, which measures the proportions of the stone, not the shape. A good cut allows light to be reflected off the internal faces of the culet (the bottom point of the diamond) and back out through the crown. An ideal cut makes your diamond sparkle and allows for maximum light return.
Shape

There are dozens of unique gem shapes and choosing the right shape can be a difficult decision. Here are some popular options.

**Princess** A princess cut is a versatile shape that can be set as a square on a band or turned 45 degrees and set on point.

**Round** A round cut is also popular. With smooth edges, the round cut will adapt to most settings.

**Pear** The distinctively shaped pear cut is growing in popularity and can make a unique center stone.

**Marquise** Marquise cuts were popular during the 1990s and are now making a comeback. With two points and round sides, marquise diamonds may look a little larger than a simple round cut.

**Hybrid** Many cuts combine the fluidity of one style with the structure of another. Cushion and emerald cuts are rectangular but have rounded edges. Hybrids make it easy to choose a complementary setting.

Metal

While some metals are more pure than others, all engagement ring metals are dependable to fasten the gems, so it’s a matter of taste and budget.

**White Gold** One of the most popular ring metals. It has the normal aspects of gold, but is rhodium-plated to achieve a silver-white appeal.

**Yellow Gold** A soft metal that is usually mixed with an alloy like copper to give it strength and color.

**Platinum** Hypo-allergenic, extremely rare, durable and one of the most expensive metals.

**Tungsten** A strong and scratch resistant metal, but it can crack or break.

**Cobalt** A white metal that is not as scratch resistant as tungsten but less likely to crack or break.

**Sterling Silver** Much cheaper than gold, it is quickly becoming a popular alternative metal.

Settings

For a ring to have maximum appeal, the setting needs to complement the gem and the bride-to-be. Be open to trying different settings to see what suits your hand.

**Solitaire** A classic elegant style that features a single center stone on a solid band.

**Three Stone** A popular choice for women wanting more gems, the center stone is slightly larger than the side stones.

**Pavé** This setting adds extra sparkle with embedded small diamonds in the band leading to the center stone.

**Halo** Often combined with a pavé band, this setting offers a modern look by encircling the center with small diamonds.

**Cluster** A cost effective way to achieve the look of a big diamond without the big price. Small diamonds combine in the center to mimic one large center stone.
Thistle do nicely

By Miranda Facer

Tips for the search

The right florist will be able to make your wedding dreams a reality. Doing some preliminary research will help you make the best choice. Talk to a couple of different shops, look at portfolios and don’t be afraid to ask questions. Consider the following reminders when you make a decision to ensure you find the perfect florist fit.

You need to be flexible

"Not all flowers are readily available all year," said Corrine Smith, manager at Campus Floral. "A florist can still give you the look you want even if they can't give you that particular flower. If you are specific about the color and feel you want, a good florist can create the best look for the season of your wedding."

Your florist should be able to deliver your vision

"If a florist is trying to convince you to change your vision, find another florist," Smith said. "It’s not the florist’s day; it’s your day. If a florist tries to talk you out of a look or style (not a specific flower) they probably do not feel comfortable executing what you want. Find someone who can."

Your florist should have experience

"A good florist should be able to do everything; from birth to death there's a flower for each life event and a good florist should feel comfortable creating something for each of them."

Look at photos from weddings where the florist was the vendor in addition to perusing their store displays.

Details, details, details

Before your florist works their green thumb magic, be sure to cover the following three talking points to avoid confusion and disappointment when your big day (and the bill) arrive.

Your wedding date

"Florists really like to have a minimum of a month’s notice so they can get the flowers ordered and in," Smith said. "Flowers come from all over the world and we need the time to prepare."

Booking your florist early also gives you ample time to look at different floral options without the stress of making a rush decision.

Your vision

"Your florist needs you to know your color and theme, along with lots of pictures and examples to make sure the bride and the florist are on the same wavelength," Smith said. "If the bride can bring in ribbons, fabric swatches, paint swatches and pictures, the florist will be able to see what the bride envisions in her head."

Your budget

"A good florist wants to give you the best flowers within your price range," Smith said. "Whether that means choosing different flowers so you can have a fuller bouquet or splitting the budget so you can have multiple bouquets (one for pictures, one to toss), your florist should help you find what works with your budget."
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Half Windsor
As the name implies, typically half the size of the Windsor knot. The Half Windsor can be used with any dress shirt and works best with wider ties.

Christensen
A little-known balanced knot that looks great with thin plain silk ties or decorated motifs to be worn at formal or semi-formal occasions.

