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A PLANNING GUIDE FOR COUPLES

Wedding Reception Games

22 games and activities, sorted by the part of the night they work best, so your guests are never just waiting around.

Cocktail hour	Dinner	After dinner	Dance floor
While you take photos	Guests are seated	Emcee or DJ-led	High energy

START HERE

You do not need to run every game.

Pick one or two for each part of the night. The best reception games fill the moments when guests would otherwise be waiting: while you are off taking photos, between courses, and during the first slow minutes on the dance floor.

The simple plan

If you only read one page, read this one. Four games, one for each part of the night.

COCKTAIL HOUR	One lawn game, plus Wedding Guest Bingo
DINNER	Couple trivia cards at every table
AFTER DINNER	The Shoe Game
DANCING	Freeze Dance or DJ Name That Tune

How to use this guide

1. Tick the box

Every game has a checkbox next to its name. Tick the ones you like as you read.

2. Name an owner

Every game needs one person running it: your DJ, emcee, planner, or a wedding party member.

3. Fill the worksheet

The last page turns your picks into a plan you can hand to your planner and DJ.

Cocktail hour

6 games. Guests mingle while you do photos.

Dinner

5 games. Played from the table.

After dinner

5 games. Run by your emcee or DJ.

Dance floor

6 games. Keep the energy up.

GUESTS ARE MINGLING, YOU ARE DOING PHOTOS

1 Cocktail Hour

Wedding Guest Bingo

Guests hunt for people who match descriptions on a card.

- Hand out cards on arrival.
- Guests mingle and collect initials for each match.
- First full card, or first row, wins a small prize.

When: Cocktail hour or early reception.

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Guests photograph a list of wedding moments.

- Give each table a list, plus instant or disposable cameras if you have them.
- Items like "the couple dancing" or "someone crying happy tears."
- Winner is first to finish, or best photo.

When: Runs all night. Launch it at cocktail hour.

Cornhole

Guests toss bean bags at custom boards.

- Set up two boards facing each other.
- Two teams, points for landing in the hole or on the board.
- First to 21 wins.

When: Cocktail hour, outdoors.

Giant Jenga

Guests pull blocks from a tower without toppling it.

- Use the tall lawn version.
- Blocks can carry couple facts or guest messages.
- Whoever topples it loses.

When: Cocktail hour, or leave it out all night.

Ring Toss, Bocce, Ladder Golf

Classic lawn games that need almost no explanation.

- **Ring toss:** land rings on painted bottles.
- **Bocce:** teams of up to 4 toss balls close to a target ball.
- **Ladder golf:** two-person teams throw bolas at rungs, first to 21.

When: Cocktail hour only. Hard to run once it is dark.

Balloon Pop Wall

Guests pop a balloon to reveal a prize or a message.

- Put a note or small prize inside each balloon.
- Each guest pops one.

When: Guest arrival or cocktail hour.

GUESTS ARE SEATED

2 Dinner

Couple Trivia or Crossword

Table cards test how well guests know the two of you.

- Put a card at each place setting.
- Guests fill in answers or solve the clues.
- First table with every answer right wins.

When: During dinner.

Mad Libs or Advice Cards

Guests fill in words to create funny marriage advice.

- One person at each table supplies random words.
- Read the best ones aloud, or collect them for the couple to keep.

When: Before or during dinner.

Guess the Number

Guests guess how many candies are in a jar.

- One jar per table, with guess cards.
- Closest guess at each table wins the jar.

When: Dinner service.

Wedding Toast Bingo

Guests mark off what they predict the toasts will mention.

- Build boards from common toast phrases like "met at..." or "best friend."
- Guests mark squares as the speeches happen.
- First bingo wins. Great for keeping guests with you through long toasts.

When: Before or during toasts.

Cake Smash Bets

Guests bet on whether the two of you will smash cake.

- Set out two jars, one for each outcome. Guests drop in a bet (a slip with their name works).
- Reveal the winners at the cake cutting.

