

WORD MEANINGS RELATED TO WEDDINGS, WEDDING GOWNS & WEDDING DAY

A

Acetate Fabric A slender, synthetic fabric with the plush look of silk.

Alencon Lace A fine needlepoint lace made of linen thread with corded designs on a sheer net background, often embellished with beading, sequins or pearls.

A-Line A universally flattering silhouette, which gradually flares from the waist.

**Anniversary
Cake** A small cake to be enjoyed on the anniversary of a wedding.

**Antebellum
Waistline** A bodice that dips two to three inches below the natural waist to a point in the centre front. (see Basque Waistline)

Appliqué A piece of decorative fabric design or lace cutout applied to another fabric such as a dress, veil or shoes.

Ascot Tie This wide, formal tie is usually patterned, folded over, and fastened with a stickpin or tie tack. Reserved for wear with morning dress for formal daytime weddings, the ascot is worn with a grey cutaway (morning) coat, grey striped trousers, and a wing collar shirt.

Asymmetrical An uneven design element that creates interest: gathering of fabric on one side, an uneven hem, or a one-shoulder strap.

B

B2B	Acronym for bride-to-be.
Back-Up Cake	A sheet cake of the same flavour as your wedding cake that is used to serve guests after the display cake has been served.
Ball Gown	Traditionally, a ball gown is full-skirted reaching at least to the ankles, but usually extending to the floor. Ball gowns are most often made from full tulle skirts or from a tulle skirt with a satin or taffeta overlay.
Ballerina Skirt	A very full skirt ending just above the ankle, often seen in tulle ball gowns.
Ballet Veil	A tier of veiling that is approximately 60 inches in length and comes to about the brides' knees. It is sometimes referred to as Princess length.
Basque Waistline	A Basque waistline, like an antebellum waistline, dips in the middle two to three inches below the natural waist. A basque bodice begins at the natural waistline on the sides and dips to a point in the front.
Basting	The temporary sewing together of two pieces of fabric to assure perfect pattern matches. Threads are removed once it is time to cut the fabric. Also known as under basting.
Bateau Neckline	A neckline referring to a wide neckline that runs horizontally, front and back, almost to the shoulder points across the collarbone. Also known as a Boat Neck.
Batiste	A very soft lightweight, sheer fabric in a plain weave.
Battenberg (Battenberg) Lace	Large cut-out needle lace pattern of delicate floral or geometric designs. Also known as Renaissance Lace and Mezzo Punto.
Beading or Beadwork	The art of attaching beads to one another or to cloth, usually by the use of a needle and thread or soft, flexible wire.

Bell Sleeve	Relatively full in circumference, this sleeve is fitted at the shoulder and flares as it approaches the wrist.
Bertha Collar	A decorative collar often trimmed with lace, which is attached to the neckline. It ranges in length from nine to 18 inches.
Besom (be'-zum)	An interior pocket with edging or stitching on the pocket lip. Also known as a piped, bound, welt, or "Reece" pocket.
Best Man	The chief, male assistant to the groom at the wedding.
Bias Cut	A sewing cut that runs diagonal to the weave of the fabric rather than perpendicular.
Bishop Sleeve	A full sleeve set into a normal armhole and gathered on a band at the wrist.
Black Tie Required	An event where a tuxedo or dinner jacket is required. No other options are permissible.
Black Tie Invited	An event where a tuxedo or dinner jacket is encouraged, but not required. Proper dress other than a tuxedo would be dressy attire, such as a coat and tie.
Black Tie Optional	Common for a less formal or non-wedding event. A white dinner jacket, black trousers, and black or colored accessories may be worn as an alternative to the classic black tuxedo.
Blouson	A garment with a gathered or fitted waist and fabric drooping in fullness from bodice to waist, often blousing over the waistline.
Blusher Veil	A shoulder length layer of veiling used to cover the face before the ceremony. Typically combined with a veil of another length, the blusher is then removed or flipped back.

BM(S)	Acronym for bridesmaid(s).
Bodice	The part of the dress that extends from shoulder to waist.
Bolero	A cropped jacket that remains open in the front.
Bouffant Slip	The fullest of all slips, built with multiple layers of ruffle or tulle. Typically built with a drawstring at the waist, this style gives a slimming effect.
Boutonniere (boo'-t?-nîr')	This is a single flower or bud or small group of flowers or buds worn by the males of the wedding party.
Bow	A knot with two loops and loose ends, a bow is a popular addition to bridal and special occasion fashions. Bows are also occasionally used on invitations.
Bow Tie	The bow tie is a men's necktie popularly worn with formal attire, such as suits or dinner jackets. It consists of a ribbon of fabric tied around the collar in a symmetrical manner such that the two opposite ends form loops.
BR	Acronym for bride.
Braces	The English term for suspenders, available in either button-on or clip-on.
BRG	Acronym for bridal gown.
Bridal or Bride's Bouquet	The bunch of flowers carried by the bride during the wedding ceremony, traditionally given to the bride from the groom.
Bridal Procession	The entrance of the bride and her attendants in the wedding ceremony. Traditionally, the bride enters last escorted by her father.