Four-in-hand
A fashion favorite which makes a narrow, discreet and asymmetrical knot. Best suited for standard dress shirts and thinner ties made from heavier fabrics like wool.

Tying the Knot

After the bride has gone through numerous alterations and fittings for her dress, the groom should make sure he looks just as sharp. Tying the right kind of knot for his tie and collar will ensure he is put together.

Should I wear this tie for my wedding?

When dressing for moments of occasion, you can’t go wrong with dignified neutrals—in both color and pattern. If the groom’s tie should match a wedding color, make it exact. An almost-match is worse than an intentional non-match.

According to GQ senior fashion editor Lisa Cohen, a dimple in your tie is the finishing touch to take your look from passable to polished.

Avoid ties with distracting patterns, colors or size. If it is wide enough to accommodate a 747, it shouldn’t be worn at a wedding. If it is bright enough to help a 747 land at night, give it to an air traffic controller and get something new.

As for length, your tied tie should touch the top of your belt buckle. If it’s too long, you can look like a new deacon; too short, and you look nerdy.
Planning a honeymoon often takes second priority to the actual wedding. Here are some quick tips to simplify the process and help you create your ultimate honeymoon.

Set priorities
Communicating honeymoon plans is just as crucial as communicating wedding plans. Some leave all the honeymoon decisions to the groom; however, working together in the planning process will help create the best getaway for the both of you. Decide on a budget together and then discuss your ideal vacations.

Start a registry
Many guests will follow tradition and purchase gifts straight from a wedding registry. Setting up a honeymoon registry is a smart alternative to receiving unwanted china or house accessories. This way guests can help pay for part of your honeymoon instead of purchasing gifts that may be returned anyway. Common websites include thebigday.com or honeymoonwishes.com. Hospitality companies like Marriott Hotels or Disney Resorts also offer honeymoon registry options. Go to disneyshoneymoonregistry.com or marriottregistry.com for more information.

Mention you're newlyweds
Though there are no guarantees, it can't hurt telling the receptionist you are newlyweds. Telling them you are spending your first few days as a married couple at their hotel may motivate them to offer you some special, or free, treatment.

Ease in
Some find it best to leave for the honeymoon a couple days after the reception. This allows time to catch up on sleep and get a fresh start after stressful wedding plans and arrangements. Also be sure to schedule time to do nothing on your honeymoon. Many busy their days with sightseeing and activities, but having time to simply relax can be crucial to getting the most out of your vacation.
The look of your cake will say a lot about your personality and influence the way the guests feel at your reception. There are many options to customize your cake: the shape, frosting, fillings, tiers and garnishes.

Get started by determining your budget for the cake. Keep in mind the number of people you are feeding and don’t forget to coordinate your cake with your wedding colors. Once you know how much you can spend, start planning your cake.

Spendy

If you have budget to spare you can go all out on a designer cake. Larger cakes cost more, but it is fun for every guest to get a piece of the cake. Buttercream frosting is another option which will cost more, but taste better than fondant. If you don’t have a limited budget, get creative and customize your cake to be whatever your heart desires.
Thrifty

If you are looking for a cake that won’t break the bank, consider these options.

When you have a lot of guests to feed but don’t have a wheelbarrow of cash, you might get sheet cakes, cupcakes or other less expensive desserts to supplement a small decorated cake.

“Usually brides on a budget do round cakes,” said Cristine Harper of CMH Cakes. “Square cakes can be more expensive. The more extravagant, i.e. edible pearls, gems, five tiers, etc., are more expensive…. I’ve done smaller cakes for those that wanted a dessert bar – that’s a popular option.”

You can also buy a pre-made cake rather than order a custom designer cake.

Don’t be afraid to check culinary school prices and availability. They are generally less expensive.

Finally, there are a few intrepid brides who are willing to make their own cake.

Dusted with confectioners sugar and garnished with seasonal fruit and berries, the bundt cakes to the right were made in less than two hours by the bride on her wedding day.
Some women find that after the “honeymoon phase” it can be difficult to adjust to married life. Being a wife takes practice and time, but following a little advice can ease the tradition.

**Keep him at the top of your list**

A wife should tell her husband first about important things. “We should not have any intimate partner other than our husband,” said Merrilee Boyack, author of “Strangling Your Husband Is Not an Option.” “We confide in him above all others – above Mom, best friends or anyone.”

**Focus on the positives**

Women should focus on the positives of their husbands. When conflict arises, wives should take a soft approach and bring their husbands up instead of tearing them down, said Stephen Duncan, BYU professor of family life.