When: Right before the cake cutting.

Planner tip

Put dinner games on the table before guests sit down. If a game needs explaining, it will not get played. The card itself should say what to do.

EMCEE OR DJ-LED

3 Early to Mid Reception

The Shoe Game

You answer questions by raising the right shoe.

- Sit back-to-back, each holding one of your shoes and one of your partner's.
- The emcee reads questions like "Who is the better driver?"
- You each raise the shoe of the person you think it is.

When: Early reception, after dinner.

Stand Up, Sit Down

Guests stand or sit based on funny questions until one is left.

- Everyone starts standing.
- The emcee calls things like "Sit down if you have never been to Florida."
- Last one standing wins.

When: Before or during dinner, or mid-reception.

Trivia Quiz Show

The DJ runs custom trivia like a game show.

- Write questions about the two of you and your guests.
- Tables play as teams and answer or buzz in.
- The winning table gets a prize.

When: Mid-reception.

The Newlywed Game

Guests find out how well you know each other.

- Prepare 20 or more questions.
- You each answer separately, then compare.

When: Mid-reception.

Wedding Wheel

A spinning wheel gives guests dares or prizes.

- Write an action on each slice, like "dance with the groom."
- Guests spin and complete the task.

When: Throughout the night, but keep each spin short.

Planner tip

Send your emcee or DJ the questions a week ahead, not on the day. Shoe Game and Newlywed questions written in the car on the way to the venue are the ones that fall flat.

DJ-LED, HIGH ENERGY

4 Dance Floor

Freeze Dance

Everyone dances until the music stops, then freezes.

- Music plays, everyone dances.
- The music stops suddenly. Anyone who moves is out.
- Shorten the gaps to make it harder.

When: Early to mid dancing. A great icebreaker.

DJ Name That Tune

Guests name a song from a two-second snippet.

- The DJ plays 2-second clips.
- First correct guess wins a prize or claims a spot on the floor.

When: During dancing.

Table Song Dance Challenge

Tables run to the dance floor when their song plays.

- Name each table after a song.
- The DJ plays them through the night.
- Judge each table on silliness or grace.

When: Throughout the dancing.

Karaoke Contest

Guests perform and a panel judges them.

- Score stage presence, song choice, and crowd reaction, not just vocals.
- Works best once the crowd has loosened up.

When: Mid to late reception.

Bouquet Hot Potato

Guests pass the bouquet until the music stops.

- Whoever is holding it when the music stops is out.
- The last person left wins the bouquet.

When: Early to mid reception. A modern swap for the toss.

Anniversary Dance

The couple married longest wins the last dance.

- The DJ calls every married couple to the floor.
- Couples sit as their years married are called, fewest first.
- The last couple dances with you.

When: Late reception, as a sentimental closer.

BEFORE YOU DECIDE

Games to skip or handle carefully

These show up on a lot of lists. Think twice before adding them to your night.

Money Dance

Guests need to bring cash, and some families and cultures dislike it. If you do it, warn people ahead of time.

Flip Cup

It pushes drinking. Keep it late in the night, or play with water.

Monopoly, Life, Scrabble

Too slow for a reception. One game can run for hours.

Twister

Only works with a casual dress code.

Your game plan

Fill this in and hand a copy to your planner, emcee, and DJ.

Part of the night	Game	Who runs it	Supplies needed	Prize
Cocktail hour				
Cocktail hour				
Dinner				
Dinner				
After dinner				
Dance floor				
Dance floor				

Questions for our Shoe Game or Newlywed Game

FROM YOUR PLANNER, WITH RIPLUO

Every game, every owner, one timeline.

A game only works when someone knows it is theirs to run and exactly when it starts. Your picks from this guide go straight onto your wedding timeline, with who is running each one, so your DJ, emcee, and planner are all working from the same plan on the day.

Relax and enjoy the party. The plan is handled.

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