- Bridesmaid** A girl or unmarried woman who attends a bride on her wedding. Historically, the bridesmaids protect the bride by wearing similar clothing to the bride's attire in an attempt confuse any "evil spirit" as to who the bride was.
- Brocade** A heavier fabric woven with a rich raised design to create a tone-on-tone pattern. Often the pattern is a floral or ribbon design.
- Brush Train** A very short train that barely sweeps the floor during the walk down the aisle. It is very attractive on a slim fitting gown.
- Bubble Shaped Veil** A veil designed in a "bubble" or fountain shape to create a voluminous look.
- Buffet** A self-service style meal at a wedding reception. Food and drinks are presented on a long table or series of tables for guests to serve themselves. Typically the most affordable option, however costs can rise as less control over food portions are exercised.
- Bun Holder/ Wrap** A medium to small circular headpiece that wraps around a bun, which is often decorated with beads or lace.
- Burnout** A process chemically treating fabric to create a distinctive pattern produces burnout fabrics.
- Bust Measurement** The tape should be at the fullest part of the breast, which is typically at the nipple line. This measurement should be taken by someone else to allow the bride or bridesmaids' arms to be relaxed at their sides.
- Bustier** A form-fitting article of clothing which supports the breasts to create cleavage.
- Bustle** The pulling up and fastening of fabric at the back of a dress to shorten the skirt or train. A longer train of a wedding dress may be bustled with multiple tiers.
- Butter cream** This classic icing is made of butter, confectioner's sugar, and milk that can be colored or flavoured. Used for decoration or filling on of wedding cakes, butter cream icing is

Icing soft and creamy making it versatile in texture.

Butterfly Sleeve Similar to a bell sleeve, the butterfly sleeve starts at the shoulder and gets wider toward the end of the sleeve. The butterfly sleeve connects to the garment across the front and back and is usually no more than four or five inches long.



Calligraphy This is an ornate, highly stylized form of handwriting seen on expensive wedding invitations and other places.

Candelabra Candelabra is the term traditionally referring to a pair (or more) of large, decorative candlesticks. Candelabras are often shaped as a column or pedestal and having several arms or branches for holding candles.

Candle Lighters The people chosen to light the taper candles before the wedding that the bride and groom will use to light the unity candle during the wedding ceremony.

Cane A formalwear accessory, this type of cane is straight and black with white tips on both ends. Traditionally carried when wearing "white tie and tails," it is accessorized with white gloves and a top hat.

Cap Sleeve A very short, often rounded sleeve that barely covers the top of the shoulder and does not extend below armpit level.

Capulet Sleeve Falls several inches below the elbow in a soft flare.

Capulet Train Flows from back of shoulders.

Cashmere Fabric A highly appreciated dress fabric; cashmere is commonly used in the making of formal sweaters, wraps, and shawls.

Cathedral Train Extending six to eight feet, this formal cascading train is often removable for after the ceremony. A cathedral train is common for very formal weddings. Also known as a Monarch Train.

Cathedral Veil A long, typically three and a half yards in length, formal veil that coordinates with the Cathedral length gowns. It is often worn in combination with shorter veil.

Centre Fold Card Centre fold is a card with folds on both right and left which fold toward centre.

Centrepiece Cake A specialty cake that takes the place of flowers as your table decorations.

Chapel Train A train that extends between three and four feet behind the gown. This is the most popular train length.

Chapel Veil Longer veil that coordinates with chapel length trains. This is the name for a length of bridal veil that will reach the floor, extending two and a half yards from the headpiece.

Carmeuse Fabric A lightweight fabric woven with a satin weave, where the warp threads cross over three or more of the backing (weft) threads. The front side of the fabric has a satin finish - lustrous and reflective - whereas the back has a dull finish. Carmeuse wedding dresses are youthful and sexy, hugging the body and showing off curves.

Chiffon Fabric A flowing fabric made from silk or rayon that drapes well on the body. Chiffon is delicate, sheer, and transparent with a soft finish. It is often layered because of its transparency, making it practical for bridesmaid dresses and destination wedding dresses.

Chupah (hoo-PAH) The wedding canopy. Usually made of fabric with four corners attached to poles, this canopy is stretched over the couple.

Comb A decorative headpiece that is held in place with comb teeth. It can be worn alone or with a veil.

