

EPISODE 58  
LEVEL B2

READING COMPREHENSION



A WEDDING DAY

Dear Kate,

I wish you had been at Mark and Anita's **wedding**! It was such a fantastic ceremony!

I know you couldn't make it, but don't worry, I'll tell you all about it.

First there was the **white wedding** in church. Oh, they looked so beautiful together when they were walking to the **altar** before the ceremony started! Anita was wearing an amazing dress with a long **veil** (= long piece of thin material attached to a woman's hair) and holding a tiny **bouquet** of white roses (= a bunch of flowers arranged in a special way). And Mark looked so elegant in his **tuxedo** (= a kind of elegant suit). You know how I like weddings, and so I cried when they were **exchanging marriage vows** and rings (= promising love and faithfulness to each other). It was so moving - '**till death do us part.**' (= a part of what people getting married say at the church, meaning 'until we die')

Do you know who **the best man** was (= male 'witness' during the ceremony)? It was Mark's younger brother, Jimmy, I bet you've seen him before. And the **bridesmaids**, all dressed in blue, were Anita's friends (= female 'witnesses').

When the ceremony at church finished, the **bride** (= woman who is getting married) and the **groom** (= man who is getting married) got into their car and all the guests went to the place where the **wedding reception** took place, out of the city. Everyone had a great time until **the small hours** (= hours like 2 or 3 a.m.). What a pity you couldn't be there with us!

I'm sending you a couple of pictures of **the newlyweds** (= a newly-married couple) and some from the wedding reception. I'll show you more when you come to visit me next time.

Love,

Aunt Lucy



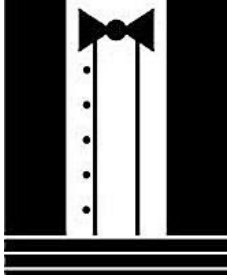




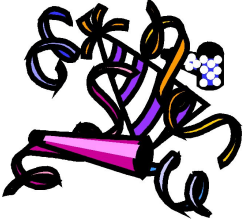
More contexts for the new words:

- Visitors must report to **reception** first. (= area where visitors meet)
- Don't forget to wear a **tux.** (= a tuxedo)



**EXERCISE 1**

Label the pictures.

	1. ....
	2. ....
	3. ....
	4. ....
	5. ....
	6. ....



## EXERCISE 2

Add the missing letters to complete the expressions (the number of dashes corresponds to the number of missing letters). Then decide which of these factors are the most important for a successful wedding, and which are the least important. Explain your choices.

1. a beautiful dress worn by the br \_ \_ \_
2. an elegant t \_ x \_ \_ \_ worn by the g \_ \_ \_ m
3. lots of food on the wedding r \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_
4. exchanging marriage v \_ w \_
5. a beautiful b \_ \_ q \_ \_ \_
6. a long v \_ \_ l

### ENGLISH IN USE



Aunt Lucy began her letter to Kate with:

*'I wish you had been at Mark and Anita's wedding.'*

We can actually learn a lot from this sentence: we know that Kate wasn't at the wedding and that aunt Lucy regrets it, is not happy about it.

When you regret a past situation, you would like something to have been different from the way it was, you use:

#### I WISH + person + PAST PERFECT

*I wish you had come to see me at hospital last week. (= I was sorry you didn't visit me)*

*Stan wishes he hadn't argued with his wife. (= he argued with her and now regrets it)*

*My sister wishes I had helped her with the party. She was very busy. (= I didn't help my sister and she thinks it is a pity I didn't)*

### IDIOM CLOSE-UP



- A/ Why did they call off the wedding at the last moment?  
B/ Apparently Jack **GOT COLD FEET**.

When you **get cold feet**, you suddenly feel nervous about doing something that you have planned or agreed to do.

**PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP** 

1. In a marriage ceremony, when you GIVE the bride AWAY, you formally bring her to the front of the church so that she is standing at the side of her future husband, and then give permission for her to marry.

*The bride **was given away** by her father.  
He wept when he was **giving** his daughter **away** in marriage.*

2. When you CALL something OFF, you decide that something will not happen.

*He's **called off** the wedding.  
If we have more rain, the game might be **called off**.*



**EXERCISE 3**

Transform the sentences so that they mean the same. Use the words in brackets.

1. The wedding was cancelled. [OFF]

.....

2. He got scared and thus did not propose to her. [FEET]

.....

3. She dreams of her uncle leading her to the altar on her wedding day. [AWAY]

.....

**NEWS** 

**RUNAWAY BRIDE**

What was supposed to be the wedding of the year ended up as the scandal of the year – and a complete failure. The celebrity couple, Zyta Zytowska and Michał Michaliński, were due to get married last Saturday in one of Warsaw's **quaint** little churches in the Old Town. However, apparently the bride got cold feet at the last minute, just as she **was about to** be given away by her ex-husband, the famous wrestler Robert Robertowski. Just as the organs

started playing Mendelssohn's Wedding March, Zyta

**turned on her heel** and headed onto the street. She caught a taxi and asked to be driven away in any direction, as fast as possible.

'She looked **scared out of her wits**,' recalls the taxi driver. 'I drove her to the train station.'

And that was the last anyone saw of her.

#### GLOSSARY

- **quaint** – attractive and old-fashioned
- **was about to** – was due to
- **turned on her heel** – turned quickly
- **scared out of her wits** – very scared

<b>KEY TO EXERCISES</b>
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#### Ex.1

1. a tuxedo
2. an altar
3. a bouquet
4. the bride
5. the groom
6. a wedding reception

#### Ex.2

1. bride
2. tuxedo, groom
3. reception
4. vows
5. bouquet
6. veil

#### Ex.3

1. The wedding was called off.
2. He got cold feet and thus did not propose to her.
3. She dreams of being given away by her uncle