**Give him space**

“One of the difficulties in working out a new marriage relationship is the amount of time the spouses feel they should spend together,” Boyack said. “To be a smart wife, we need to give our husbands space and time off, and we also need to take our own.”

**Don’t mess with what was working in the beginning**

After women get married, some tend to “let themselves go,” physically and personally. “Continue what you did when you were dating to attract your husband,” Duncan said.

Boyack also emphasized the vitality of a weekly date. “If God asks us for three hours a week, our other crucial eternal relationship requires the same.”

**Respect your differences**

Women need to learn and understand the stylistic and communication differences in men, Duncan said.
A marriage comes together when a woman understands and appreciates her husband’s differences.

**TURN TOWARD YOUR HUSBAND**

Duncan said each partner needs to “turn toward” one another. In relationships we throw out bids for attention, such as a husband saying he had a bad day. By acknowledging his bid for attention and vice versa, both spouses will create “effective synchrony” and develop “emotional intelligence.”

**BE HIS CHEERLEADER**

“He needs someone to cheer him on and that’s you, his bride,” said Gary and Joy Lundberg, authors of “Love That Lasts.” It is crucial to be there for him and his interests. Duncan said a wife should be actively engaged in her husband’s life.

“Couples should have a time where they go over each other’s agenda and then at night have pillow talk in order to decompress and share how things went that day.”

**VALUE YOUR MARRIAGE**

The Lundbergs said not only should spouses pray together, they should also pray for one another individually. When this happens in a marriage, you gain a greater love, respect and concern.

**HOLD ON THROUGH TOUGH TIMES**

“Everybody’s going to have tough times, so stick with it and don’t fall apart,” the Lundbergs said. “People don’t fall out of love, they forget to love.”

**BE A DREAMER**

At first this may seem easy to accomplish, but this task gets harder as the years go on, Duncan said. “It’s OK to dream; one should put their goals to that fairy tale they are living,” Duncan said. “Just don’t get caught up in it. Set realistic expectations but always dream for the future, because it will give you and your husband something to work toward together.”
Your wedding invitation introduces your future spouse to distant family and friends and announces your marriage to the world — so it is important to find a design that fits your style and to take a photo that captures you and your loved one’s best features. Wedding invitations originally featured elegant fonts and formal wording, but have recently moved away from traditional type and on to casual, colorful and fun designs.

**WHEN TO MAIL**
According to most wedding etiquette experts, invitations should be delivered four to six weeks before the wedding.

**WHO DO YOU SEND IT TO?**
Divide potential guests by categories: family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, etc. If the list needs to be reduced, it is a good rule of thumb to only invite those with whom you will have a relationship five years later.
Bridal Guide

AMPERSAND
The font Poetica has more than 60 different ampersands that can delicately decorate your invitation.

PHOTOS
Take engagement photos before selecting an invitation, then you can coordinate the design to your best photos.

TYPOGRAPHY
Learning how to choose a font is a difficult process. Fonts can say a lot depending on where they’re used. We’ve provided some fail-proof fonts that will give your invitations the distinctive touch. Break away from the norm and use something more elegant, more contemporary, more lasting, more you.

Combine a script with a serif for elegance

SCRIPTS TO USE

Bickham Script

Jesse & Jenna

Snell Roundhand

David & Marit

English

Marianne & Milo

Poetica

NEVER USE

Scratchy & Illegible

SCRIPTINA

Pretty Bad & Too much

Zapfino

The 70s & R. Over

APPLE CHANCERY

SERIFS TO USE

NEVER USE

Boring & Stale

TIMES NEW ROMAN

Flaky & Over-used

PAPYRUS

Yikes & Hideous

COOPER BLACK

SANS SERIFS TO USE

NEVER USE

Kitschy & Chintzy

CENTURY GOTHIC

Personality-less & Dull

ARIAL

Ugly & Not Funny

COMIC SANS

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Jolley

and

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ventimiglia

Request the honor of your presence

at the marriage of their children

Marianne & Milo

In the Salt Lake Temple

Saturday, the seventh of September

Two thousand and thirteen

At eleven o’clock in the morning

Please also join us for a reception

At the Joseph Smith Memorial Building

Wasatch Room

Salt Lake City, Utah

At seven o’clock that evening

LETRPRESS
Leland Rowley, owner of Rowley Press in Provo, is a graphic designer who uses letterpress to make custom invitations. Letterpress leaves an impression in the paper and Rowley does each by hand.