- Continental Vest** A backless vest designed to accommodate varied sizes of men. Available in a wide array of colours and fabric patterns. With the exception of boys sizes and extra large sizes, the vest comes as a "one size fits all." Includes adjustable strapping at the back of the neck for length and across the lower back to adjust waist. Also known as a waistcoat.
- Corded Edge** A slender length of twilled or twisted fabric creating a subtle raised line, often used as a border or edging pattern on netting.
- Cornelli** A complicated decorative form of icing used on wedding cakes which resembles lacework.
- Corsage** A single flower bloom or a small spray of blooms which are attached to a lace and either pinned to the front of a woman's dress or worn at her wrist. At weddings they are usually only worn by female relatives of the bride and groom. Currently, orchids are among the most popular flower choices for corsages.
- Cotton Fabric** A soft, natural, fabric produced from the vegetable fibre growing around the seed of the cotton plant. Cotton is a popular fabric choice for destination wedding dresses.
- Court Train** Extends a little less than three feet from the waist.
- Crepe de Chine Fabric** A soft, thin crepe usually made from silk with a slightly crinkled surface.
- Crepe Fabric** A silk, wool, or polyester fabric of a gauzy texture, having a crinkled appearance.
- Crinkle Chiffon Fabric** A lightweight, gently-textured sheer fabric with a fluid movement.
- Crinoline** Crinoline was originally a stiff fabric with a weft of horse-air and a warp of cotton or linen thread.

Croquenbouche A specialty wedding cake formed with profiteroles (cream puffs) filled with hazelnut pastry cream, dipped in hot caramel, and placed on top of one another to create a cone shape.

Crown This traditional headpiece sits atop the head and usually features jewelled or beaded embellishments.

Cufflinks A decorative fastener worn by men or women to fasten the two sides of the cuff on a dress shirt or blouse.

Cummerbund Broad pleated waistband made of satin worn in place of a vest or waistcoat.

Cutaway Classic daytime formal attire that was traditionally worn only for events prior to noon, but is now acceptable up until mid-afternoon. A single button charcoal grey or black coat with a long coachman back. Also known as a morning coat.



Damask Fabric Damask is a reversible figured fabric of silk, wool, linen, cotton, or synthetic fibres, with a pattern formed by weaving.

Detachable Train Train that can be removed by a series of snaps or buttons.

Dias A podium or platform raised from the floor where the bride and groom are seated for the wedding reception. Also used to describe the centrepiece of the head table which drapes over the front for visual effect.

Die-Cut Cuts, slits, and holes in the paper which allow other pieces of paper or folds to tuck or slip into. The main purpose of a die-cut is for decoration, or to hold things together in the invitation decoration.

Dinner Jacket Panama weave, single or double breasted, self-faced shawl collar dinner jacket with black formal trousers. Traditionally in white, off-white, or Sahara tan, worn with pleated wing-collar or spread-collar shirt.

Dolman Sleeve A sleeve set into a very low arms eye - the arms eye may extend to the waistline, in which case there will be no underarm seam on the bodice.

Dotted Swiss A type of fabric first made on hand looms in Switzerland in 1750. While there are many variations of dotted Swiss sold, the original look is always the same: a sheer, lightweight fabric with a dotted motif.

Double Envelopes Invitations and announcements typically come with double envelopes: an inner envelope and an outer envelope.

Double Tier A two layered veil with one layer typically longer than the other.

Dragees Round These are the edible and brightly colored balls of sugar seen on wedding cakes.

Drop The number of inches smaller the trouser waist of a suit is than the coat. A size 40 regular suit, for example, usually has a six inch trouser drop - a 34 inch waist.

Duchesse Satin Fabric A lightweight hybrid of silk and rayon (or polyester), this fabric is elegant and lustrous. Duchess satin is a shiny, heavy, and luxurious fabric commonly used for both couture and designer wedding gowns.

Dupioni Silk Fabric A crisp, lustrous fabric often woven from two different colours of threads, allowing it to shimmer or change colour in the light. Made from an irregular, rough silk, Dupioni has a crisp drape, reflective lustre, and a nubby texture.



Elbow Length Veil A shorter veil, often in multiple layers, extending to the elbow.

Embellishment Adornments sewn onto a bridal gown - may include embroidery, lace, glass or crystal beads, ribbons, bows, sequins, fringes, pearls, and others.

- Embroidery** Elaborate designs stitched into the gown by hand or machine; may be beaded.
- Empire Waist** High waisted with a short bodice. The bodice has a high waistline directly below the bust and a skirt that begins two more inches above the natural waist.
- Enclosure Card** One of several invitation cards: reception, response, at home, ceremony, informal, thanks you. Often identical to or coordinating the invitation, this is usually a folder card with five to six lines of print.
- Euro Tie** Often worn with a spread collar, this is a long tie that is more formal than a regular necktie, but less so than an ascot. (See Ascot)
- Evening Dress** Also known as full evening dress or white tie; this is the most formal dress code that exists for civilians today. A lady must wear a formal ball gown.
- Extender** Sheer netting or veiling that extends the length of the cathedral gown.
- Eyelet** A small hole edged with embroidered stitches to prevent unravelling.



- Faille Fabric** A heavier-weight, softly structured fabric with a delicate horizontal matte weave, creating a distinctive textured feel.
- Father of the Bride** Responsible for escorting his daughter down the aisle. According to tradition, the Father of the Bride pays for everything at a wedding but in modern times both families often share the costs.
- Favours** Small inexpensive gifts given to guests at a wedding ceremony or reception as a thank you and to serve as a souvenir.

Fedora (fĭ-dôr'-uh) A soft felt hat with a fairly low crown creased lengthwise and a brim that can be turned up or down.

