

Traditional Wedding Invitation Wording

To do, or not to do.

- No punctuation is used except after courtesy titles such as Mr. and Dr.
- Capitalize beginning of sentences, not at the beginning of every line. Names and titles need capitals too.
- Numbers in the date are spelled out and follow the day of the week. Be sure to spell out the year if you choose to include it.
- Time is spelled out. Examples:
 - Half after two or half past two (not 2:30 p.m.)
 - Three o'clock in the afternoon (not 3:00 p.m.)
 - Seven o'clock in the evening
- Don't use short forms of words

Inviting 101

The phrase "**the honour (or honour) of your presence**" is traditionally reserved for worship services or a wedding that takes place in a church or synagogue.

The "**pleasure of your company**" or "**honour of your company**" usually indicates that the service will not be a worship service.

Other wording for this line includes:

- ...would like you to help celebrate the marriage of
- ...invite you to celebrate with them at the marriage of
- ...would consider it a blessing if you could be present at the marriage of
- ...request the pleasure of your company
- ...request the pleasure of your presence

The return address and reply address

The return address printed on the envelope flap should be the address of those hosting the event, not necessarily the bride and groom. Names are not commonly used with a formal return address.

Having your name and address pre-printed on the front of the Response Card envelope is a good way to encourage your guests to respond promptly. Traditionally the hosts' name and address should appear on the response envelope. However you may use the address that is most convenient.



Child free event

There really is no easy way to tell your guests that their beloved children are not invited. The most subtle approach is to spread the "no children" restriction by word of mouth or on your wedding website. If you are looking for a more "formal" statement, here are two ways to avoid putting the bad news directly on the invitation:

- Note "Adult Reception" on the reception card
- On the response card:
Please respond on or before (Date)
M _____
Number of Adults _____

Examples of Invitation Wording Depending on Who Hosts

Bride's parents:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Kara Marie
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan
on Saturday, November 27
at half past eight o'clock in the evening
153 North Rosewood Street
Sarnia, Ontario

Bride's parents, divorced:

Mr. Charles Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Dwyer
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Kara Marie
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan

Bride and groom's parents:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith
and
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Callahan
invite you to share in the ceremony
uniting their children
Kara Marie
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan



Bride and groom's parents, divorced (example 1):

Mr. Charles Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Dwyer
together with
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Cowan
invite you to share in the ceremony
uniting their children
Kara Marie
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan

Bride and groom's parents, divorced (example 2):

Mr. Charles Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Dwyer
request the honor of your company
at the marriage of their daughter
Kara Marie
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan
son of
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Cowan
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Mason

Bride and groom's parents, divorced (example 3):

Please join our families
on this special occasion
when our children
Kara Marie
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan
will be married

Bride, groom, and parents hosting (example 1):

Together with their parents
Kara Marie Simon
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan
request the honor of your presence
at their marriage



Bride, groom, and parents hosting (example 2):

Kara Marie
to
Elan Jonathan
together with their parents
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simon
and
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Cowan
invite you to share in the joy
when they exchange marriage vows
and begin their new life together

Bride and groom hosting:

Miss Kara Marie Simon
to
Mr. Elan Jonathan Cowan
request the honor of your presence
at their marriage

Bride, groom, and children hosting (example 1):

Miss Kara Marie Simon
to
Mr Elan Jonathan Cowan
along with their children
Anne and Peter
invite you to join in the blending
of their families through marriage

Bride, groom, and children hosting (example 2):

Anne and Peter
invite you to the ceremony
that will make them brother and sister
and that will make their parents
Kara Marie Simon
to
Elan Jonathan Cowan
husband and wife

