

The Ultimate Wedding Games Guide

Games, Icebreakers & Interactive Ideas That Actually Work

By Tony Winyard | Wedding Host & MC | 2,500+ Weddings

The Awkward Silence You're Worried About

You've seen it happen. The gap between ceremony and reception. Guests milling around. Your uni friends on one side. Your partner's work colleagues on the other. A few distant relatives hovering near the canapé tray. Plus-ones trying not to look like gatecrashers.

Nobody talking. Everyone on their phones.

That awkward lull is what couples email me about at 1 AM. "How do we get people to actually mingle?" "What if my guests don't know each other?" "Will it be weird?"

Here's what I've learned from 2,500+ weddings:

The ones people still talk about years later aren't the biggest or most expensive. They're the ones where strangers became friends. Where something happened that gave everyone a shared experience. Where by the end of the night, your dad was doing shots with your flatmate.

That's what games do. Not the cringeworthy, forced-fun kind that makes everyone cringe. The kind where participation is optional. Nobody gets embarrassed. And suddenly Aunt Mabel's laughing with someone she met twenty minutes ago.

This guide gives you everything: games that actually work, how to run them, and when to skip them entirely.

Hand it to your DJ. Or use it to plan yourself. Either way, you'll know what works.

Part 1: When Games Work (And When They Don't)

The Perfect Conditions

Games work brilliantly when:

- **Guest groups don't know each other.** Work friends meet uni friends meet family from overseas. Games give them something to talk about beyond "So how do you know the bride?"

- **There are natural lulls.** The gap between ceremony and reception. The transition from wedding breakfast to evening party. These moments need filling.
- **Your guests include non-dancers.** Not everyone wants to hit the dancefloor. Games give them something to enjoy too.
- **You want to involve all generations.** From kids to grandparents, games level the playing field.

When to Skip Them

Games might not suit your day if:

- **Your guests all know each other well.** A small, intimate wedding where everyone's already connected doesn't need the icebreaking.
- **You want a purely elegant, formal atmosphere.** Some couples prefer a sophisticated dinner party vibe. That's valid.
- **Time is tight.** If your schedule is already packed, games can feel rushed. Better to skip than to squeeze.
- **You or your partner actively dislike them.** If the idea makes you cringe, your guests will sense it. Your day, your call.

Part 2: The Mr & Mrs Game (The Shoe Game)

What It Is

The couple sits back-to-back on the dancefloor, each holding one of their own shoes and one of their partner's. The MC asks questions like "Who said 'I love you' first?" and the couple holds up the shoe of whoever they think the answer applies to.

Hilarity ensues when they disagree.

Why It Works

- **Low pressure for guests.** They're watching, not participating.
- **Reveals personality.** The couple's reactions tell a story.
- **Works for all audiences.** From kids to grandparents.
- **Creates a shared moment.** Everyone's laughing together.

How to Run It

1. **Timing:** After speeches or during the transition to evening entertainment. 10-15 minutes total.
2. **Setup:** Two chairs back-to-back, centre of the room. Each person holds one of their own shoes and one of their partner's.
3. **Questions:** Mix categories. Some romantic, some revealing, some silly.
4. **Pacing:** Don't rush. Let reactions land. The pauses are half the entertainment.

25 Sample Questions

Getting to Know Them:

1. Who made the first move?
2. Who said "I love you" first?
3. Who's more likely to forget an anniversary?
4. Who's the better cook?
5. Who takes longer to get ready?

Habits & Quirks: 6. Who hogs the duvet? 7. Who's always running late? 8. Who has the worst taste in music? 9. Who's more likely to binge a TV show? 10. Who leaves the most mess?

Decision Making: 11. Who planned the proposal? 12. Who chose where to go on your first date? 13. Who decided on this venue? 14. Who'll be in charge of the honeymoon budget? 15. Who's more likely to get lost?

Relationship Dynamics: 16. Who's the big spoon? 17. Who apologises first after an argument? 18. Who's more romantic? 19. Who's the stricter parent (or will be)? 20. Who's more stubborn?

Fun & Silly: 21. Who's more likely to cry at a film? 22. Who would survive longer on a desert island? 23. Who's better at assembling flat-pack furniture? 24. Who has worse morning breath? 25. Who's more likely to embarrass the other in public?

