

STRANGE WEDDING TRADITIONS

1. According to an article by Stephanie Pappas in livescience.com **tying the knot**, or getting married, in any culture comes with a large list of traditions and rituals that go beyond the white dress and veil that many cultures have adapted from the west. All over the world some of the strange traditions practiced are actually quite hard to explain. These rituals might be strange to us but most of these have significant meanings and historical support. Continuing to practice them allows a couple to spice up their wedding ceremony while also showing respect to their culture's past. Let us have a look at some of these strange behaviors we could see at wedding ceremonies.
2. In modern China, brides pick not one wedding dress, but three. First, there's the traditional qipao or cheongsam, an embroidered, slim-fitting dress that's usually made red for weddings, because red is a strong, lucky color in Chinese culture. Next, the bride might change into a white ball gown that wouldn't look out of place at an American wedding. Finally, the bride leaves the **reception** to change into a third dress, this one is a gown of her color choice or a cocktail dress.
3. A groom who is tall and strong is easy to come by for some women in India. That's because tradition says certain females must first marry a tree before they can tie the knot with their real husband. Women who have the bad luck of being born at a particular time of the year are known as Manglicks. Manglicks are supposedly cursed to have their marriage end in their husband's death. The answer? Marry a tree. Folks following the tradition then cut the tree down, thus supposedly removing the curse, before the real ceremony begins.
4. Before an Indian bride gets married, it is customary for the bride and her female friends and family to decorate their hands and feet with elaborate designs called mehndi. These temporary designs are made from the plant dye henna, and they last just a few weeks. The mehndi designs are extremely complex and take hours to apply, not including the time the bride must wait for the henna paste to gradually dry and stain her skin. Turning the occasion into a "mehndi party" makes the process more fun — and provides some friends and family to help the bride out if she needs anything while she's being adorned.
5. A number of cultures, from Celts to **Roma** (or Gypsies) have included some sort of jump over a broom into their wedding traditions. Today, broom-jumping is most often found in African-American weddings, the tradition originated in the days of slavery when marriage between enslaved men and women wasn't legally approved. In the USA before slavery ended, enslaved men and women would declare their union by jumping over a broom together.



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6. In Peru, single female guests take part in a tradition a little sweeter than a bouquet toss. **Charms** – an object worn on a bracelet to bring good luck - attached to ribbons are tucked between the layers of the wedding cake. Before the cake is cut, each woman grabs a ribbon and pulls. At the end of one ribbon is a fake wedding ring. It isn't very valuable, but the guest who picks that ribbon is said to be next in line for marriage.



7. Traditional Zulu weddings are marked by bright colors and dance-offs between the bride and groom's families. Like many brides across the world, Zulu brides might start the day in a Western "white wedding" dress, but are expected to change into traditional tribal clothing after a church wedding. In a traditional ceremony, the groom's family kills a cow to welcome the bride. The bride places money inside the stomach of the cow to symbolize that she is now part of the family



8. Russian grooms have to work for their brides. Before the wedding, the groom shows up at the bride's home and asks for his bride. As a joke, her friends and family will not approve of him until he pays up in gifts, money, jewelry or simple **humiliation** (embarrassment). Grooms are forced to do silly dances, answer riddles, and perform goofy tests of worthiness like diapering a baby doll. Once the groom impresses friends and family with this bridal ransom, or "vykup nevesty," he's allowed to approach his bride-to-be.

9. While Russian grooms are ransoming their brides, Pakistani men have to pay up if they want to keep their shoes. After a Pakistani wedding, the couple returns home for a ceremony called the "showing of the face." Family and friends hold a green scarf over the couple's heads and a mirror as the bride removes the veil she wears throughout the wedding ceremony. While the newlyweds are busy looking at one another, the bride's female relatives make off with the groom's shoes and demand money for their safe return.



10. If a native of South Korea has feet that smell like fish, it could mean he's a fisherman ... or it could mean he just got married. Traditionally in South Korea, friends of the groom repeatedly beat the bottom of the groom's bare feet with a fish on the night of his wedding. This is after they tie him up, of course, so he can't run away. While no one is sure why this is done, it can really hurt. This especially true if they include the tradition of using canes to beat the groom's feet in between hits with the stinking fish.
11. Getting married is a major event in someone's life. Different cultures have different customs and traditions to mark this special day. They may seem strange to us, but to the natives of these lands it is part of their history and culture and by continuing these traditions they are showing respect for their ancestor's way of life.

Questions

Short Answer: Fill in the blank with a short answer.

- Besides spice up their wedding, what else does wedding rituals allow a couple to do?

- In Chinese culture what color are traditional wedding dresses? _____

- What is the name for the Chinese traditional wedding dress? _____

- What must Manglicks do to make sure their husbands don't die?

- What did slaves do to show that they were married? _____

- In Peru, before the cake is cut, what do the women do? _____

- In Zulu culture what kind of competition happens between the bride's and the groom's family? _____

- What example is given for a goofy test for the groom in Russia?

- What is the Russian name for the bridal ransom? _____

- In Pakistan what does the female relatives of the bride take from the groom? _____

What must he do to get them back? _____

True, False, Not Given: Pick T, F, or NG from the drop down box.

- _____ It is hard to explain some wedding rituals.

- _____ A Chinese bride can chose the color of her third dress.

- _____ After Manglicks have cut down a tree they use the wood to make a fire.

- _____ Henna is used in weddings in the UAE also.

- _____ Celts used jumping over the broom in their weddings too.

- _____ The man who picks the ribbon with the ring is said to be the next to marry.

- _____ Russian grooms sometimes have to answer riddles before approaching the bride.

- _____ In Korea the brides feet are beat with a fish.

Vocabulary in Context: Write the definition of the word as given in the text

1. tying the knot (paragraph 1) _____
2. Roma (paragraph 5) _____
3. charms (paragraph 6) _____
4. humiliation (paragraph 8) _____

Pronoun Reference: Write what the pronoun refers to in the blank

1. their (paragraph 1) _____
2. they (paragraph 4) _____
3. it (paragraph 6) _____
4. they (paragraph 9) _____
5. they (paragraph 10) _____

Dictionary Definition: Pick the best definition to go with the word **reception** as used in paragraph 2. *Finally, the bride leaves the **reception** to change into a third dress, this one a gown of her color choice or a cocktail dress.*

re·cep·tion [ri-sep-shuh n]

noun

1. the act of receiving or the state of being received.
2. a manner of being received: The book met with a favorable reception.
3. a function or occasion when persons are formally received: a wedding reception.
4. the quality or fidelity attained in receiving radio or television broadcasts under given circumstances.