



Lesson Ten:
**THE
RECEPTION**



VENUE SET UP:

Once the Bride is down the aisle at the ceremony, it is time to race to the reception site to make sure everything looks good and take care of any last minute details. Light candles, put out snacks, set up the card and gift table, take the guest book and any other decor from the ceremony, etc. This can be a hectic time. If you have an assistant, this is a great place for her/him to help you. Most of the work should have been done earlier that morning or the day before.

BRIDAL PARTY ENTRANCE:

You can usually have the Maid of Honor or photographer text you when the bridal party is on the way to the reception so you can greet them. When they arrive, it is a great time to pull the Bride aside and bustle her dress, take off her veil and change her shoes.

DINNER AND MINGLE TIME:

The Bride and Groom are the first to eat, followed by the bridal party and family. If it is a buffet, the Bride and Groom will get done eating first and this is an opportune time for them to make their way around the room to greet and chat with their guests. It is often a good idea to follow them and help keep them on track and not get sidetracked talking to one table for too long.

TOAST:

There are many different ways to do toasts at a wedding. A great time to do the toast is right after dinner and after the Bride and Groom have made their way around the room. You will want to have the conversation with the Bride about who all will be speaking in order to block out the allotted time. Typically, the Maid of Honor and Best Man will do a toast. Occasionally the Father of the Bride will speak and/or the Bride and Groom will speak.

CUTTING THE CAKE:

Most of the time the Bride and Groom do not know how to cut their cake properly. During the toast is a great time to prepare the cake table. Place 1 plate, 2 forks and a few napkins on the table for them to use while cutting. Making sure the knife is there ready to go. Right after the toasts are complete - grab the toasting glasses and walk the Bride and Groom to the cake table. Before the photographer starts to take pictures, quickly remind the Bride and Groom how to cut the cake. *(See video)* Some hotels and caterers will cut the cake for the guest. If this is not available, the Bride will want to delegate aunts or friends to help with this. Your job is to make sure they know how to cut and they have all of the supplies they need. Keep extra knives and tools in your emergency kit to help with the cake cutting.

SPECIAL DANCES:

Starting the special dances right after cutting of the cake is the best way to get the party started! First will be the Bride & Groom's First Dance, next is the Father of the Bride and Bride, then the Mother of the Groom and Groom.

GARTER & BOUQUET:

First and foremost, there should be a toss bouquet separate from the actual Bride's bouquet. The toss bouquet needs to be at the reception. Keep it close to the DJ table so you can grab it easily when it is time. When you hand the toss bouquet to the bride, grab a napkin to dry off the stems so it does not leave water marks on her dress. Let the DJ take it from there to announce all the single ladies to the dance floor.

The garter is a fun tradition that most brides like to partake in on their wedding day. While the Bride is getting dressed the Maid of Honor can help put the garter on her and it makes for a fun picture. The Bride typically does not want to wear the garter all day, so as the coordinator you can keep it in your purse and put it on her right before the garter toss at the reception. This way you do not have to worry about it falling off or losing it.

MONEY DANCE:

The money dance, honeymoon dance, dollar dance (or whatever you choose to call it) can go two ways. Most couples are taking it out of their reception because they would rather spend that time mingling and talking with their guest. The money dance can take a long time and can cause guests to leave early. If the Bride wants to do a money dance, you will want to give the Best Man and Maid of Honor a bag or bucket of some sort to put the money in. The Maid of Honor will take the money for the Groom and the Best Man will take the money for the Bride. If the Bride has no one in her line the Best Man will dance with her and same with the Maid of Honor and Groom. Make sure they know to move quickly through each person in order to save time. After the money has been collected it is best to either give it to the Mother of the Bride, put it in the Bride's bag at the head table or store it in a locked room with the other cards and gifts.

PARTY TIME:

That's a wrap! Just kidding...there are still a few more things to do before you leave! Check in with the Bride to see if she needs another drink or a water. Go around and tidy up. Clean up the snack table, throw away trash, make sure the cards and gifts are in a secure spot and start to gather your things. Always talk to the Mother of the Bride before leaving. Let her know where everything is at for tear down and where the gifts are located. If you have an assistant or someone coming to handle tear down, tell them where everything is at and how to clear off all the tables.



