

## Gifts

In Chinese cultures, wedding guests give gifts of money to the newlyweds in small red envelopes. Money is also an appropriate gift at Korean and Japanese weddings. Not all cultures, however, consider money an appropriate gift. In many Western countries, for example in the U.K., wedding guests give the bride and groom household items that they may need for their new home. In Russia, rather than receiving gifts, the bride and groom provide gifts to their guests instead. In Scotland, a week before the wedding ceremony, the bride's mother may invite the guests to her house and **show off** all the wedding gifts received, unwrapped, each with a card that has the giver's name on it.

With the continued internationalization of the modern world, wedding customs that originated in one part of the world are crossing national boundaries and have been incorporated into marriage ceremonies in other countries. Couples frequently use a variety of traditional customs from different cultures in creating a memorable wedding ceremony.

<sup>1</sup>**vice versa** the same, but also in reverse; the opposite is also true

<sup>2</sup>**vein** a small tube in the body that carries blood to the heart

<sup>3</sup>**bouquet** a group of flowers put together, usually to be given as a gift or to be held in a ceremony

## Reading Comprehension:

Check Your Understanding

**A** How much do you remember from the reading? Choose the best answer to complete each statement below.

- 1 The tradition of wearing a special dress only on one's wedding day is about \_\_\_\_\_ years old.  
a. 150    b. 2,000    c. 2,500
- 2 In some cultures, the bride wears a white dress as a traditional symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. modesty    b. purity    c. secrecy
- 3 In some Asian and Middle Eastern countries, which color is NOT considered to be a happy color for a wedding?  
a. red    b. orange    c. blue
- 4 According to the reading, in which country would the wedding guests give the bride and groom money?  
a. Brazil    b. the U.K.    c. China

**B** Complete the sentences with information from the reading. Write no more than three words for each answer.

- 1 In many cultures, a wedding ring is worn on the third finger because people believed this finger was connected \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 There is a belief that the person who catches the bride's bouquet will be the next \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 It is customary to engrave the bride and groom's names on wedding rings in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 In Scotland, the bride's mother may invite the wedding guests to her house in order to show off the \_\_\_\_\_.