FI Acronym for fiancé.

Fiancé or Fiancée Traditionally, the title of the groom or husband-to-be between the engagement and the wedding. A man who is engaged to be married is called his partner's fiancé. A woman similarly engaged is called her partner's fiancée.

Fingertip Veil A popular veil usually consisting of several layers that extend to the fingertips.

Fit and Flare A style of skirt that is fitted through the hip and flares out at approximately mid-thigh.

Flat Taffeta Fabric A medium-weight iridescent fabric with body and a relaxed all-over texture and sheen.

Flower Girl These are small children (usually girls) that lead the way down the aisle for the bride by holding a pomander or scattering flower petals from a small basket. Also known as a flower child. (See Pomander)

Flyaway This is a many layered veil that will barely reach to the shoulder.

FMIL Acronym for future mother-in-law.

FOB Acronym for father of the bride.

FOG Acronym for father of the groom.

Foil Foil is a shiny imprint commonly used for invitations, personalized napkins, and most paper accessories.

Fondant This is a sweet icing made from sugar, syrup and gelatine that has supple qualities which enable a layer to be draped over the wedding cake like a fabric. It is then used as the base for other elaborate decorations and designs.

Fountain A veil style, where part is gathered up atop the bride's head and the remainder set loose to fall around her face. A fountain veil will reach to either side of the shoulder or the elbow, depending on preference.

Four-in-Hand A four-in-hand is the simplest tie to knot; it creates a small knot to wear with a narrow-spread collar. The knotted tie hangs vertically similar to a business suit tie. It can be fastened with a tie tack and should be worn with a spread collar.

Fullback Vest Similar to the continental vest but with a full satin back like on a traditional three-piece suit. Usually found with an adjustable strap across the lower back to cinch-in any excess fabric. Also known as a waistcoat.

Fur A garment, such as a shawl or jacket, made of or lined with the dressed pelt of a mammal. Faux fur fabrics are often used as they come in a variety of thread lengths.



G2B Acronym for groom-to-be.

Gabardine Fabric A tightly-woven fabric with a firm and durable finish and single diagonal lines on the face. Gabardine is commonly used to make suits, overcoats, trousers and other garments.

Ganache A thick, delectable icing made of chocolate and heavy cream. Ganache (from the French word for "jowl") refers to a variety of icing, fillings for pastries, and glazes.

Georgette Fabric A semi-sheer lightweight fabric similar to crepe, with a soft drape and flow. Georgette fabric is a textile traditionally made from silk, although synthetic fibres, such as polyester are sometimes used as well. The thing that makes georgette fabric distinctive is the crinkly, crepe-like texture, which feels slightly rough and dull, but

gives the fabric a bouncy, flowing look.

Gibson Sleeve Full at the shoulder and fitted at the wrist. (See Leg-of-Mutton Sleeve)

Godet A design feature where an extra piece of fabric in the shape of a circular sector is set into a garment, usually a dress or skirt. The addition of a godet causes the article of clothing in question to flare, thus adding width and volume.

Gorge The seam on a coat where collar meets lapel.

Grand Cathedral Train The longest and most formal train extends approximately ten feet from waistline.

Groom's Cake A smaller version of the wedding cake or cake themed to the groom's interests. Usually served at the engagement party or the rehearsal dinner. A groom's cake is a wedding tradition typically associated with the American South. While a wedding cake may often be decorated in white and light in texture and/or colour, the groom's cake can take a variety of forms, many incorporating chocolate or fruit.

Groomsman A man who attends the bridegroom at his wedding. Traditionally, the groomsmen protect the groom from anyone trying to steal the bride or interfere with the wedding.

Grosgrain Fabric A closely woven silk or rayon fabric with narrow horizontal ribs; the fabric is often used to make ribbons or trims. Some tuxedo pants incorporate a braided grosgrain stripe down the pant leg.

Gum Paste see Fondant

H

- Hacking Pocket** A slanted flap pocket on a coat, rarely found in formal wear. The hacking pocket originated from the need to reach into a slanted pocket while riding a horse than if it were horizontal.
- Half Crown** An ornate headpiece for the bride, which lies between a crown and tiara in size and weight.
- Halter** A neckline featuring straps that wrap around from the front and connect at the back.
- Handkerchief** A traditional handkerchief is a hemmed square of thin fabric carried in the pocket or purse, its use is intended for personal hygiene purposes. In formal wear, a handkerchief or pocket square is a silk or satin fabric square folded in a variety of manners and placed in the outer breast pocket of a tuxedo.
- Hat Band** This adjustable hat band can be added to any hat to coordinate with tuxedo accessories. This is a popular accessory for proms and quinceaneras when paired with a scarf and cane.
- Hattabin** These are the male friends and family of the groom at a Muslim wedding.
- Headband** A band that follows the shape of the head; an excellent option for a bride wearing her hair pulled back or down.
- Herringbone** A classic zigzag effect resembling the backbone of a herring. This is achieved by altering the direction of the twill.
- Honour Attendants** These are the best man and maid (or matron or man) of honour.

