

**CHEREE BERRY**

*Paper & Design*

**WEDDING INVITATION WORDING**

**CHEREEBERRYPAPERDESIGN.COM**

# WEDDING INVITATION WORDING

You can certainly have fun with the design of your invitation, but a good place to stick to tradition is in the wording. It will make your parents happy, won't confuse your guests, and really who doesn't love a little Emily Post etiquette sometimes?

Please read through this document and decide which format is most appropriate for you. If you have questions about your particular situation that are not addressed here, feel free to contact us.

Please use this editable electronic document to submit your wording decisions. We will also accept your text in a Word document if more convenient for you!

## WORDING QUICK TIPS



*For ceremonies held in a house of worship, the "honour of your presence" is substituted*

*"To" is traditionally used for Christian weddings or when someone other than the bride and groom is hosting; "and" is used for Jewish weddings*

*You would use "half after" six o'clock for a wedding at 6:30*

*Attire not usually specified unless Black tie or Black tie optional*

MR. AND MRS. JOHN JAMES SMITH

REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY

AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Emily Elizabeth

TO

Jason Adam Hutch

SATURDAY, THE FIFTH OF OCTOBER

TWO THOUSAND TWELVE

AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

BAYVIEW BOTANICAL GARDEN

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

BLACK TIE

*The host line indicates who is hosting the wedding*

*Only the bride's first and middle names are used as her last name has been listed above with her parents' names*

*The groom's full name is used, with or without "Mr."*

*Evening starts at 6pm. Use afternoon for anything before (unless it's a morning ceremony!)*

## THE HOST LINE

The majority of invitation wording questions regard the host line of an invitation.

Please read on to learn about some common host situations and the proper wording.

### IF THE BRIDE'S PARENTS ARE HOSTING THE WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. John James Smith  
request the pleasure of your company  
at the marriage of their daughter  
Emily Elizabeth  
to  
Mr. Jason Adam Hatch

### IF THE GROOM'S PARENTS ARE HOSTING THE WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bradford Hatch  
request the honour of your presence  
at the marriage of  
Miss Emily Elizabeth Smith  
to their son  
Mr. Jason Adam Hatch

### IF THE BRIDE'S PARENTS ARE HOSTING BUT YOU WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE GROOM'S PARENTS, TOO

Mr. and Mrs. John James Smith  
request the pleasure of your company  
at the marriage of their daughter  
Emily Elizabeth  
to  
Jason Adam Hatch  
son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bradford Hatch  
*or*

Mr. and Mrs. John James Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bradford Hatch  
request the pleasure of your company  
at the marriage of  
Emily Elizabeth Smith  
and  
Jason Adam Hatch

*Or at the marriage .....  
of their children*

### IF YOU PREFER TO SKIP SOCIAL TITLES

*The woman's name* ..... Jane and John Smith  
*goes first so that*  
*you don't break the* request the pleasure of your company  
*man's first and* at the marriage of their daughter  
*last name* Emily Elizabeth  
to  
Jason Adam Hatch

### IF THE COUPLE IS HOSTING THE WEDDING

Emily Elizabeth Smith and Jason Adam Hatch  
request the pleasure of your company  
at their marriage

### IF THE COUPLE IS HOSTING BUT WANTS TO INCLUDE THEIR PARENTS OR IF THE BRIDE AND GROOM AND THEIR PARENTS ARE CO-HOSTING

Together with their families  
Emily Elizabeth Smith  
and  
Jason Adam Hatch  
request the pleasure of your company  
*Or at their wedding* ..... at their marriage  
*celebration*

### IF PARENTS ARE DIVORCED AND NOT REMARRIED OR ARE HOSTING WITHOUT THEIR SPOUSES

Mrs. Jane Irving Smith  
*No "and" is used* ..... Mr. John James Smith  
*and they are placed* request the pleasure of your company  
*on separate lines* at the marriage of their daughter

### IF PARENTS ARE DIVORCED AND REMARRIED

Mrs. Susan Jones  
Mr. John James Smith  
request the pleasure of your company  
at the marriage of their daughter

# RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

## **JEWISH WEDDINGS**

According to Jewish tradition, marriages are made in heaven. Men and women are brought together to marry one another by God. Women are not married “to” men; rather, men and women are joined together in marriage. Because of this tradition, the joining word on Jewish wedding invitations reads “and” instead of “to.”