LGBTQ+ Adaptations

For same-sex couples, the game works identically. Just ensure questions don't assume gender-based roles. Instead of "Who wears the trousers?" try "Who's more likely to take charge?" Same laughs, fully inclusive.

Tips for Success

- **Test questions beforehand.** Run them past the couple to catch any sensitive topics.
- **Keep it clean.** Nothing that would embarrass Grandma.

- End on a sweet note. Final question: "Who's the luckiest to have found the other?"

Part 3: The DJ Battle

What It Is

The bride chooses 3-5 songs. The groom chooses 3-5 songs. Throughout the evening, they "battle" to see which songs get the best response from guests. Each person's songs are identified (usually by lighting colour or announcement), and guests vote with their dancing.

Why It Works

- Builds anticipation. Guests are invested in the outcome.
- Gets people dancing. Competition motivates even reluctant dancers.
- Showcases the couple's personalities. Their music choices reveal who they are.
- Creates talking points. "Are you Team Bride or Team Groom?"

How to Run It

1. **Preparation:** Each partner secretly submits their battle tracks to the DJ/MC before the day.
2. **Announcement:** The MC explains the rules early in the evening. "We're settling a debate tonight..."
3. **Execution:** Songs are played alternately through the evening, clearly identified.
4. **Voting:** Can be done by:
 - Cheering volume for each side
 - Physical movement (stand on bride's side or groom's side)
 - Paper voting cards
 - The DJ's judgement of dancefloor response
5. **Winner Announcement:** Build it up. Make it fun. Loser "owes" the winner something (a dance, a drink, deciding the honeymoon activity).

Track Selection Tips

For the Bride:

- Mix eras and styles
- Include at least one crowd-pleaser

- One wildcard that shows personality

For the Groom:

- Same approach
- Don't overthink it
- Pick songs you genuinely love

Both:

- Avoid slow songs (hard to judge dancefloor energy)
- Test for danceability
- 4-5 tracks each is plenty

Part 4: The Wedding Quiz

What It Is

A quiz about the couple, run during the wedding breakfast or drinks reception. Tables compete as teams. Questions range from "Where did they meet?" to "What's [Partner's] most annoying habit?"

Why It Works

- Tables talk to each other. People who've never met are suddenly collaborating.
- Guests learn about the couple. Even close friends discover new things.
- Non-intrusive. No one's put on the spot individually.
- Works during natural lulls. Perfect for between courses.

How to Run It

Format 1: Paper Quiz

- Printed quiz sheets on tables
- Guests discuss and write answers
- Answers revealed at the end
- Prize for winning table

Format 2: Live Quiz (Speedquiz-style)

- Guests use their phones
- Questions appear on screen

- Live scoring and leaderboard
- More interactive, tech-required

Format 3: MC-Led

- Questions read aloud between courses
- Tables shout answers or hold up cards
- Immediate feedback and banter

30 Sample Questions

How They Met:

1. Where did [Partner A] and [Partner B] first meet?
2. What was [Partner A] wearing when they first met?
3. Who spoke to whom first?
4. What did [Partner B] think of [Partner A] on first impression?
5. How long before their first kiss?

The Relationship: 6. Where was their first proper date? 7. When did they say "I love you"? 8. What's their favourite thing to do together? 9. What's the longest they've been apart? 10. What do they argue about most?

Personality: 11. What's [Partner A]'s most annoying habit? 12. What would [Partner B] save if the house was on fire? 13. Who's more likely to cry at a film? 14. What's [Partner A]'s hidden talent? 15. What's [Partner B]'s biggest fear?

Favourites: 16. What's [Partner A]'s favourite food? 17. What's [Partner B]'s favourite film? 18. What song would [Partner A] sing at karaoke? 19. What's [Partner B]'s go-to takeaway order? 20. What's [Partner A]'s guilty pleasure TV show?

The Wedding: 21. How many guests are here today? 22. What's the combined age of the couple? 23. How long have they been together? 24. Where are they going on honeymoon? 25. What flavour is the wedding cake?

Bonus/Tiebreaker: 26. In what year did they get engaged? 27. How many countries have they visited together? 28. What was playing when they first danced together? 29. What's their couple nickname? 30. How many photos are in their shared album?

