

## WRITE IT UP RIGHT!

Make sure your Wedding Register entry is error-free! Because of the popularity of this special issue, it helps us streamline the editing process if you follow these guidelines:

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Proofread the entry several times yourself before sending it on to us to minimize the chance for mistakes.
- The maximum length is 450 words. If your entry is too long, we will cut state and place names first, then music and musicians. After that, we will cut completely at our discretion. We do not like to have to cut any details, so please pay careful attention to the word length of your write-up. Your word-processing program should have a “word-count” tool to assist you in this.
- Please place only one space, not two, after each period.
- Do not use the state name if the town is in Mississippi, and spell out the names of all other states.
- If a list includes names only (or names and places that are in Mississippi), separated them with commas, but if the list includes items that must be separated by commas within the list (Elizabeth Ellis, sister of the bride), then separate each person’s identification with a semicolon. For example: “Groomsmen included Andrew Clark, Ky Johnston, and Bart Latner,” BUT, “Bridesmaids included Mica Ballard, cousin of the bride, of New Albany; Amanda Burton of Amory; and Hannah Wesson of Boise, Idaho.” Even if only one item requires an additional comma, semicolons must be used throughout, unless the item with the comma is placed at the end of the list.
- Separate names and titles if the title comes after the name: Christy Phillips, maid of honor; Elizabeth Ellis, sister of the bride; and Katie Williams, cousin of the bride.
- Always use the last comma in a series. (A series is a list of more than two items.)
- Place a comma between cities and states AND after the state: Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was the site for the wedding.
- Also use a comma between the day and the year in a date, as well as after the year: The wedding took place on March 10, 2004, at First Methodist Church.
- Do not use a comma between name and family title like Jr. or Sr. or before numerical titles like III or IV: John Jacob Smith Jr. and Preston Scott Thomas III served as ushers.
- The plural of guest is guests. The plural of soloist is soloists.
- PLEASE TRIPLE-CHECK THE SPELLING OF NAMES!!!
- Take care to use altar (not alter), and aisle (not isle). Also, the word couple is singular; for example: “The couple is at home in Hattiesburg,” NOT “The couple are at home in Hattiesburg.” Write out numbers one to nine; use numerals for 10 and over.
- When listing dress descriptions for your wedding party, please take care that the bridesmaids do not all wear the same dress or carry the same bouquet. For example: “Attendants wore sage green gowns with fitted bodices,” OR “Each attendant wore a sage green gown with a fitted bodice,” NOT “Attendants wore a sage green gown with a fitted bodice.”
- For all questions concerning grammar, please consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition.

### BRIDAL PARTY AND OTHER TITLES

Honor attendants’ titles are NOT capitalized; for example: maid of honor, best man, matron of honor, bridesmaids, and groomsmen. Ring bearer and flower girl are both two words. Abbreviate Dr. and Rev., and do not use “the” before these titles. Do not use Miss, Mrs., and Mr. when listing attendants.

### DRESS DESCRIPTIONS

Please check with the person who sold you your dress for proper descriptions of your dress and veil and of the bridesmaids’ dresses. Some styles of dresses include A-line, sheath, ball gown; Basque, dropped, or princess waistline; and bateau, portrait, V, or Sabrina necklines. Certain silks and satins have names, such as peau de soie, dupioni, shantung, bridal, duchess, l’amour, or crepe-backed. In general, laces are capitalized if they come from a specific place, such as Alençon, Belgian, or Battenburg. Types of lace are NOT capitalized: bridal, re-embroidered, handmade, crocheted, or point d’esprit. Make sure to hyphenate terms like chapel-length, cathedral-length, hand-sewn, hand-beaded, etc.

### FLORAL TERMS

Please check with your florist for correct flower names and spellings. Capitalize only specific breed names: Konfetti, Carnaval, Porcelana, Tropicana, Vendela, Vogue, Eskimo, and American Beauty roses; Casablanca lilies; etc. Varieties such as dendrobium, cattaleya, and stephanotis orchids; porcelain or bridal roses; and alstroemeria or calla lilies are not capitalized. Gerber daisies should be capitalized, but gerbera daisies should not. Words denoting a particular place like French or Italian should always be capitalized, regardless of what they are describing: French tulips, Italian ruscus, bells of Ireland, etc. Other miscellaneous terms: one gladiola, two gladioli; one tussy-mussy, two tussy-mussies; springerii; smilax or smilac; galax leaves; hypericum; hand-tied bouquet; and Queen Anne’s lace.

VISIT [WWW.MISSISSIPPIMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.MISSISSIPPIMAGAZINE.COM) FOR MORE HELPFUL WEDDING REGISTER TIPS!