



Special Occasions

Task 1: Wedding Traditions

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening for the GESE 5.

You are going to hear a talk about **wedding traditions**. You will hear the talk twice. As you listen, write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. I will ask you six questions on some facts about **wedding traditions**. Are you ready?

Audio Script

There are all types of wedding traditions in the world and it is really amazing how the same type of celebration can be celebrated in different ways within different cultures. For example, in India instead of wearing jewelry, the bride will spend hours being intricately painted with henna. Another country that has an interesting wedding tradition is Norway. They create iced almond ringed cakes that go on top of each other, making a cone shape. In the middle of this cone cake there is a surprise of a bottle of champagne or wine. Then, those that get married in Cuba have the tradition that all those men that want to dance with the bride must pin money on her dress. In this way, the bride and groom are able to pay for their wedding and honeymoon. Now, in Germany a couple's strength is tested by giving them a log to saw in half. This way they show how they will work together when obstacles happen in their life as a married couple. Well, in the Philippines, it is more symbolic. The bride and groom release a male and female dove into the air to symbolise peace and their harmonious life together. In Romania, the bride might get kidnapped from her friends and family. In order to get the bride back, the groom will have to pay for her ransom. This might be by buying a round of drinks for everybody or displaying romantic gestures. One thing is sure to say, no matter where the wedding happens, it is always a special occasion with interesting traditions.

Now I will ask you some questions. You only need to answer in a few words.

Now let's look at the questions again, but with the possible answers.

This is the end of the listening task.

Questions & Answers:

1	What happens to the bride in India?	(intricately) painted with henna
2	What is placed in the middle of the wedding cake in Norway?	A bottle of champagne/wine
3	In Cuba, what do men put on the bride's dress after dancing?	Money
4	In Germany, what is the bride and groom tested for?	Their strength (as a couple)



5	What does a married couple release in the air, in the Philippines?	two doves / a male and female dove
6	Who kidnaps the bride in Romania?	Friends and family

Marks: +_ / +6