“The main thing people like about the letterpress is the fact that it’s pressed into the paper, and it looks really nice,” Rowley said. “If you want something a little cheaper, most of the time you’ll do an offset printing press or even a digital offset print right from the computer. Letterpress can be a bit more expensive, though, because you are paying for the quality of print and paper.”
FINDING A HOME
WORTH COMING HOME TO
BY LAUREN JACOBS

A couple always remembers their first home. To help keep this memory a pleasant one, there are several elements a couple should consider when searching for their first place.

The preliminary decisions a couple need to make are whether they want to live in a townhouse, condo, apartment or house; whether to search in Provo or surrounding cities; and whether they can afford the housing they find. Because the list of determining factors goes on, Provo housing managers and newly married students alike recommend starting the search early.

“Depending on how far away the wedding date is, a couple should normally start looking soon after the engagement,” said Irmaleda Anderson, an operations manager at BYU’s married housing facility, Wymount Terrace.

At Wymount Terrace, apartments are rented on a month-to-month basis. Apartments become available throughout the year, though more apartments open up in May and December than in other months, Anderson said. Engaged couples can sign an agreement on the BYU housing website to start moving in as soon as 10 days before their wedding.

Dane Bennion, a newly married BYU student, recommends looking for housing early. He started seriously searching about two months before he and his wife, Anya, got married.

“Looking sooner would have saved us from a lot of stress,” he said.

When the Bennions were looking for housing, they found places ranging from $500 to $700. However, the price of housing can vary based on the size of the residence, utilities included in the rent, living conditions and the location.

To help begin the search, couples can pick up a free copy of the BYU Housing Guide.
You’ve Picked The Guy. Now Choose A Doctor.

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**Intermountain Provo OB/GYN**
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801-714-3422
CentralOremClinic.org

Jae Baxter, MD
Kory Harward, DO
John McCarter, MD
Wayne Young, MD
Every bride wants to remember her wedding day as one of the happiest days of her life. Unfortunately, the stress that goes into planning a wedding is often all she can think about. To help, here are 10 tips every bride should remember to relax and enjoy her wedding day.

1. **Give yourself enough time to plan.** The shorter the engagement, the simpler the wedding and reception should be.

   Whitney Young suggested brides take care of everything early so the last weeks before the wedding aren’t too hectic. “Get the engagement pictures, announcements and everything else done as early as you can,” Young said. “Then you’re free to relax in the days leading up to and the day of your wedding.”

2. **Reconfirm all your vendors.** Double check with the photographer, the caterer, the florist, etc. to make sure they have the correct date and time.

3. **Spend time relaxing together as a couple.** You don’t want your fiancé feeling like the wedding is more important than him. Take a night off from planning and go on a date.

4. **Delegate responsibility.** The old saying, “If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself,” doesn’t apply when it comes to planning a wedding. Your fiancé, family and maid of honor are there to help you; let them.

   “The worst thing I could have done is be my typical, control-freak self,” Young said. “Luckily, I wasn’t, and things were so much less stressful than they could have been.”

5. **Remember it’s not going to be perfect.** When Katrina Morgan ordered a lavender and white bouquet for her wedding in December, she was surprised to see the flowers were pink, purple and yellow. Instead of getting upset, she decided it didn’t matter.

   “You really don’t need decorations, flowers or good food for it to be perfect,” she said. “The thing that makes it perfect is when your families are there and are happy for you and you know what you’re doing is absolutely right.”

6. **Take time to pamper yourself.** Whether it’s a facial, pedicure, manicure or massage, be sure to treat yourself so you can look and feel your best.

   “Before the wedding day, a bride should always have a pedicure and massage,” said Autumn Spencer, owner of Seasons Salon and Day Spa in Orem. “Our bodies hold a lot of tension, and having a massage can help her to relax and feel pampered all over.”

7. **Wear comfortable shoes.** The moment you step into a pair of shoes, you know whether or not you can wear them all day. Don’t try to convince yourself otherwise.

8. **Don’t worry about what other people think.** You might even overhear one of your guests complaining about the food, the decor, etc. Just let it go and enjoy the day.

9. **Surround yourself with people who help you relax.** Morgan said her fiancé and her family helped her relax the most on her wedding day.

   “Mark was perfect and I was just so happy to be with him, I didn’t really care about anyone else that day,” she said. “But both of our families made that possible.”

10. **Focus on what’s important – the sealing!** Out of all the “fluff” that goes into planning a wedding, the sealing is what matters most.

   “What was really important was the marriage itself,” Young said. “Not the hair, not the flowers, not the pictures, not the luncheon, not the reception. Being sealed for eternity to my husband was the important thing.”

**To enjoy & not stress on the wedding day**

**BY TIFFANY WALLACE**

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