

Spelling, Capitalization, and Writing Guide

BASIC TERMS

a cappella (italics)
aisle
altar
bridal
bridesmaids' luncheon
buttercream frosting
cakes – "tiered" if more than 1 layer
candelabrum (sing.)
candelabra (plural)
NOT candelabras or candelabrams
champagne (NOT Champaign)
complement (bring to perfection)
compliment (expression of praise)
double-ring
double-decker bus
Dr. and Rev. (Don't use "THE" before)
fairy-tale (as an adjective)
fairy tale (as a noun)
Father, not Fr.
flautist
flower girl
hors d'oeuvres
ganache
great-grandmother
(hyphenate all forms)
groomsman/groomsmen
maid of honor
Monsignor (Catholic Priest – use only
this title when used.) "Msgr."
Mr. and Mrs. John Smith Jr.
(no comma)
Ms.
oceanfront
petit four
ring bearer
sacrament of holy matrimony
second line
sixpence
The Old Capitol Inn

The Capital Club of Jackson
The couple resides
The couple is at home
The Very Reverend

CLOTHING

A-line
agata (type of beading)
Alençon lace (option + c for symbol)
ball gown
basque waistline (a cap B is a city)
Battenburg lace
bateau neckline
Belgian lace
Biedermeier
bobbinet
brooch
bustline
cathedral-length
chapel-length
Chantilly lace
crepe-backed
crisscross
crocheted lace
cummerbund
dropped waistline
duchess
dupioni shantung
fingertip-length
flared NOT flaired
Godarvi Dupion silk
godet
hand-beaded
handmade
hand-sewn
hand-tatted
hemline
illusion veil (not veil of illusion)
lamore satin
l'amour

lamé silk
Monique Lhuillier
pavé
peau de soie
peplum
pick-ups
point d'esprit lace
portrait neckline
princess waistline
redesigned
redingote
re-embroidered lace
ruched
sabrina neckline
schiffli embroidery or lace
shantung
sheath
tricotine
Valenciennes lace
V-neckline
soutache
Swarovski

FLOWERS

boutonnieres
hand-tied
tussie-mussie (or tussie-mussies)

Capitalize only specific breeds:

Akito white (rose)
astroemeria
American Beauty
aspidistra
bells of Ireland
bridal rose
bupleurum
calla lily (or lilies)
Carnaval
Casablanca lily (or lilies)
cattaleya

Cool Water (rose)
chrysanthemums
crape myrtles
Cymbidium orchid
Dendrobium orchid
Eskimo
Freesia (sing.) or Freesias (pl.)
Gerbera daisies (not Gerber)
gladiola (sing.) gladioli (plural)
hydrangea or hydrangeas
hypericum berries
Konfetti
larkspur or larkspurs
Leonidas Rose
lily of the valley (or lilies of the valley)
lisianthus
long stem or long stemmed
lysimachia
Mokara orchid
Mona Lisa roses
oriental lily (or lilies)
poppies
phalaenopsis
pittosporum
Porcelana
porcelain (roses)
Queen Anne's lace
ranunculus or ranunculuses
ranunculaceous
seloum
solidago
star-of-Bethlehem
(a cap S is the biblical reference)
Stargazer lily (or lilies)
stephanotis
Tropicana
Tweedia
Vendela
viburnum
Vogue

COMMON GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION RULES:

- Use the Oxford (or serial) comma: *red, white, and blue.* (NOT: *red, white and blue.*)
- When a compound modifier (two or more words that express a single concept) precedes a noun, use hyphens to link all the words in the compound except adverbs that end in *-ly*: *chapel-length veil* or *asymmetrically draped bodice.*
- When describing the attire of attendants, make sure nouns are in number agreement: *The bridesmaids wore pink dresses.* OR: *Each bridesmaid wore a pink dress.* (NOT: *The bridesmaids wore a pink dress.*)
- Omit the word "Mississippi" after towns that are in Mississippi. Spell out the names of other states after the city: *The bride is from Gulfport. The groom is from Austin, Texas.* Do not use postal abbreviations.
- Use semicolons when necessary. The most common instance is when listing attendants and their hometowns, when at least one hometown is outside Mississippi: *Bridesmaids were Dianne Williams of Jackson; Mary Smith of Chicago, Illinois; and Jenny Taylor of Miami, Florida.*
- Use an apostrophe in bachelor's degree.
- When a couple's name is listed together, the female's name goes first and the male's name goes next to the surname: *Melanie and Locke Ward.* (NOT: *Locke and Melanie Ward.*)
- When referring to your wedding date, write out the entire date: *July 5, 2013.* (NOT: *the 5th of July.*)
- When referring to the time of your wedding, write formally as follows: *five o'clock in the afternoon* OR: *half past six o'clock in the evening.* (Afternoon begins at noon, evening begins at 6:00 p.m.)
- Do not put commas in short dress descriptions: *The bride wore a white strapless A-line gown.*
- Always keep punctuation inside the quotation marks: *Mrs. Smith sang "O Holy Night," "How Great Thou Art," and "We've Only Just Begun."*
- Remember that "couple" is singular: *The couple is at home in luka.* (NOT: *The couple are at home in luka.*)