

Nigerian 'I dos'



Level: Advanced

Topic: Customs and culture

Key vocabulary: Bilingual lists in PDF and boxes. (Teachers can download this material from the online version of the magazine.)

Preparation: A copy of the article for each student, pictures or videos of weddings or wedding moments.

Objective: Students read about the celebration of marriage in Nigeria. They compare it to the way people celebrate weddings in their countries and value their own traditions.

Warm up

A vocabulary game is a great warming up activity. Playing "Hot Seat" seems challenging and also fun for your students. The objective of this game is to recycle vocabulary.

Choose 10 words that students may already know about weddings, for example: "bouquet," "a wedding dress," "ring," "party," "church," etc.

Divide your class into two teams and ask them to sit facing the board and to choose their players.

Ask the player from the first team to sit facing their teammates and also make sure they can't see the board.

Write the first word on the board. The members of each team try to elicit this word from the team member in the "hot seat" without saying the word or giving any clues as to its spelling. For example, if the word is "vitamins," players could make statements such as "what does a fruit have a lot of?" or "these are classified as letters, some are vowels." The team whose "hot seat" player first says the target word wins the point.

Give each team a reasonable length of time to discover the word (1 minute) and the game continues until all the words have been used. The team having the most points at the end of the game wins.

(The problem with this game is that your students may want to continue playing the whole class. You can tell them that they can play after they have mastered new vocabulary.)

Show your students pictures of weddings. Tell them they are going to read about the wedding customs of Nigeria.

Main Activity

Before handing the articles to students write “I do” on the board and pre-teach *groom* and *bride*. Allow a couple of minutes to discuss this short sentence. What do they think it means? If they know what it means, ask them in what moment do the groom and bride say it? What do people say in their countries when they get married?

1. Give each student a photocopy of the article.
2. Allow the students to read in pairs and do cooperative work, such as helping each other with vocabulary they don't know. Encourage them to guess meaning from context clues before using a dictionary or asking you.
3. You can always prepare comprehension activities and hand them out to students while they are reading.
 - a) Speaking: Ask students to compare Nigerian traditions with their own culture's wedding customs.
 - b) What are the main differences between a Nigerian wedding and a wedding in your country?
 - c) Are there any similarities?
 - d) What does a man do in your country when they want to propose?
 - e) Is there anything that you find really unusual about Nigerian's marriage proposals? What is it?
4. Review some grammar structures (adverbial clauses of time) to help students talk about weddings in their country. You can also review frequency adverbs. Give your students examples using a different festive occasion and then ask them to write their own examples about wedding ceremonies.

Example:

“My birthday is the day when I celebrate the time I was born. Before the date arrives I usually send out invitations to my friends telling them when and where I am going to have my dinner party. When the day arrives all my friends come over and bring me presents. My mom always greets my guests at the door. She enjoys being the hostess. Before the food is served, one or two of my friends give speeches. Right after dinner people often start dancing but they all know that midnight is the time when I open my presents. After I have opened every single present and thanked my guests, we all go back to dancing. It is always a very special night.”

5. Give students time to write their sentences about weddings.

Follow up

Project

“A wedding in my country”

Students can choose between writing about a typical wedding in their countries or they can write about a family wedding. Allow them to do what is more significant to them.

Their report should include information about the proposal, the engagement, the bachelor party, the wedding ceremony, and also the honeymoon.

Explain to students that they also have to make a poster to show the moments in pictures.

Have a class presentation with all the posters in the walls and give students time to go around the classroom checking their classmates' projects and asking questions. This activity is good for students who are too shy to stand and present their projects in front of the whole class.

In www.teatime-mag.com your students can read the articles that also feature attractive and motivating designs, as well as pictures that make reading easier and more appealing.

They can also listen to the articles as they read and download the audio version in mp3 format for free.