Using AI to Generate Questions

Modern couples can use ChatGPT or Claude to generate personalised quiz questions. Simply provide:

- Where you met

- Key relationship milestones
- Each partner's personality traits and interests
- Any funny stories or inside jokes

The AI will generate dozens of tailored questions you can select from.

Prize Ideas

- Bottle of champagne
- Priority buffet access
- A dance with the bride/groom
- "Best Table" certificate
- Small gift (chocolates, voucher)

Part 5: Heads & Tails

What It Is

A simple elimination game. Everyone stands. They choose "heads" (hands on head) or "tails" (hands on backside). A coin is flipped. Wrong guess? Sit down. Last person standing wins.

Why It Works

- Quick to explain. Zero learning curve.
- Gets everyone moving. Even the reluctant ones.
- Creates energy. Great before or after speeches.
- Inclusive. All ages can play.

Wedding Adaptations

Instead of a coin flip, make it couple-themed:

"Bride or Groom?" Version:

- Instead of heads/tails, guests choose Bride or Groom
- MC asks questions: "Who's messier?" "Who's more romantic?"
- Guests who chose correctly stay standing
- Wrong choice? Take your seat

This adds personality and lets guests learn about the couple while playing.

Running It Well

1. Clear explanation. Demonstrate hands on head vs hands on backside.
2. Fast pace. Don't let momentum drop between rounds.
3. Build drama. When it's down to 2-3 people, milk the tension.
4. Worthy prize. Make it worth playing for.

Part 6: Photo Challenges & Scavenger Hunts

What It Is

Guests receive a list of photos to capture during the wedding. Can be printed cards or a digital list. Examples: "Selfie with the oldest guest" or "Someone doing the robot on the dancefloor."

Why It Works

- Self-directed. No MC involvement needed.
- Gets people mingling. You can't complete the list without talking to strangers.
- Creates content. Couples get hundreds of candid photos from different perspectives.
- No public spotlight. Perfect for introverts.

Sample Photo Challenges

Easy (Drink in Hand):

1. Photo with the happy couple
2. The wedding cake
3. Someone from the opposite side (bride's guest gets groom's guest, etc.)
4. The oldest person at the wedding
5. A child under 10

Medium (Requires Effort): 6. Someone you've never met before 7. The bride's shoes 8. Three generations in one photo 9. Someone showing off a dance move 10. A couple who've been married 25+ years

Hard (Conversation Required): 11. Someone sharing their wedding advice 12. The person who travelled furthest to be here 13. Someone with the same birthday month as you 14. A guest who's been to more than 20 weddings 15. Someone who can name all the bridesmaids

Creative (Bonus Points): 16. The most photogenic dessert 17. Someone pretending to steal the cake 18. The best dressed guest (not the couple!) 19. A human pyramid 20. Someone doing a cartwheel (good luck)

Collecting the Photos

Option 1: Dedicated Hashtag Create a wedding hashtag. Guests post to Instagram. You browse later.

Option 2: Shared Album Set up a shared iCloud or Google Photos album. Share the link.

Option 3: Digital Drop Box Use a service like Whisk or WedShoots for wedding photo collection.

Option 4: QR Code Display Print QR codes that link to the upload point. Display around the venue.

Part 7: Subtle Icebreakers (Low-Key Options)

Not every couple wants organised games. These alternatives create connection without the structure.

Table Conversation Cards

Small cards with interesting questions placed on each table. Not a game, just conversation starters.

Examples:

- "What's the best piece of marriage advice you've received?"
- "What's your favourite memory of the bride/groom?"
- "If you could travel anywhere tomorrow, where would you go?"
- "What song always gets you on the dancefloor?"

Guest Photo Display

Ask guests to submit a photo of their happiest moment from the past year before the wedding. Display them around the venue or on screens.

People naturally ask each other: "Which one's yours? What was happening?"

Instant conversation starter.

Words of Wisdom Cards

Cards asking guests to write marriage advice for the couple. The MC reads selections aloud. Guests stand when their card is read, introducing them to the room.

Keep the cards in a box or album as a keepsake.

