

Choosing the perfect Photographer

The first step toward choosing the perfect photographer is by meeting with one in person. It is okay if you have to meet more than one, but just like finding the perfect dress, it is essential to find your best photographer-match. You want them to think like you do... What shots will you take if you could take photos of you and your husband, the rings, your dress, etc?

The perfect way to establish whether you are a fit, is by organizing an **engagement shoot** with the photographer. Make sure that you have already met with them and that you get along well. Get to know them and what type of style they have.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. They will inform you wherever they can, and if they seem informative or arrogant, there are plenty of other photographers to choose from. Don't feel pressured to use that specific one because he or she has been recommended by your sweet, recently-married friend or family member.

Everyone is different. If you are a fun-loving couple who loves nature, your fit might not be a photographer with portraiture experience or who has a more classical or traditional approach to wedding photography.

First, we are going to look at the different styles which one can expect from photographers. Then the low down on photographers and how they operate. Lastly, as promised, I have included a free checklist for choosing the perfect photographer.

Photographers have their own style

It may sound confusing now, but once you have met a few different photographers, you will notice different styles in their portfolios. Some might appear more classic and others more playful and quirky. Here are some popular styles:

Dramatic

The photos are taken at passionate times, or "telling-a-story" moments. Like dancing in the rain, kissing under a massive crystal chandelier, etc.

Artistic & Experimental

The photographer tries to express his or her artistic side by incorporating new angles, styles, methods of lighting, shutter speeds, etc.

Classic

&

Traditional

These photos look the same as your mother's and her mother before her, back and back and back. It is the poses we all know. The moments we all see in wedding photos.

Signing of the register, exchanging rings, first kiss, confetti throwing, etc.

Documentary

Like the dramatic style, this method tells a story. However, it is more from the bride or grooms point of view. Like a photo from behind the bride as she is walking down the aisle, or an angle from the groom's line of sight as he puts the ring on her finger.

Fashion & Posal

These photos are more for magazines and websites, especially when advertising something specific like wedding dresses or veils.

Natural

Here, photographers use the elements to create beautiful photos. Natural light and backgrounds in nature are commonly used.

Portraiture

The type of photos that is taken at schools and ceremonies as well. You have a nice backdrop, and everyone gathers around and smile at the camera. " Say Cheese!"

Photojournalism & Editorial

This is currently the most popular style, and frankly, the best one. Although it is more expensive than other photograph packages because more photos are taken, the bride and groom have more images to select from. The photographer takes spontaneous shots by following everyone around and taking photos the entire day.

Quirky & Playful

The quirky photos include photos of everyone jumping up in the air at the same time, or the groom catching the bride from an elevated place as she leaps forward, or even photo-booth-type photos with props and such.

Photographers have their own *experience*

This is important if you want high quality photos. But if you don't mind the quality or photos are not your thing, then it doesn't really matter.

Photographers have their own *pricing*

Like most things in life, you get what you pay for. Some of the more elite, more experienced photographers charge more because their photos are that good. Some people are more generous and will ask a lower price for a moderate package. It really depends on the photographer.

Photographers have their own *reputation*

What is meant by this, is that they care about you and not just your money. If their work is of bad quality, then customers will complain and it is very bad for business. Make sure you know what **YOU** want first, so that you avoid the disappointment when your wedding photos arrive and it's all in a classical style and you wanted it in a photojournalism style, for example. You will save yourself and the photographer a lot of drama.

Photographers have their own *portfolios*

Ask if you can see their work up front, maybe before you meet, if possible. Then you and hubby can go through it at your own pace. Other than that, they should have a website – highly recommended if you want a photographer with some experience and it's not just someone you found on Gumtree or Craigslist.

Photographers have their own logistics

Photographers all have different ways and methods of getting your images to you. Some of them prefer CD's. Other will use e-mail, unless you want higher quality for printing large images. Some will retouch all of your photos, other will only do a few. Some might compile your images into a video with beautiful music while others offer a photo album.

So discuss their different packages with them and work out which one is the best for you. Why don't you compare their top 3 packages to make this process easier?

Photographers have their own star status

Check the reviews and recommendations on the photographers website. How is their feedback and comments on their work? Do they have a Facebook page? See if you can find any dirt on them before you hire them! (Tongue in cheek)

See the checklist on the following page...

Photographer Checklist

Name: _____ Contact: _____

Style	Write down the style here and check the box if it is a suited photographer:_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experience	Does the photographer have enough experience according to your needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pricing	Does the price suit your budget? Make sure the photographer is not overpriced.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reputation	Does the photographer have a decent reputation? Make sure it seems that they care about you and the quality of their work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portfolio	Does the photographer have a portfolio to show all their beautiful work in?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logistics	Are you satisfied with the packages they offer and the way they produce and deliver their work?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Star Status	Does the photographer have satisfactory reviews and any recommendations on their website or Facebook page?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remember: If you want a videographer at your wedding, make sure that your photographer is willing to work with one, and if they have anyone they would recommend to work with.