



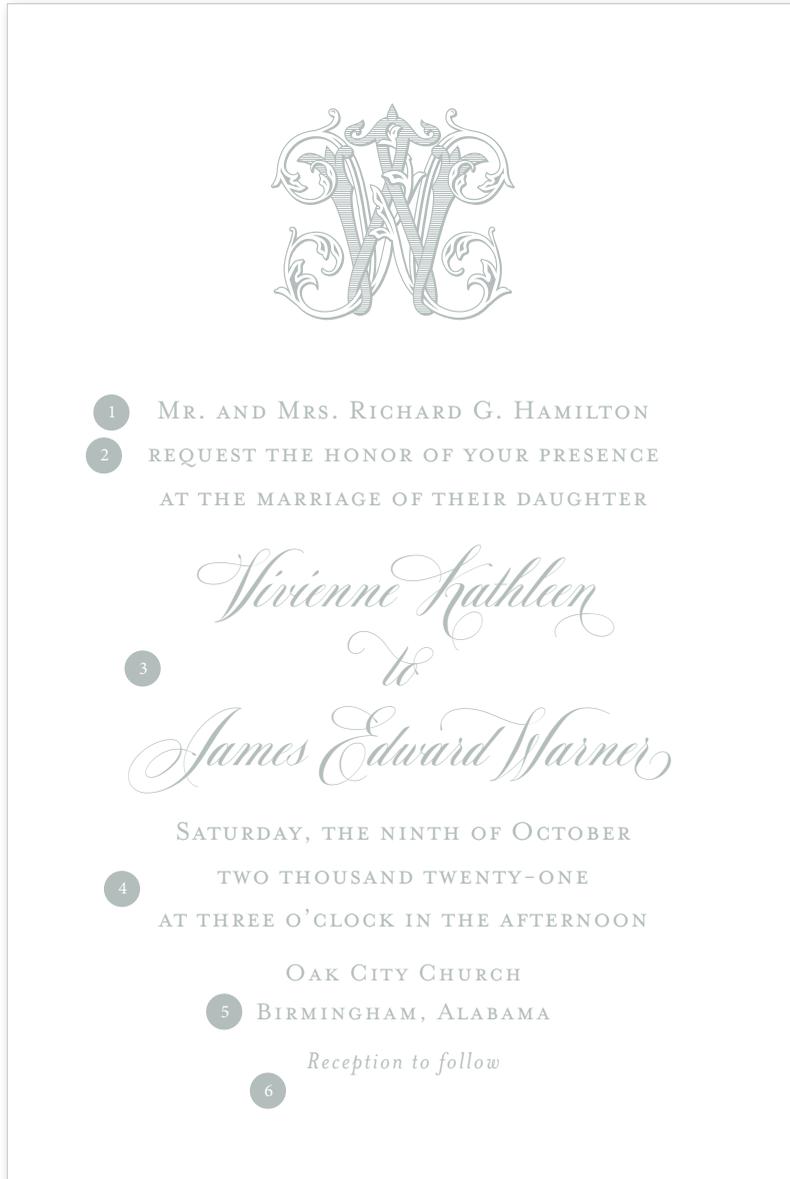
Invitation Wording Guide

*tips and examples for wording
your wedding invitations*

The guide below was crafted to help aid you through various scenarios with examples of different ceremony styles and assorted family dynamics.

For a complete guide to wording etiquette, I recommend Emily Post's wedding etiquette at www.emilypost.com and www.theamericanwedding.com

Anatomy of an Invitation



1. HOST LINE

The name(s) of the hosts should be listed at the top of the invitation. This can be the bride's parents, the groom's parents, both, or neither. The word "and" between two names traditionally implies that those individuals are married. Names of unmarried hosts should be stacked.

2. REQUEST LINE

See page 6 for a list of request line examples.

3. BRIDE AND GROOM'S NAMES

The bride is always listed first. If parents are mentioned, only first and middle names are required for the bride and groom. Middle names are optional.

4. DATE AND TIME

Try not to use abbreviations. Spell out the month, day, year and time. Only the day of the week and the month get capitalized. If it fits you better to use more casual wording, that's okay! Just be sure to stay consistent across all pieces.

5. CEREMONY VENUE AND LOCATION

List the venue and city, state of your ceremony. It is traditional not to include the full address, but this is now less common.

6. CLOSING LINE

See page 6 for a list of examples

If the ceremony and reception are being hosted in the same location, you can simply choose a closing line to read at the bottom. If the reception is being held at a different location, a small enclosure card would be used for the reception venue and address.

