

Wedding day games

Here's a selection of games that are common in Germany:

Cinderella

Each lady puts a shoe into the middle. The gentlemen pick a shoe and try to find the 'matching' lady for the next dance.

Balloon dance

Pick eight couples. Each man and each woman gets a balloon tied to one of their feet. Then the couples start to dance. During the dance, they try to make other couples' balloons burst. The pair whose balloons last longest are the winners.

Balloon competition

The party organiser buys a pre-franked postcard for each pair of guests. The bridal couple's address is printed on the front, the back is left blank for the guests to describe a nice surprise that they will do for the newly weds after the celebrations. For example: "We promise to clean your bicycles" or "We'll iron your laundry" or "We'll organise a Sunday brunch sometime soon".

The postcards are tied to balloons filled with gas (NB: don't fill them more than two hours in advance!). Then the balloons are released into seventh heaven.

While the newly weds are told about the game in advance, they know nothing about the surprises.

The surprise promises on the postcards that find their way back to the happy couple are later honoured by the people who made them.

Abducting the bride

Usually arranged by friends of the couple – without involving the best man or maid of honour – the abduction of the bride should be organised in such a way that she can be found by her new husband, or the witnesses:

- a) within a reasonable period of time, and
- b) in a not wholly unfamiliar location.

Auctioning the bride's shoes

In some regions, the bride's shoes are auctioned off during the wedding celebrations. An 'auctioneer' goes around with a hat or similar receptacle and the bidders throw an amount in.

In the end, the groom has to stick up for his wife and, complaining loudly, pay the amount raised himself. He then has to give the whole amount to his bride as housekeeping money.

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'Mr and Mrs' quiz

While this game does need a fair bit of preparation it can be equally amusing for both the newly weds and the guests. Questions are posed to the couple, who are separated by a wall, cloth or something similar. 'Who's the better cook?'; 'Who decides where you go on holiday?'; 'Who decides what you watch on TV?'; etc. The couple are each given cards with their two names on them and they hold up the card showing their answer.

Egg and spoon race

For this game, you need a soup spoon, a fair few blown-out eggs and at least ten chairs. The chairs are arranged in a row at least 80cm apart. One end is the start, the other the finish. Ten players are now drawn from amongst the guests. These ten now join the newly weds in the egg and spoon race.

All of the other guests gather around as the audience. The groom starts.

He puts the handle end of the spoon in his mouth and an egg is placed on the other end. Cheered on by the guests, he now runs as quickly as possible from the start to the finish. If the egg stays on the spoon, he then has to go backwards back to the start. Then comes a slalom run around the chairs, first forwards and then backwards. Finally, he has to balance his way across the chairs. If more than one player completes the course without dropping the egg, these then compete against each other. At this stage, the task is made increasingly difficult, with the runners blindfolded or made to hop. The ultimate winner will have earned a small prize.

Flipper dance

If you enjoy a bit of fun, then the 'Flipper dance' could be just the right thing. You need two pairs of flippers and, if you like, you can also give the men bathing caps and water wings. Now it's all about who, with these really awkward flippers on their feet, can dance in the funniest way to music, which should be as fast as possible. The couple who get the most applause are later crowned as the winners.

Rolling pin game

Between ten and fifteen guests line up next to each other. The bride is the first in line, the groom at the end. A spectator then puts a rolling pin between the groom's knees. He must now waddle over to his bride and manoeuvre the rolling pin into place between her knees – without using his hands! If he achieves this masterpiece, the bride then has to convey the pin to the person next to the groom and so on. Anyone who drops the rolling pin owes a forfeit. Based on the old German saying 'What's this forfeit worth to me, what should be done to redeem it?', a draw is made at the end of the game to determine who has to pay their forfeit and how.

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Umbrella dance

All of the guests attending the reception sign a large white umbrella. When they have all signed, the umbrella is handed to the bridal pair for a dance.

Parasol dance

All you need is a large parasol, confetti and streamers. The couple dance under the parasol (e.g. to a waltz), while the guests throw streamers over it from all sides. It makes for a romantic memory and a great picture for the photo album.

Snake dance

Everyone can play along! All of the wedding guests gather together for the 'Snake dance'! Everyone stands one behind the other and puts their hands on the shoulders of the person in front. The snake then starts to move slowly to a march. The music then gets faster and faster, escalating from jolly hits to hot rock. In the process, the snake's head has to try to catch its tail!.

Veil dance

At midnight, the bride and groom dance beneath a bridal veil, which is held aloft by the best man and maid of honour. Anyone who wants to dance with the bride, has to 'cut in' with money, which they throw onto the veil (preferably notes). Another variant is to throw coins into a separate veil intended for paying the flower children or for a pram!

Danse des clés

Des clés sont distribuées aux invités sans que le couple de jeunes mariés ne le remarque. Le couple a jusqu'à minuit pour récupérer les clés en dansant.

Les clés ne peuvent pas leur être remises d'une autre façon. Pour être sympa avec les jeunes mariés, on devrait leur indiquer le nombre de clés à récupérer. A la fin, une seule clé peut ouvrir le « coffre-fort » dans lequel se trouve le cadeau destiné aux jeunes mariés (peut-être deux billets d'avion à destination d'une île déserte).

Key dance

Keys are given to the wedding guests, without the newly weds noticing. They are then given until midnight to dance their way to the keys.

The keys must not be handed over in any other way. To be fair, they ought to be told how many keys there are. Ultimately, one of the keys fits a 'treasure chest', in which there is a present for the couple (tickets to a secluded island hideaway, for example).

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Shoe mountain

All of the women take off one shoe and place it in a pile in the middle of the dance floor. The men then take any shoe they like, look for the woman it belongs to and accompany her onto the dance floor. When all of the shoes have found their way back to their owners, the dance begins.

Moment of truth

The bridal couple sit back to back. Each of them is given a homemade card on a stick with 'Yes' and 'No' printed on it. Somebody who has previously been organised to act as question master now confronts the newly weds with a series of 'truths', about which they must answer yes or no and which are as funny or ambivalent as possible (e.g. 'We prefer to bathe together', 'Sometimes we mix up our socks', 'She's responsible for the cleaning'). The aim of the game is to find as many statements as possible on which the pair agree.

Newspaper dance

Six male wedding guests are given an A6 sheet of newspaper. They fold it and put it in their trouser pockets. Then they dance with their partner. When the music stops, they have to spread out the newspaper as quickly as possible on the floor and stand on it with their partner. Both of them must have their shoes completely on the paper. The slowest couple drop out. The game becomes harder and funnier if the music is played faster and faster.

Calf ID parade

Choose a few couples. This time, the women have to leave the room, while the men roll up their trouser legs and line up on chairs next to each other. A lady is led in blindfold. She feels the men's calves and tries to find her partner. When she's made her choice, she kisses the man, still blindfold, to see if she made the right decision. Then all of the other women take their turn.