

"A Lesson on English" is a series of short lessons created for people who want to become fluent in conversational English. The lessons are practical and useful for students learning English in a traditional classroom setting or on their own.

International Leadership Institute

A Lesson on English

Volume 3, # 6 June 2009

June 2009

June, the wedding month

by Sara Tusek

- According to legend, the month in which you marry may have some bearing on the fate of the marriage:

"Married when the year is new, he'll be loving, kind and true;

When February birds do mate, you wed nor dread your fate;

If you wed when March winds blow, joy and sorrow both you'll know;

Marry in April when you can, joy for Maiden and for Man;

Marry in the month of May, and you'll surely rue the day;

Marry when June roses grow, over land and sea you will go;

Those who in July do wed, must labor for their daily bread;

Whoever wed in August be, many a change is sure to see;

Marry in September's shrine, your living will be rich and fine;

If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry;

If you wed in bleak November, only joys will come, remember;

When December snows fall fast, marry and true love will last".



- The Romans favored June weddings because that was the month dedicated to the observance of Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage. The sun's association with fertility also makes June appropriate.

- The tradition for the bride to wear white began in the 16th century, as a symbol of the bride's purity and worthiness. The tradition became solidified during the time of Queen Victoria who rebelled against the royal tradition for Royal brides to wear silver.

Instead, the queen preferred the symbolism which is expressed by wearing white.

- Roman brides were married in swathes of brilliant yellow head covering, while Viking queens wore metal skullcaps. Many Japanese brides still wear the traditional tsuno-kakushi -- a white hood that supposedly hides the horns of jealousy.

More wedding traditions

- It's unlucky to marry in the month of May because in Romans times the Feast of the Dead and the Festival of the Goddess of Chastity both occurred in May.
- Brides were thought to be particularly vulnerable to evil spirits, and many wedding customs originated to fight evil. The white veil would disguise the bride and fool the evil spirits. It was not until 1800 in Britain that the veil came to symbolize modesty and chastity. Today, the veil remains the ultimate symbol of virginity.
- The tradition of tying tin cans to the back of the newlywed's vehicle originated when items which would produce noise were tied to the back of the couple's carriage to scare away evil spirits.