In the end, it's up to you as a couple. Try not to get so caught up in the formalities that you start to get stressed out and lose sight of the fun in planning. Allow both of your personalities to shine through and have fun with it. These days, the sky is the limit with invitation wording. The important thing to keep in mind is that your wording sets the tone for the entire event. If you have a question about something not covered, don't hesitate to reach out at: hello@blondeandbrindle.com

Host Variations

Bride's Parents Hosting

1. *see footnotes*

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD HAMILTON
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Vivienne Kathleen
to
James Edward Warner

Groom's Parents Hosting

MR. AND MRS. JOHN WARNER
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF

Vivienne Kathleen Hamilton
to their son
James Edward

Multiple Hosts

2. *see footnotes*

TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Vivienne Kathleen Hamilton
and
James Edward Warner

INVITE YOU TO SHARE IN THEIR JOY
AT THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR MARRIAGE

Both Families Hosting

3. *see footnotes*

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD HAMILTON
AND MR. AND MRS. JOHN WARNER
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR CHILDREN

Vivienne Kathleen
to
James Edward

1. To mention the groom's parents, list their names below his, "son of Mr. and Mrs. John Warner"
2. This format is popular among couples with complicated family situations
3. Instead of using the word "and" to join the hosts you can opt to use, "along with," or "together with"

Host Variations

Bride's Parents Divorced
both hosting, both remarried

MR. AND MRS. DAVID STEWARD
AND MR. AND MRS. RICHARD G. HAMILTON
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Vivienne Kathleen
to
James Edward Warner

Bride's Parents Divorced
both hosting, neither remarried

MS. LYNN HAMILTON
MR. RICHARD G. HAMILTON
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Vivienne Kathleen
to
James Edward Warner

Bride's Parents Divorced
both hosting, father remarried

MS. LYNN HAMILTON
MR. AND MRS. RICHARD G. HAMILTON
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Vivienne Kathleen
to
James Edward Warner

Bride's Parents Divorced
bride's mother hosting with stepfather

MR. AND MRS. DAVID STEWARD
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT THE MARRIAGE OF HER DAUGHTER

Vivienne Kathleen
to
James Edward Warner

Wording Examples

Request Phrases

MORE FORMAL/TRADITIONAL

1. (hosts) request the **honor of your presence** at the marriage of...
'the honor/honour of your presence' is used when the ceremony takes place in a house of worship
2. (hosts) request the **pleasure of your company** at the marriage of...
'request the pleasure of your company' is the traditional phrase used when the ceremony takes place outside a house of worship

MORE CASUAL

3. (hosts) invite you to celebrate the marriage of
4. (hosts) invite you to share in their joy at the marriage of
5. (hosts) joyfully request the pleasure of your company
6. (hosts) cordially invite you to celebrate the marriage of
7. Together with their families

BRIDE AND GROOM HOSTING

8. With joyful hearts (bride & groom) request the pleasure of your company
9. With great joy (bride & groom) request the honor of your presence
10. The honor of your presence is requested at the marriage of
11. The pleasure of your company is requested at the wedding of
12. Please join us for the wedding of
13. You are cordially invited to the wedding of
14. (bride & groom) joyfully request the pleasure of your company at their wedding
15. (bride & groom) invite you to share in the joy of their marriage

Closing Phrases

MORE FORMAL

1. Reception to follow
2. An evening of celebration to follow

MORE INFORMAL

3. Dinner and dancing to follow
4. Merriment to follow
5. Drinks and dancing to follow
6. Dinner, drinks and dancing to follow
7. Cocktails, dinner and dancing to follow
8. Adult reception to follow

RSVP Cards

THE FAVOR OF YOUR REPLY IS REQUESTED BY

the eleventh of September

M _____

— *Accepts with Pleasure* — *Declines with Regret*

NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING

To determine the deadline for returned reply cards, a good guideline is to allow guests half the time between receiving the invitations and the wedding date – approximately 5 weeks.

There are numerous different ways to word your RSVP cards. Just remember to keep consistent with the invitations. “The favor of a reply” pairs with “Requests the honor of your presence” and “Kindly Reply by” pairs with “Requests the pleasure of your company”

The traditional ‘M’ that precedes the line guests write their name(s) on is simply the first letter of their title (Mr., Miss, Ms., etc.) an alternate is to replace the traditional “M” with “name” or “name(s)” or to even leave it blank and just have a line... your guests will know what to do.

Alternate wording examples for guest’s options: feel free to have fun with this!
“Graciously Accepts” & “Respectfully Declines”
“Joyfully accepts” & “Regretfully declines”
“Will be there” & “Will toast from afar”
“Wouldn’t miss it” & “Will celebrate from afar”

If you are having a plated dinner, your caterer will most likely require a count for each meal selection. You can collect this information by adding the meal options to your RSVP card. Typically you would write “please initial each guest’s entree choice” The entrees can be listed in either word or icon format.

Lastly, it’s a good idea to include a line for guests to fill in the number of guests from their party that will be attending. Just in case not every member from the family is able to attend.

Additional Insert Cards

SMALL INSERT CARDS (3.5x5 or 3.5x3.5)

Common uses:

Reception:

If the reception is held at a separate location, it should be treated as a separate event. The reception card should include all the details for the event: venue, address, time, etc.

Wedding Website:

If you have a website, the small insert card is a perfect place to direct guests to your wedding url for additional or all wedding details.

LARGE INSERT CARDS (4.25x5.5 or 4.5x6.25)

Common uses:

Accommodations:

It is common practice to block rooms off at one or more hotels near your wedding venue for guests that are staying overnight. The large insert is a great place to let guests know where they can book their stay, the deadline they need to make their reservations to receive group rates, shuttle service info, etc.

Weekend Activities:

If you are having planned, organized events and meals surrounding the days leading up to and after the wedding, including an insert for the planned activities can be very helpful. It basically serves as an itinerary listing the days, corresponding activities, times and locations.