

THE HONEYMOON

A honeymoon should be a time for initial adjustments to each other. Patience and understanding are key words for a successful honeymoon and marriage.

The honeymoon should provide:

1. **Rest**—from the strain and exhaustion of a big wedding.
2. **Time for being alone**—the couple may have had little private time together in the days and weeks just before the wedding, and may never in their lifetimes have such leisure and privacy again.
3. **Recreation**—plan on going someplace where there are activities that both enjoy. No matter how much a couple loves each other, it becomes boring to have nothing to do but simply be together. Having other people around also takes the strain from having to entertain each other twenty-four hours a day. However, be careful not to over-plan and over-schedule, but to allow plenty of flexibility.
4. **An initial adjustment to marriage**—getting to know each other intimately without the self-consciousness of others watching to see how they're getting along (that part comes when they get home from the honeymoon).

The honeymoon may have been over-glamorized in our culture. It may actually be a disillusioning period. The couple begins to see each other as real, down-to-earth human beings with faults and failings. The pressure of being together twenty-four hours a day is a real strain. They may not experience all the thrills they thought they would.

Generally, modern honeymoons are shorter than in the past.

Honeymoons are not necessary for a happy marriage. The bride or groom should not expect the romantic attraction of the honeymoon to last forever.

The turmoil of the wedding day can easily prevent the tired couple from enjoying the honeymoon plans that were arranged with such anticipation.

A nationwide survey shows that 50% of the couples interviewed report their honeymoon was not happy at all. (Married and Single Life, Riker and Brisbane, page 192)

During courtship people are on their best behavior. After spending twenty-four hours a day together, they may discover that prince/princess charming snores and has a few other minor faults.

Research shows that persons most unhappy with honeymoons are young women who have always lived at home. They look forward to getting away and they stay too long. They may get homesick, and as a result, become impatient with their new spouse.

Some couples may choose to delay their honeymoon until they have had time to know each other better and feel more comfortable in their new partnership. They also have better ideas of how much money to spend and how they want to use it.

COSTS OF THE HONEYMOON

Usually the couple's parents pay the costs of the wedding, but paying for the honeymoon is the responsibility of the bride and groom. Couples should not go into debt for an extravagant honeymoon.

Discuss the following honeymoon plans and identify the positive and negative factors of each:

- A. Natalie and Jason are planning a honeymoon in Pittsburgh. While they are there, Jason will try to find a job and Natalie will do some shopping and try to find an apartment.
- B. Julie and Mike are meeting another honeymoon couple and will spend four days in Las Vegas.
- C. Matt and Wendy are planning a backpacking honeymoon in a secluded Southern Utah area.
- D. Brian and Susan have planned a week in Los Angeles for their honeymoon, but have made no definite plans for what they will do while they are there.

There are many things to consider when discussing honeymoons. Most people are concerned about the cost, where they will go, what they will do, and what to take on the honeymoon. All factors are variable but one. The essential ingredient of a successful honeymoon is a sense of humor. There are bound to be embarrassing and funny mishaps while on a honeymoon. The purpose is to get to know one another. Seeing things in perspective with a sense of humor will greatly aid this process.