



**Dare to be Different!**  
Humanist Wedding  
Celebrant and CONFETI  
contributor Natasha  
Johnson shows how  
you can break the rules  
to bring a spirit of fun to  
your big day



### *1 Walk down the aisle with your mum and dad*

Why not make a head-turning entrance by proudly showing off both your mum and dad as you walk down the aisle, or two of your nearest and dearest relatives or friends? Tradition dictates that it should be the father of the bride's role, based on the idea that the father is the head of the household, but for those who want to challenge traditions and inject a more modernistic approach by honouring their mothers as well as fathers, this could be the new trend to launch your celebrations.

### *2 Pick a seat, not a side*

As a wedding is all about the union of two individuals and their families, this new trend of getting your guests to sit wherever they like during the ceremony, rather than in a designated place, is fast becoming a popular one. Traditionally, the bride's family and friends sit on the left and the groom's on the right. However, these days friends are often mutual and family is a varied and multi-layered concept, so it doesn't always make sense to stick to the traditional idea, which sees people being divided instead of being united. Of course, family members can still be honoured by sitting in the rows closest to the bride and groom, but in order to achieve that feeling of unity, mixing everyone up and getting everyone acquainted is the perfect way to start.

### *3 Pass around your wedding rings*

There is no better way to ensure that your guests truly feel a part of your ceremony than

# 10 Cool THINGS TO DO ON YOUR Wedding Day

**W**hat better time to break the rules and kick-start new trends than at your own wedding? More and more couples are using their nuptials as the perfect

opportunity to be daring and to do something different. With weddings being an expression of love, not just for your spouse to-be but also for all your family and friends, there are many

ways that you can show your appreciation of them throughout your ceremony, right through to the reception and party!

by allowing them to hold your rings during the ceremony. The passing rings ritual allows each of your guests to give their blessings and good wishes to you by holding on to your rings for a few seconds before passing them on to the next guest. It really creates a special feeling amongst your family and friends, knowing that they have had the chance to bless your marriage. Add an additional special touch by requesting some background music - your favourite song or something that means a lot to you. This also adds to the occasion, making it specific to you.

#### 4 *Have a sing-a-long*

If you are having a church ceremony, your 'sing-a-long,' is more traditionally known as a hymn. However, even if you are not having a church ceremony, there is no reason that you cannot include songs and music throughout your ceremony. Singing a favourite song with your guests is a great way to include everyone. It makes your ceremony more upbeat and is a fantastic way to add some fun into the ceremony. Popular songs have included the Beatles'

*All You Need is Love* and *Here Comes the Sun*, or classics such as Dean Martin's *That's Amore*. It does not matter if your song is sung slightly out of tune, if a few beats are missed here and there, or if one of your guests thinks she is Beyoncé; it all adds to the fun spirit of the ceremony and sets the tone for the rest of the day.

#### 5 *Get your wedding party to learn a dance*

Why not extract the pressure from your first dance by getting your wedding party (bridesmaids, ushers, best man etc.) to learn a dance, which they will perform to you and the other guests? This year, Pharrell William's chart topping hit *Happy* is already strongly featuring on couples' wedding days, whether as a processional song or as a dance floor filler. A group dance is, without doubt, a fantastic way to get the party started and to step the proceedings up a gear. Its contagious enthusiasm

is certainly a sure way to get everyone else onto the dance floor, too.

#### 6 *Vocal brides and mystery speakers*

Sometimes we have to ask ourselves, why is it that tradition dictates that brides should not have a chance to poke fun at the groom or to tell the world how wonderful he is? Well, this could be your chance to change all that. More and more brides are stepping up to the mic and speaking up, rather than being a silent participant in her husband's, best man's and father's speeches. Of course, public speaking may not inspire everyone and some brides may feel nothing but relief at being allowed to remain mute, but for those who fancy their chances - what is stopping you? Stand up and sing your man's praises - or not! Another new trend is for the bride and groom to place all of their guests' names into a hat and, during the course of the dinner, to draw out random names. Each named guest has to stand and say a few impromptu words about the couple. This can be great fun and is another way to allow your friends and family truly to participate in your big day.

#### 7 *Wow everyone with a magician / kids' entertainer*

Children and adults alike can marvel at the wonders of a professional magician, which makes the perfect complement

to a wedding reception. Not only is it a nice touch, but it's also a great way to keep your day flowing and help with the transition of certain elements of the day, such as from the ceremony to the cocktail/canapé hour. An entertainer for smaller children, such as balloon artists and comedy performers, can help to keep the little ones entertained and allows the grown ups to use this time to enjoy other activities.

#### 8 *Have an ice cream truck or candy bar*

There's nothing like the chance to go a bit retro on your wedding day and all these new fads such as ice-cream vans, candyfloss stands, candy bars and lemonade stands are great for that retro injection. Other trends include, cigar rolling artisans, caricaturists, Spanish sherry sommeliers and expert waiters who carve and serve jamón Serrano. All these things have the potential to add that extra wow factor to your nuptials in Spain.

#### 9 *Have a photo booth or instant photo guest book*

Feather boas, goofy glasses, fedoras and floppy rabbit's ears; why, it can only be a photo booth! To complement

your formal photos, why not add some fun and frolics to the proceedings by inviting all of your guests to glam up and put on their stupidest face and biggest smiles for the camera. How fantastic it will be to look back on those photos not just after the wedding but in the years to come? Another great idea is to create instant photo guest books. Entrust an usher or brides maid to take Polaroid shots of your guests, get the guests to write their comments into the book and then attach the photo to the page with your guests' individual comments. It's as easy as that! And of course, makes a beautiful memento for the future.

#### 10 *Have a Flamenco show*

Add even more Spanishness to your dream Spanish wedding by hosting a flamenco show. Full of colour, culture and passion, your guests will get to experience the unforgettable sounds of flamenco singing, the sensual dance moves and rhythmic guitar music, all spelling out tales of love and heartbreak. Transporting your guests to this fantastical Spanish world may even mean they momentarily forget they are at your wedding reception! So why not wow them with this experience?

