

Sample Wording & Etiquette (Weddings)

Sample Wedding Invitation Wording & Etiquette:

The line “*Request the honour of your presence...*” is commonly used if your ceremony is at a place of worship. All dates and times are spelled out.

Reception Wording: If ceremony and reception are at the same venue, the wording on the card can be as follows:

‘Reception to follow’ or ‘Dinner and dancing to follow’

Adult Only Reception: If you want to remind guests not to bring children to the reception, state *‘Adult Reception’* at the bottom of the invitation or reception invite card.

Stating Attire: Traditional etiquette suggests not including information about attire on your invitation. However, today, many guests do appreciate having direction on how to dress for your event. Stating black tie, after five, cocktail, or formal attire can be appropriate.

Bride, groom, and both their parents are hosting the wedding:

*Ms. Heather Mary Smith
and*

*Mr. Michael Francis Jacobson
together with their parents*

*Mr. and Mrs. John L. Smith &
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jacobson*

request the pleasure of your company

at their wedding

*Saturday, the seventeenth of May
two thousand and ten*

at half past four in the afternoon

Both parents are hosting:

*Mr. and Mrs. John L. Smith &
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jacobson*

*request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their children*

Heather Marie

to

Michael Francis

The couple is hosting:

*The pleasure of your company
is requested at the marriage of
Heather Marie Smith
to Michael Francis Jacobson*

Divorced parent is hosting with new spouse:

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Miller
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of his daughter
Karen Sara Miller
daughter of Ms. Rachel M. Wood
to Michael Frank Jacobson*

When one parent is deceased:

*Jane Sarah Dawson
and
John Michael Rooney
together with their parents*

Envelope Addressing Etiquette:

Handwriting your guests address adds an intimate and personalized touch. However, many brides today opt for return and recipient addresses to be printed directly on the envelopes. Others enlist the services of a calligrapher.

The return address should be that of the person who is designated to receive response/RSVP cards. The response/RSVP card envelope (or postcard) should be printed with this address as well.

Children over the age of 16 receive their own invitation. Your officiant, wedding party, and parents should receive an invitation (although they do not have to RSVP).

For Single Envelope:

**To an unmarried couple living together – or – married couple with different last names:
(names alphabetical on two lines)**

*Ms. Jamie Myers
Mr. Larry Stevens*

To a widow (if unsure, you can ask the guest how he/she prefers to be addressed):

Mrs. John Jones

A divorcee who has kept their married name:

Ms. Jane Johnson

**When one spouse is a doctor and the other is not:
(The spouse with the professional title is listed first)**

Dr. Kate Rand and Mr. Brian Rand

For a single guest:

Mr. Smith and Guest

For a married couple:

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Davis

For Double Envelopes: (Inner/Outer)

**Outer Envelope
Married couple:**

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Davis

**Inner Envelope
Married couple:**

Mr. and Mrs. Davis

**Outer Envelope
Single person:**

Miss Kennedy

**Inner Envelope
Single Person:**

Miss Kennedy and Guest



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Additional sample wording can be
found on www.theknot.com