"Find Someone Who..." Bingo

Cards with squares like:

- "Has been to more than 5 weddings"
- "Met the couple through work"
- "Can name the first dance song"
- "Has travelled more than 500 miles to be here"

Guests mingle to find people matching each description.

Part 8: Timing Your Games

Drinks Reception (Post-Ceremony, Pre-Meal)

Best for:

- Photo scavenger hunt (self-paced)
- "Find Someone Who..." bingo
- Conversation cards
- Wedding quiz on tables

Why it works: Natural lull, guests are standing and mingling anyway.

During Wedding Breakfast

Best for:

- Table quiz (between courses)
- Words of Wisdom reading
- Couple fun facts on screens

Why it works: Guests are seated, captive audience, waiting between courses.

Transition Period (After Meal, Before Evening Party)

Best for:

- Mr & Mrs Game / Shoe Game
- Heads & Tails
- Quick interactive games

Why it works: Room is being turned around, need to fill time, guests have eaten and are relaxed.

Evening Reception

Best for:

- DJ Battle (throughout)
- Dance-offs
- Photo challenges
- Bouquet/garter toss

Why it works: Energy is high, guests are drinking, dancing has started.

End of Night

Best for:

- Final dance-off results
- Prize announcements
- Wedding circle (everyone forms a circle for final song)

Why it works: Creates memorable finish, gathers everyone together.

Part 9: Reading the Room

Signs Games Are Working

- Laughter (genuine, not polite)
- Physical engagement (leaning in, moving)
- Cross-table conversation
- Guests lingering rather than dispersing
- Phones going away (people are present)

Signs to Wrap Up

- Energy dropping
- Side conversations starting
- People checking phones
- Answers coming slower
- The "polite waiting" look

The Golden Rule

Better to end early than drag on. Leave them wanting more. "That was fun!" beats "When will this end?"

Part 10: Working with Your DJ/MC

What to Communicate Before the Day

1. Which games interest you (if any)
2. Your comfort level with being centre of attention
3. Any topics to avoid (sensitive family situations, etc.)
4. Guest mix (ages, how well they know each other)
5. Your *vibe* (elegant and refined vs fun and rowdy)

What a Good DJ/MC Will Do

- Present options, not pressure
- Read the room throughout
- Adapt on the fly
- Make participation feel optional
- Keep things moving without rushing
- Handle technical elements (music, announcements)
- Never embarrass anyone

Questions to Ask Your DJ

1. "What games do you typically run?"
2. "Can you give examples from recent weddings?"

3. "How do you handle guests who don't want to participate?"
4. "What's your backup if something isn't working?"
5. "Will you check with us before starting any games?"

Part II: Printable Planning Checklist

Before the Wedding

- Decide which games (if any) suit your day
- Discuss with partner and agree
- Communicate choices to DJ/MC
- Provide any needed information (quiz questions, etc.)
- Confirm timing in running order
- Arrange prizes if needed
- Test any tech elements (quiz apps, etc.)

On the Day

- Brief MC on any last-minute changes
- Confirm guests have necessary items (quiz sheets, photo challenge cards)
- Relax and trust your professionals
- Be willing to go with the flow
- Enjoy watching your guests connect

About Tony Winyard

With over 2,500 weddings as a DJ and MC, I've run more games than I can count. I've seen what works, what bombs, and everything in between.

The secret? Games aren't about filling time. They're about creating moments. Giving people shared experiences. Turning a room of strangers into a room of friends.

Some weddings need games. Some don't. The skill is knowing the difference.

If you want help deciding what's right for your day, or you'd like someone experienced to run things, let's talk.

Book a consultation: <https://www.winyard.com/contact>

Quick Reference: Game at a Glance

Game	Best For	Duration	Prep Needed
Mr & Mrs (Shoe Game)	All weddings	10-15 mins	Questions list
DJ Battle	Fun-loving couples	Throughout evening	Track lists
Wedding Quiz	Mixed guest groups	15-30 mins	Quiz questions
Heads & Tails	Quick energy boost	5-10 mins	Minimal
Photo Scavenger Hunt	Camera-happy guests	Self-paced	Challenge cards
Conversation Cards	Elegant weddings	Ongoing	Cards
Words of Wisdom	Sentimental couples	10-15 mins	Cards

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