



Invitation Wording Guide

tips and examples for wording your wedding invitations

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

3 *Sivienne Kathleen*
to
James Edward Warner

4 SATURDAY, THE NINTH OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE
AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

5 OAK CITY CHURCH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

6 *Reception to follow*

1. HOST LINE

The name(s) of the host(s) 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 implies that those individuals are married. Names of unmarried hosts should be stacked.

2. REQUEST LINE

See page 4 for a list of 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.

4. DATE AND TIME

Try not to use abbreviations. Spell out the month, day, year and time. 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, city and state of your ceremony. It is traditional to not include the full address..

6. CLOSING LINE

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. See page 4 for a list of closing line examples.

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

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

Vivienne Kathleen
to
James Edward Warner

*To mention the groom's parents, list their names below his,
"son of Mr. and Mrs. John 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

TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Vivienne Kathleen Hamilton
and
James Edward Warner

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

*This format is popular among couples with
complicated family situations*

Both Families Hosting

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
and
James Edward

*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

Vivienne Kathleen Hamilton
i
James Edward Warner

Request Phrases

MORE FORMAL/TRADITIONAL

1. Request the *honor of your presence* at the marriage of...
'honor of your presence' is used when the ceremony takes place in a house of worship. It's okay to use the British spelling, 'honour'—just make sure you remain consistent and use 'favour' on your response cards.
2. Request the *pleasure of your company* at the marriage of...
'pleasure of your company' is the traditional phrase used when the ceremony takes place outside of a house of worship.

MORE CASUAL

3. Invite you to celebrate the marriage of
4. Invite you to share in their joy at the marriage of
5. With great joy (hosts) request the honor of your presence at the marriage of
6. Joyfully request the pleasure of your company
7. Cordially invite you to celebrate the marriage of
8. The honor of your presence is requested at the marriage of
9. Together with the love of their families

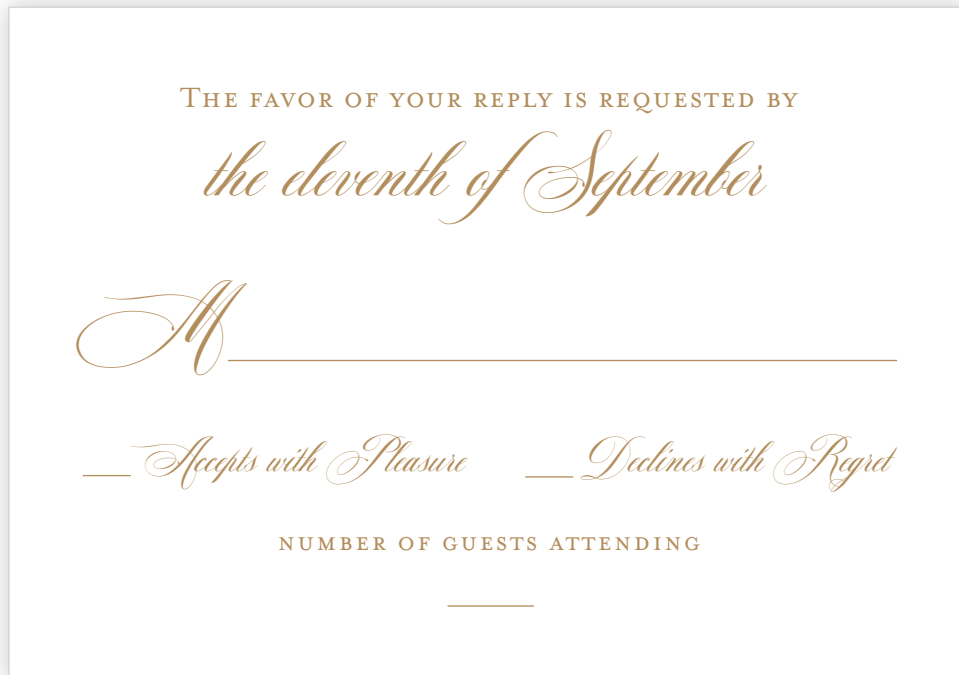
BRIDE AND GROOM HOSTING

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

Closing Phrases

1. Reception to follow
2. An evening of celebration to follow
3. Dinner and dancing to follow

Response Cards



- 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 your 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!

1. Graciously Accepts & Respectfully Declines
2. Joyfully accepts & Regretfully declines
3. Will be there & Will toast from afar
4. 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 and Other Information

We can often times double up information onto one larger insert card—a separate card is not required for each set or category of information. That being said, we also don't want the cards to become too overcrowded with text—we want to leave a little breathing room.

RECEPTION

If the reception is held at a separate location, it should be treated as a separate event and have its own dedicated card/section of a card. The reception card should include all the details for the event: time, venue, address, dress code, etc.

ACCOMMODATIONS

It is common practice to block rooms off at one or more hotels near your wedding venue for out-of-town guests that are staying overnight. Include the hotel name(s), location, and phone number (*optional*) the deadline they need to book by to receive discounted rates (*if applicable*), shuttle service info, and any other applicable information.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

WELCOME PARTY / FAREWELL BRUNCH

If you are having planned, organized events and meals surrounding the days leading up to and/or 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.

WEDDING WEBSITE

If you have a website, there are a couple of options:

1. You can opt to have just one smaller insert card directing guests to your website for all wedding details.
2. You can add your wedding website at the bottom of any insert card.