



Segment 13 (Units 25–28)

Unusual weddings

Genre: Newscast

Viewing Time: 1:57

Background Information

Often, newscasts in the United States and other English-speaking countries include segments in which TV reporters ask ordinary people on the street about their opinions or personal experiences. In this segment, different people on the street are being asked about unusual weddings they have been to.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Preview the vocabulary with your students.

cleanse: *make something completely clean*
hoist: *raise, lift, or pull up something heavy*
impurity: *a part of an almost pure substance that is of a lower quality*

smear: *to spread a soft substance over a surface in a careless or messy way*
stomp: *put your foot down very hard*
veal: *meat from a young cow*

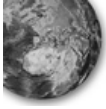
Answer Key

Previewing

(Answers may vary—make sure students are actively discussing the answers to the questions in their groups.)

In-Depth Viewing

1. Italian American; food
2. bride and groom
3. Las Vegas; Elvis Presley
4. Jewish; groom
5. 13 coins
6. foot
7. Turkish; stomp on each other's feet
8. New York City; hip-hop music



Video Script

Reporter: Have you ever been to an unusual wedding?

1: At this Italian-American family wedding there were like four different kinds of pastas, there was a fish course, there was a veal course, uh, followed by the most extensive desserts I have ever seen in my life.

2: At the wedding the bride and groom feed each other the cake before everyone else eats the cake and, uh, it's always pretty enjoyable to watch, uh, a lot of times they smear the cake all over each other's faces.

3: I had some friends who actually got married in Las Vegas, and they were married by someone dressed like Elvis Presley.

4: I went to a Jewish wedding and I was rather surprised that the groom was hoisted on a chair.

5: In Spain there's a tradition called *las arras*, which are 13 coins that the husband gives to the wife to demonstrate that he'll take care of her financially. And the . . . the 13 is supposed to be a lucky number, um, not unlucky like it is in America.

6: I actually went to an African wedding. The groom and—as well as the bride—they had to do certain rituals like drinking and the washing of the foot. The groom had to wash the bride's foot. It was supposed to represent cleansing her impurities and stepping into a new life.

7: I once went to a Turkish wedding. It was really interesting because it was a . . . you know, it was a regular traditional wedding, um, but at the end the bride and groom tried to stomp on each other's feet, which was really kind of funny. Um, I think, I believe the tradition is that whoever stomps on the other person's foot first is the head of the household.

8: At my brother's wedding, uh, there was a lot of hip-hop music and people danced down the aisle, so it wasn't, uh, an ethnic custom like from another country, but it was a strange, uh, New York kind of wedding.