J

Ikebana This is an extremely dramatic and artistic form of flower arranging that originated in Japan, but is now popular worldwide and often seen at weddings. Japanese-style flower arrangements are aesthetically in unison with space, size, earth, and air.

Illusion A fin, sheer net fabric, generally used on sleeves or necklines.

Informal Card An enclosure card that is printed with the names of the new couple on the front of the card. It is generally left blank inside for a personal written verse.

Iridescent A fabric quality with contrasting warp and filling yarns giving a two-color effect.

Iridescent Taffeta Crisp, lustrous fabric with a subtle iridescent look. (see Iridescent)

J

Jacquard Fabric An intricate variegated, self-pattern weave with a clear finish. Named for Frenchman Joseph Marie Jacquard who invented the loom in the early 19th century.

Jersey Fabric A very elastic knit fabric; the face has lengthwise ribs and the underside has crosswise ribs.

Juliet Cap A close fitting cap often decorated with precious stones and sometimes worn as a bride's headpiece.

K

Khaki Fabric A sturdy twilled fabric made from worsted cotton, linen, wool, or synthetic fiber blends. Khaki pants are commonly paired with blazers and worn by the grooms' attendants.

L

Lace A fabric patterned with open holes in the work, made by machine or by hand.

Lamé Fabric A type of fabric woven or knit with thin ribbons of metallic yarn creating a glistening effect.

Leg-of-Mutton Sleeve Sleeve with a very full puff at shoulder and tightly fitted on the forearm. Also known as Leg-o-Mutton.

Lined Inner Envelopes Colored liners are offered as a decorative addition to the inner envelope.

Linen Fabric Produced using the fibers of the flax plant, linen are a strong natural fiber.

Liner (Envelope) A shiny or decorative layer used on inner and outer envelopes of invitations to give a sturdy structure.

Low Rise Style of trousers in which the rise (the distance between inseam and outseam) is lower than average.

M

Maid of Honour The chief unmarried female attendant to the bride. She is responsible for a number of duties including holding the ring designated for the groom, holding the bride's

bouquet during vows, and attending to the dress.

Man of Honour	The male equivalent of the maid of honour if the bride prefers to have a male friend stand as chief attendant.
Mantilla	A circular piece of lace, silk, or lace-trimmed tulle worn over the head and shoulders secured by a high comb. The Spanish translation is "little cloak."
Marzipan	A substance made of sugar, egg whites, and almond paste used as a base for icing or to mould decorative forms.
Matron of Honour	The married equivalent of the maid of honour.
Mermaid	A dress or skirt that is fitted at the top and flairs below the knee. Commonly referred to as fishtail or trumpet style.
Mezzo Punto	A mixed lace composed partly of bobbin or woven work and partly of buttonhole stitches. (see Battenberg Lace)
Microfiber	A lightweight synthetic fibre woven into fabrics, microfiber is available acrylic, nylon, polyester and rayon. The soft, luxurious fabric is wrinkle resistant and machine washable.
MOB	Acronym for mother of the bride.
Modified A-Line	A style of skirt that skims the hips and gradually widens down the skirt to the hem; its shape is not as pronounced as a traditional a-line skirt.
MOG	Acronym for mother of the groom.
MOH	Acronym for maid/man/matron of honour.

Moiré A heavy silk taffeta with a subtle, wavy design that has the look of wood grain.

Monograms A graphic symbol consisting of two or more letters combined. On wedding invitations it is common for a monogram to consist of the first initials of both bride and groom and the last initial of the groom.



Natural Waist The definition used by most manufacturers describes the measurement taken at the natural waistline, typically across the naval. Another way to find the natural waistline is by bending to one side, the crease marks the location of the natural waistline.

Normal Rise Style of trousers in which the rise (the distance between inseam and outseam) is standard.

Nosegay Small, round bouquets, approximately 16-18 inches in diameter. They are often wired or tied together and composed of densely packed round flowers, greenery, and herbs. (see Posies)

Notch Lapel Type of lapel on which the top line slants down in line with the collar seam. This creates a look on both sides of the jacket as if a notch was "cut out."



Oasis Specialty hard foam used by florists in bouquet holders or vases. Flower stems fit into holes in the foam, which also retain water. Therefore, water is preserved for a long time allowing for fresher looking flowers throughout the wedding.

Officiant One who officiates, typically a cleric, priest, pastor or marriage official that carries out the ceremony.

Off-The-Shoulder An open neckline with fabric resting on the shoulders to showcase the collarbone and shoulders.

Organdy Fabric A sheer stiff fabric of cotton or silk, used for light apparel.

Organza Fabric A delicate, sheer fabric, often layered or worn over another fabric. Similar to a chiffon/tulle combination and popular for skirts, sleeves, backs, and overlays.

Ornamental Designs Small printed designs typically at the top center portion of the invitation or announcement. Commonly referred to as a motif.



Pages or Page Boys Small children (usually boys) who follow the bride down the aisle carrying some of her train. Sometimes referred to as train bearers. (see Train)

Paisley Pattern A fabric woven or printed with colorful curved (amoeba-like) abstract figures. Some paisley prints can take on a floral texture.

