

Responsibilities for families of the bride and the groom

While many brides and grooms no longer follow traditional wedding-expense breakdowns to the "T," most use the generally accepted rules at least as a starting point. According to *The Amy Vanderbilt Complete Book of Etiquette*, expenses for the wedding should be assigned as follows.

Groom

- ☞ Bride's engagement ring
- ☞ Bride's wedding ring
- ☞ Marriage license
- ☞ Groom's premarital bloodwork, if necessary
- ☞ Bride's bouquet
- ☞ Boutonnieres for the ushers in wedding party
- ☞ Ushers' wedding ties
- ☞ Ushers' wedding gloves, if applicable
- ☞ Ushers' gifts
- ☞ Clergy fees
- ☞ Wedding gift for bride
- ☞ Bachelor dinner, if any
- ☞ Wedding trip (unless this is a gift from one set of parents)
- ☞ Hotel accommodations for men in wedding, if necessary

Bride

- ☞ Invitations
- ☞ Announcements
- ☞ Mailing costs
- ☞ Bridal outfit
- ☞ Attendants dresses, if necessary
- ☞ Bridal and wedding photographs
- ☞ Bridal consultant, if needed
- ☞ Bride's trousseau
- ☞ Household trousseau
- ☞ Cost of bride's premarital blood test for marriage license, if applicable
- ☞ Wedding reception
- ☞ Flowers for church, reception, attendants
- ☞ Gifts for bridal attendants
- ☞ Groom's wedding ring
- ☞ Music at the church and reception
- ☞ Church fee, if any
- ☞ Carpets, ribbons, awnings, tents, anything rented for wedding ceremony or reception
- ☞ Gratuities for off-duty policemen directing traffic, etc., if applicable
- ☞ Transportation for bridal party from house to ceremony
- ☞ Transportation from ceremony to reception



Groom's duties not traditional

By Sharon Achatz
Copley News Service

Traditionally, men haven't been encouraged to participate in planning their weddings.

The groom was expected to select and purchase the engagement ring, plan and pay for the honeymoon — and show up in a tux and on time to the wedding.

The bride and her mother handled everything else, from the registry to the reception.

Some couples still choose to divide tasks this way, but — as with everything else associated with weddings these days — personal preferences and circumstances rather than rigid rules govern.

Many couples choose instead to build on each other's strengths and interests to divide the workload of planning the perfect party.

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