

invitation *wording* guide

The invitation should include:

- Names of the couple
- Names of the hosts (traditionally the parents)
- Ceremony date, day of week, time, location and potentially dress code or response date

The names of the hosts should be listed at the top of the invitation, whether that's one or both sets of parents, you as a couple or you can simply not acknowledge a host and write 'you are invited to'. As times move forward, it is becoming more and more common for celebrations to be 'hosted' by the family rather than just parents. So the trend is moving more towards inclusive terms such as 'together with their families'.

The word 'and' in between two names traditionally implies that those people are married. *Names of unmarried hosts or guests should be stacked, but there's no hard a fast rules with this. Most couples ignore this rule in modern times of today.*

The phrase "request the honour of your presence" is typically reserved for a church or place of worship. If the wedding ceremony and reception are being hosted in the same location, there is no need for a separate reception card. At the bottom of the invitation, you can simply state "Reception to follow" or "Dinner and dancing to follow".

Abbreviations are not used in traditional wording such as, middle names, street information and state names. They are spelled out. But in modern times, couples are opting for a more casual approach. If you do choose to list the date or any other information in a more casual manner, be consistent across all pieces of the invitation suite, it looks a lot nicer!

Examples

BOTH PARENTS HOSTING (Traditional)

*Mr & Mrs Orazio & Rosa Anastasi
Together with
Mr & Mrs Charlie & Grace Attana
request the pleasure of the company of
Guest Name at the wedding of
Lauren & Michael
Saturday the twenty fourth of January
Two Thousand and Fifteen
at St Patrick's Church
268 Grote St, Adelaide
at two o'clock in the afternoon
Reception to follow
at John DiFede Reception Centre
10 Freebairn St, Windsor Gardens
at six o'clock in the evening
Formal attire
Kindly respond by the first of December
Two Thousand and Fourteen*

HOSTING WITH FAMILY (Casual)

*Together with their families
Lauren & Michael
would love your company at their wedding
Saturday, 24 January 2015
2:00pm
John DiFede Reception Centre
10 Freebairn St, Windsor Gardens
Celebrations to follow*

GIFT REGISTRY (Traditional)

Your presence at our wedding is the greatest gift of all. However should you wish to help us celebrate with a gift, we have registered a gift list with {Registry Name}. We hope that this registry will make it more convenient for you to select something that you know we will love.

WISHING WELL (Casual)

If you wish to honour us with a gift, a contribution towards our wishing well would be greatly appreciated.

In the end, whatever wording and format you choose, we suggest keeping these tips in mind:

- Use the correct names for invited guests wherever possible. *If you don't know the names of your cousin's new boyfriend, ask! Using the correct names will make people feel truly welcome and honoured.*
- Do not print "no gifts" anywhere on your invitation suite. *Even if that is truly your preference, this message presumes your guests were planning to give you gifts to begin with. Again, ask your family and wedding party to help communicate this message - however, be aware that some guests may insist on giving gifts.*