Jewish custom also celebrates the joining of two families, so the names of the groom’s parents usually appear on the invitation.

## **DIVORCED PARENTS**

The proper way to word an invitation when the bride’s parents are divorced is to list the bride’s mother on the first line and to list her father’s name on the line beneath it. The lines are not separated by “and.” Traditionally, the bride is “given away” by her parents. Therefore, it is generally only the names of the natural parents that properly appear on the wedding invitations.

If you have any questions about listing divorced parents or stepparents, don’t hesitate to ask.

# OTHER INFORMATION NEEDED

Other information we will need from you about your wording:

## REPLY CARD

The standard reply by date is one month before the wedding. If you prefer a different reply by date, please let us know. Wording for reply cards is fairly standard; however, you can have fun with your reply card copy! Let us know if you prefer more traditional reply card text (will attend/will not attend) or if you want something more whimsical. If you need an entrée selection on your reply card or responses for other weekend events, please let us know in advance.

THE FAVOUR OF A REPLY IS REQUESTED BY  
THE NINTH OF AUGUST

*M* \_\_\_\_\_

WELCOME RECEPTION  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Accepts with pleasure* \_\_\_\_\_ *Declines with regret*

WEDDING AND RECEPTION  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Accepts with pleasure* \_\_\_\_\_ *Declines with regret*

PLEASE INITIAL EACH GUEST'S ENTRÉE PREFERENCE.  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Beef* \_\_\_\_\_ *Fish* \_\_\_\_\_ *Vegetarian*

## ADDRESS FOR REPLY ENVELOPE

You'll love getting your responses in the mail! In most cases, the host family will collect the reply cards; however, we often times get requests from the bride to collect them.

*Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Dave*  
6424 NORTHPOINT DRIVE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

## RECEPTION CARDS

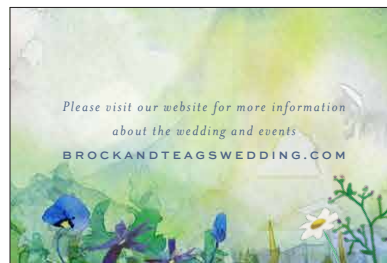
It is traditional to include a reception card when the ceremony and reception are taking place at two different locations. Reception cards should include the place, time (or simply “following the ceremony”) and if necessary, the address of the reception venue. They can also be used to specify attire. Traditional reception card wording is as follows:

*We like to use  
“Dinner and Dancing”  
or an alternative title  
for a little more fun*



## OTHER EVENTS/WEBSITE CARD

Including insert cards for other wedding events such as a rehearsal dinner, welcome party or brunch is becoming the norm with wedding invitation sets. If you would like to include insert cards for any of these events in your set, please let us know. This also avoids multiple mailings and postage/calligraphy costs. Couples are also including web cards to remind guests of their wedding website.



## RETURN ADDRESS FOR OUTER MAILING ENVELOPE

If an invitation doesn't make it to its final destination, it will be returned to the address on the envelope. Traditionally, this is the address of the person(s) issuing the invitation so it can either be the address of the bride's parents or the address of the bride and/or groom.

# INVITATION WORDING

Please complete the following form using our invitation wording guide as a reference.  
If there are any pieces that you do not plan to include in your set, please leave blank.

Once your wording is filled into the form below, please save this document as a PDF  
with the following naming convention: Wording\_FirstName LastName and email to  
your project manager.

## INVITATION

## OUTER MAILING ENVELOPE RETURN ADDRESS



**REPLY CARD**

**REPLY ENVELOPE ADDRESS**

**RECEPTION CARD**

## **WEBSITE CARD**

## **ANY OTHER WORDING NOTES OR QUESTIONS**

*Note: Additional content can also be submitted directly to your project manager by email.*