Parchment A finer, thinner vellum paper that often has a worn look with a rough edge.

Peak Lapel Type of lapel on which the top line slants up from the horizontal. Often forms a V shape on both sides of the jacket.

Peau de Soie Fabric A soft, satin-faced, high quality cloth with a dull lustre, fine ribs, and a grainy appearance.

Peek-a-Boo Sleeve Sheer, puffed sleeve with different fabric showing through underneath.

Peplum A short flounce or overskirt attached at the waistline.

Pick-Up Skirt A design element where fabric is picked up at various points and attached to the skirt to create volume.

Pile The pile of a fabric refers to the threads that stand up from the weave (Ex. corduroy, velvet, faux fur).

Pillars The supports used to prop up varying tiers of a multi-tiered wedding cake. They may be made from cardboard, plastic or wood. Also known as columns.

Pima Fine grade cotton produced from high-quality yarn. Pima is a type of dryable cotton that is very soft and strong. A crossbreed of Upland and Egyptian cotton, it was developed in Pima County, Arizona.

Pique A knit fabric with a waffle-weave appearance. The outside resembles a honeycomb or waffle and the underside is smooth.

Place Card A small tent card that is used to show guests their seating at the reception dinner.

Plaid Pattern Fabric with an overlapping crisscross pattern made using different colored threads in the warp and weft. Originating in Scotland, plaid is known as a tartan and is traditionally worn to represent a clan or family.

Pleated Veil A veil designed by folding the netting to create "pleats" creating a dimensional look.

Ply One of the strands in a yarn, two-ply would indicate that two strands have been twisted together to make one yarn.

Pocket Square A silk or satin fabric square folded in a variety of manners and placed in the outer breast pocket of a tuxedo. Commonly referred to as a handkerchief. (see Handkerchief)

- Poet Sleeve** Pleated at the shoulder; very full from shoulder to cuff.
- Point d' esprit** A bobbinet or tulle with oval or square dots woven in an irregular pattern. Also known as spirit stitch.
- Polyester** An inexpensive synthetic fiber that is woven into a strong and durable fabric.
- Pomander** A round ball completely covered by flower blooms. They are carried on a ribbon by flower girls in the bridal procession.
- Portrait Neckline** A shawl-like neckline that frames the collarbone with a wide, soft draping of fabric from the tip of one shoulder to the other.
- Posies** Small and roundly shaped flower bouquets that are tightly packed and include greenery. They are held together by a twine or sometimes a wire. A posy can also be known as a nosegay, but generally a proper posy is slightly smaller and often includes extras like ribbons or silk flowers.
- Pouf** A piece of netting gathered up and attached to a headpiece or comb providing extra height to the veil.
- Presentation** An elegant bouquet of long stemmed flowers that the bride cradles in her arms. Also known as the pageant bouquet.
- Princess Waist** A slimming dress silhouette featuring vertical seams from top to hem.
- Programs** A keepsake and a way for guests to follow along with ceremony proceedings. Programs include the order of the service, wedding participants, and any other meaningful notations.
- Pump** A low-cut, slip-on shoe for formal evening wear that does not have laces or straps. Pumps usually have an ornamental grosgrain ribbon bow in front and are often made of patent leather or dull calf.



Queen Anne Neckline A neckline featuring high sides and back, but an open bodice with a sweetheart shape.

Queen Elizabeth Neckline A neckline featuring a high collar in back and a closed V at the bust.



Raised Tiers A type of cake in which layers are separated by columns to make the cake appear taller.

Rayon Fabric A fabric created from a semi-synthetic fiber that is similar to silk, but has a more elastic high lustre quality giving it a bright sheen.

Reception Cards The reception card is used to tell guests where the reception is going to be. This card is helpful if the reception is going to be at a different location, time or on a different day than the ceremony.

Renaissance Lace A type of lace in which woven tape motifs are joined by a variety of flat stitches. (see Battenberg Lace)

Respond Card Allows for an accurate guest count and gives guests an opportunity to choose meal options. The card is filled out by the guest and returned to the bride and groom. According to etiquette, it is proper to include a postage stamp on the envelope when including respond cards with the invitation.

Ribbon A narrow strip or band of fine fabric, such as satin or velvet. Ribbons are available in various widths, lengths, and fabrics. They are popular additions to bridal and special occasion fashions, as well as commonly used on invitations.

Ring Bearer Usually a small boy (sometimes a little girl) who walks down the aisle as part of the bridal procession carrying an ornamental cushion that has two decorative rings tied to it.

Rolled Fondant The finished product of basic fondant that has been rolled out into a flat round surface. Rolled fondant is used to cover cakes perfectly smooth without wrinkles or bubbles. (see Fondant)

Royal Icing A mixture of confectioners' sugar and egg whites that is commonly used in cake decoration because of its quick dry properties. It can be piped through a bag to create flowers and other decorations that are allowed to dry and placed individually on a cake.

