

The Honeymoon: Should Be an Intimate, Restful Time for Couples

By Lynne & Al Toth

A couples honeymoon is the start of their life long celebration of marriage. We believe it is important to have a honeymoon that will allow the couple to become more intimate and closer together. This time is often necessary since many of the couples prior to their wedding day have been under tremendous stress preparing for their special day. Parents, friends and especially the reception, plus all the many activities all tend to leave the couple tired. Therefore, the honeymoon should be a time to relax, to talk to each other, to make love and be intimate with one another. Time to grow in their sacrament. It may be a life long dream to tour Europe in six weeks but it is also stressful and exhausting so we suggest putting this type of trip off for another time. The important part of a honeymoon is not how much you see or how much you do, or how much you spend. The important thing is how much more intimate and passionate you have become in your time together.

Honeymoons do not have to be long or terribly expensive. Sometimes a day or two at a nearby city can be just as great as two weeks in the Carribean. Activities that you both enjoy make a honeymoon great as long as the activities bring you together and don't make you exhausted or tense.

Expectations on a couples honeymoon can also lead to problems. If you planned a week of sun and ocean and have a week of rain you can easily become disappointed. We find it important to keep a sense of humor, since things never seem to go exactly as planned but hugs and laughs can turn a near catastrophe into a fun shared memory. We also have discovered a honeymoon does not have to be a one time occasion. Many couples, ei-

ther due to time or money, can't have their dream honeymoon but in five years it may be possible. Annual honeymoons are also a possibility whether it's a weekend or just a night alone. All of these are important and should contain the same basic elements as the first. Namely, time to be alone, to be romantic, to love and to be loved, to talk and to celebrate the gift God has given you - each other.

...THE TOAST...

The person giving the toast can use similes, metaphors, analogies, fables, stories or other special approaches. The danger in using these methods, however, is that the person giving the toast may focus attention on his or her own cleverness.

Experiment with ad lib comments. Time your speech. Bring in members of your family and friends to hear what you have prepared.

Can be led off by using a humorous incident that happened during the courting days of the couple, or a description of how the couple met.

Be Jitter Free

Share the wedding responsibilities. If you're the bride, don't assume you have to do everything yourself. This idea is old-fashioned, as well as exhausting. Ask your fiance to join you in picking out a catering hall and registering for gifts. He also can write a share of the thank-you notes, handle all the honeymoon arrangements.

Have a system for each task. Break each task into steps, then, decide how you'll tackle each step; how long it should take and who will do it. Set a completion date, for example, invitations should be mailed six weeks before the wedding.

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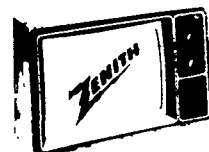


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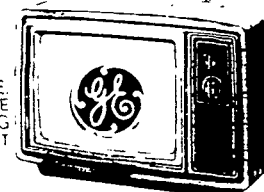
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