

# Order of Events at the Reception

TIME	EVENT
	<b>Cocktail Period.</b> By beginning with a cocktail period, you will give your guests a chance to gather at the reception facility, deposit their gifts, and meet and mingle with other guests. It will also provide time for lost guests to find their way to the reception. Meanwhile backstage, this time can be used by the photographer to take portraits of the wedding party. If desired, the bridal couple can arrange to eat at this time, ensuring that they will indeed get to eat, thus freeing up their time to mix and mingle with guests later on during the lunch/dinner portion of the reception. The cocktail reception usually takes place outside the reception hall.
	<b>Receiving Line.</b> The bridal couple opens up the reception hall with a receiving line and invites everyone inside. This will ensure that the bridal couple will have the opportunity to greet each guest at least once during the festivities. The reception line traditionally includes the bridal couple, the couples' parents, the best man, the maid-of-honor, and any special guests.
	<b>Introduction of the Wedding Party.</b> Once the guests are inside the reception hall, the wedding party is then introduced by the emcee as they parade inside. First comes the groomsmen and bridesmaids, then the flower girls and ring bearer, the parents, and the bridal couple.
	<b>Dancing (Option #1).</b> Jeff Allen, our resident dance expert, suggests "that the First Dance, Father and Daughter Dance, etc. occur before dinner immediately upon the Bride & Groom's introduction to the reception area, for several good reasons. Primarily, it allows the dancing to begin much earlier in the reception thereby eliminating a lull in activities that so often happens. Once the bride and groom have danced, and then the parents and attendants, then the guests will feel comfortable dancing while others may be eating or in a buffet line. This will allow many of the guests who know how to ballroom and Latin dance to do so on a non-congested dance floor."
	<b>Toasts.</b> The best man will then make the first toast, followed by the maid-of-honor, the father-of-the-groom and the father-of-the-bride. If they so choose, the bridal couple can make a speech thanking the guests for coming, the parents for paying, and anything else they may wish to say.
	<b>Lunch/Dinner is Served.</b> During this time, the bride and groom (if they have already eaten) can mingle and make informal visits to each table, or even have table pictures taken by the photographer. If guests wish to make speeches, sing songs, tell jokes, do a skit, this would be the ideal time.
	<b>Dancing (Option #2).</b> If the bride and groom haven't danced their first dance yet, they may now take the opportunity to open up the dance floor with their first dance. Then the father/daughter dance, then the mother/son dance. The attendants then join in the dancing and then the guests are invited to dance as well.
	<b>Cake Cutting.</b> The bride and groom cut the cake for dessert. Additional toasts may be made at this point.
	<b>Bouquet and Garter Toss.</b>
	<b>More Dancing, if time allows.</b>
	<b>Departure of the Bridal Couple.</b> Amid confetti, bubbles, birdseed, or rice.
	<b>Departure of the Guests.</b>

In structuring your reception timeline, make sure to consult with your photographer, your disc jockey or musicians, your reception facility representative

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and/or caterer, and your bridal consultant if you have one. Also make sure your master of ceremonies is familiar with the scheduling of events.

*[This is another worksheet from BlissWeddings.com.*

*A collection of ALL our worksheets is available by downloading the "Bliss! Weddings Wedding Planner" from MyFreeWeddingPlanner.com]*

We at Bliss! Weddings wish you much  
love and laughter on your wedding day and  
everyday thereafter. Best Wishes!

We are happy to present you with this worksheet from our website **Bliss!  
Weddings** [www.blissweddings.com] in a printable and easy-to-fill-in format. We  
hope that this worksheet will help you achieve wedding day bliss!

For more wedding-planning information, please be sure to visit our website  
where you can find:

Wedding floral charts	Discussion forums
Articles and guides	Ask the Experts
Interactive tools	Bridal fashion galleries
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Also available is the **Bliss! Weddings Bridesmaid's Mini-Guide**. It contains  
information that will help bridesmaids better assist in the bride's quest to achieve  
the perfect wedding! It may be downloaded at:

[http://www.blissezine.com/wedding\\_planner/bridesmaid-guide.PDF](http://www.blissezine.com/wedding_planner/bridesmaid-guide.PDF)

Feel free to forward this worksheet to your engaged family members and friends.

### **Contact Us!**

If you have any comments, suggestions, additions, complaints, etc., please be sure  
to email us at [info@blissweddings.com](mailto:info@blissweddings.com).

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# WeddingForums.com

Be sure to visit [www.weddingforums.com](http://www.weddingforums.com), a community of engaged and newly married couples exchanging ideas and advice.

Wedding Day Planning	Ask The Experts	Monthly Groups	Regional Forums - International
Beauty & Health	Wedding Etiquette	January Weddings	Africa
Budgeting/Financing/Legal Issues	The Next Step (Dance and Music)	February Weddings	Asia
Ceremonies	Fashion	March Weddings	Australia & New Zealand
Classified Ads		April Weddings	Canada
Dealing with Vendors		May Weddings	Caribbean
Decorative Arts and Crafts	<b>After The Wedding</b>	June Weddings	Central America
Ethnic Weddings	Newlywed Journals	July Weddings	Europe
Floral Frenzy	Moving In	August Weddings	Mexico
Groom's Forum	Starting a Family	September Weddings	Middle East
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Invites, Announcements, & Programs	Your In-Laws and You	December Weddings	
Jewelry			
Pre-Wedding Parties			
Religious Weddings			
Second-Time Brides			
The Reception			
Wedding Entourage			

Regional Forums - United States of America			
Alabama	Indiana	Nebraska	Rhode Island
Alaska	Iowa	Nevada	South Carolina
Arizona	Kansas	New Hampshire	South Dakota
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Jersey	Tennessee
California	Louisiana	New Mexico	Texas
Colorado	Maine	New York State	Utah
Connecticut	Maryland	North Carolina	Vermont
Delaware	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Virginia
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	Washington (State)
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Hawaii	Mississippi	Oregon	West Virginia
Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Illinois	Montana	Puerto Rico	Wyoming

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