Rushing A sewing technique in which tight decorative gathers create flattering pleats in the fabric. This is a common bodice element on bridal and bridesmaid gowns.

Ruffles A sewing technique in which a strip of fabric, lace or ribbon is tightly gathered or pleated on one edge and applied to the garment creating a flowing, feminine detail.

Russian Tulle A type of fabric similar to netting but with wide holes. It is commonly used to make birdcage veils.



"Save the Date" Card These informal announcements precede the wedding invitations several months ahead and allow guests to make the necessary arrangements to attend your wedding.

Sabrina Neckline A wide, shallow, straight neckline that begins two inches inside the shoulder and is close to the base of the neck.

Satin Fabric A smooth fabric, woven with a glossy face and a dull back. Satin used to be made with silk, however it is made from rayon, polyester, acetate, and nylon. It is commonly used in bridal gowns because of its exquisite drape.

Scalloped Edge	A fabric detail featuring a delicately curved or cascading edge.
Seal	A neutral or decorative sticker used on your envelope flap or directly on the invitation.
Seersucker	A thin, crinkled fabric that is commonly striped or checkered. This lightweight, all-cotton fabric is used to make spring and summer formal wear, specifically suits and slacks.
Semi-Formal	A dress code, indicating the formality of clothes worn to a black tie event. The dress code of semi-formal events is between informal and formal. (see Black Tie)
Sequins	Small, disk-shaped beads of metal or plastic used for decorative purposes. They are often sewn or glued to a garment to add interest.
Shantung Fabric	A rayon or cotton fabric with a rough nubby surface that imitates of silk shantung.
Shawl Collar	A type of lapel with a rounded and smooth edge.
Sheath	A form fitting gown that contours to your natural silhouette; straight, slim lines.
Shirred Waist	Fabric is gathered to make a horizontal panel at waist.
Shower	A spray of long stemmed flowers, often mixed with ivies that cascade downwards as the bride holds it in her hands.
Silhouette	Referring to the shape of a dress according to the human profile. (see A-Line, Asymmetrical, Ball Gown, Fit and Flare, Mermaid, Modified A-Line, Sheath, Trumpet)

Silk Fabric	An expensive fabric made from fine lustrous natural fibers. Silk comes in a number of weaves varying in density, suppleness, and sheen. Silk is the most costly and sought-after fabric for bridal gowns.
Silk Gazar Fabric	A four-ply silk organza with more stiffness from extra sizing offering a slightly looser weave.
Silk Mikado Fabric	A type of blended silk that is usually heavier than 100 percent silk.
Silk Shantung Fabric	A heavy fabric with a rough nubby surface, made of spun wild silk. Similar to a raw silk, shantung is characterized by its rubbed texture.
Silk-Faced Satin Fabric	A smooth silk satin, with a glossy front and matte back.
Sleeve	The part of a garment which covers the arm or through which the arm passes or slips. (see Bell Sleeve, Cap Sleeve, Capulet Sleeve, Gibson Sleeve, Illusion, Leg-Of-Mutton Sleeve, Peak-A-Boo Sleeve, Poet Sleeve, Spaghetti Strap)
Snood	A knitted net worn by the bride at the back of the head to enclose her hair.
Spaghetti Strap	Skinny straps that attach at the front and back of the dress or tie at the neck, often detachable.
Spencer Coat	A tuxedo alternative, this open coat cuts at waistline and is worn without buttons.
Strapless	A popular neckline for bridal gowns featuring no straps; a garment made or worn without shoulder straps.
Stroller Coat	A semi-formal jacket colored grey or black that resembles a tuxedo, but

worn for daytime weddings.

Sweep Train

A train that just brushes the floor; slightly longer than a brush train.

**Sweetheart
Neckline**

A neckline that is shaped like the top of a heart and is flattering to the décolletage.



Taffeta Fabric

A crisp, medium-weight fabric made from silk or synthetic fibres with varying sheen. Considered to be a "high end" fabric, taffeta is suitable for use in ball gowns, wedding gowns, bridesmaid dresses, and prom gowns.

Tails

Short for the tail coat, this style is worn for formal evening weddings. Tails are short in front and extend to two tails in back.

Tea Length

A gown or skirt with a hem that falls between the bottom of the knee and the bottom of the calf. For a look of casual elegance, tea length dresses are perfect for summer weddings.

Thank You Cards

The thank you card is an enclosure card printed with "Thank You" on the front of the card and generally left blank inside for your own personal written verse or with a printed verse inside. Etiquette calls for writing your own personal hand written notes of thanks on the inside.

Tiara

A tiara is a jewelled or beaded semi-circle headpiece that can be worn alone or with a veil. Depending on the shape and height of the tiara, it may be worn either on top of the head or worn at an angle.

Tiered

Arranged in or having layers or rows.

Tiered Veil

A design element, which features multiple layers of netting. This effect is also popular on skirts and tops.

Tiers (Cake Tiers)	Numerous layers of a wedding cake, usually differing in size.
Tissue Taffeta Fabric	Lightweight, voluminous fabric with a slightly crinkled finish.
Topiary	The skilled art of clipping or trimming foliage or flower arrangements into the shapes of animals, lettering, numbers, or various but precise geometric forms.
Torted Cakes	Cakes layered with mousse or fruit preserves.
Tossing Bouquet	A copy or smaller version of the bride's bouquet which is thrown for the single female guests after the wedding ceremony. Traditionally, the female who catches the bouquet will be next to wed.
Train	An extension to a wedding gown or bridesmaid dress that trails along the floor.
Train Bearers	see Pages or Page Boys
Trellis	A structure of open latticework or a woven wooden frame used as a screen or support for creeping plants and flowers.
Trumpet	A dress or skirt that is fitted at the top tapers close to the legs and flairs at or below the knee.
Trunk Show	Usually held at a local bridal shop, a trunk show allows a designer to "show off" their latest designs to the shop's customers. Trunk shows are typically offered for wedding dresses, bridesmaid dresses, or mother's dresses.
Tulle Fabric	A sheer often starched silk, rayon, or nylon netting which is often used for bridal gowns, veils, and ballet tutus. (see Ballerina Skirt)

Tussy Mussy From the Victorian era, a tussy mussy is a posy carried in a small, metallic, hand-held vase. Today, the term refers to the holder itself, which is used to make it easier to hold the bouquet.

Tux or Tuxedo A formal or semi-formal men's black evening jacket that may be either single-breasted (1-6 buttons) or double-breasted (2-6 buttons). Styles vary by occasion whether it is for prom or a wedding.

Twill A textile weave in which filling yarns pass over one and under two or more warp yarns producing a diagonal rib.

Twist A yarn formed by intertwining two or more strands together. Different colored yarns are often used for unusual colour effect.

U

Undergarment Clothing worn under outer garments, usually worn next to the skin. They keep outer garments from being soiled as well as shape and support the body. Examples of wedding undergarments include bridal bras, bridal bustiers, bridal slips, crinolines, body smoothers, and bra cups.

Under pressing Pressing on the reverse side of the fabric to mould it so it will retain its shape.

V

Velvet Fabric A soft, thick fabric with a felted face and plain underside.

Vent A slit at centre or sides on the bottom of the back of a jacket or coat.

V-Neckline As the name implies, the neckline dips down from the shoulders into a v-neck in the front and often in the back as well. The depth of the V can vary, ranging from demure styles to plunging. The demure cut is a

popular style for plus size wedding dresses.

Voile Fabric A crisp lightweight, plain weave fabric made of silk, rayon, or cotton. Voile, French for veil, is a well-draping fabric that can be used to make wedding veils. Voile lace is a hand cut lace that has open spaces cut out in between the lace fabric.

Vows A solemn promise, pledge, or personal commitment to marriage; the vows exchanged between the bride and groom are promises of future loyalty, love, trust, and support.



Waistcoat A British term meaning vest, the waistcoat is a short, sleeveless, collarless garment worn under a doublet or suit jacket.

Waltz Veil A long veil that flows from the headpiece down to the ankles. The waltz veil is an appropriate choice for wedding dresses without trains.

Warp The set of vertical threads through which the weft is woven.

Watteau Train A single panel that attaches to the top of the dress, either at the upper-back or shoulder blades, and falls to the ground. Typically a Watteau train is the same length as the dress at the hemline.

Weft The set of horizontal threads interlaced through the warp.

Welt A raised or strengthened strip of fabric sewn into a seam for ornament or reinforcement.

White Tie A very formal wedding or ceremony held after six o'clock in the evening. The male attendants wear black tails and patent leather shoes with white pique shirts, vests, and bow ties.

Windsor The largest of the three neckwear knot styles, it is a wide triangular knot. Worn with wide spread collar shirts. (Half-Windsor is worn with medium spread collar.)

Wing Collar The most formal type of collar, shirts with a wing collar are the formal choice for wedding tuxedos. The front edges of the small standing collar are pressed down to resemble a pair of wings. Most wing collar shirts are pleated.

Wool Fabric A fabric made from the dense, warm, soft hair forming the coat of sheep. Naturally stain and wrinkle resistant, this highly durable fabric is used in tuxedo production.

Worsted Wool A type of highly durable wool created from the initial combing of the wool. This process leaves behind long, smooth fibers which are spun into yarn. The worsted yarn is then woven in for smooth, firm, compact fabrics.

Wreath A ring of flowers leaves and fruit commonly decorated with ribbons and bows. Typically used for decorative purposes as a centerpiece, an ornament, hanging on a wall or door, or resting on a table; a wreath may also be worn on the head. (see Wreath Crown)

Wreath Crown Popular for bridal hair accessories, wreath crowns are a natural option made of flowers, leaves, and sometimes fruit. Ribbons and bows are also used to decorate the ring, which is worn on the crown of the head.

Y

Z

Zip-up

Bridal dresses may zip in the back or on the side. The zipper is normally hidden by fabric. Most bridal dresses offer zip-up or lace-up backs as they are the most common closures.