

## 04.08-Marriage

### Marriage

#### Wedding **wows**

How the one-child policy changed Chinese **nuptials**  
Feb 28th 2015 | BEIJING

#### Vocab

1. **wow** n. a great success 极大的成功；一鸣惊人之举  
e.g. Don't worry. You'll be a wow. 别担心。你会一鸣惊人的。
2. **nuptials** n. (*old-fashioned*) a wedding 婚礼

**OVERSIZE** **cupids** in pink, **furry outfits** hand out heart-shaped balloons with “I Do” written on them (in English) at a **wedding-themed trade fair** in Beijing. **Vendors** offer romantic **photo-shoots** of couples under water or at a **racetrack**, personalised wedding cigarettes, and biscuits with names such as “Date & Fate”. An emphasis on love is a new addition to Chinese weddings—and shines a pink-filtered spotlight on social change.

#### Vocab

1. **oversize** adj. 过大的；超大的 **Oversize** or **oversized** things are too big, or much bigger than usual.  
e.g. ...the **oversize** white sweater she had worn at school. 她在学校里穿的那件过大的白毛衣
2. **cupid** n. 丘比特(罗马神话中的爱神) **Cupid** is the Roman god of love. He is usually shown as a baby boy with wings and a bow and arrow.

用法：If you say that someone **is playing cupid**, you mean that they are trying to bring two people together to start a romantic relationship. 扮演丘比特角色；牵线撮合；做媒人

1. •...the aristocrat who played **Cupid** to the Duke and Duchess. 撮合公爵和公爵夫人的贵族成员

3. **furry** adj. covered with fur 覆盖毛皮的；穿戴毛皮衣物的  
e.g. small furry animals 毛茸茸的小动物
4. **outfit** n. 全套服装 An **outfit** is a set of clothes.  
e.g. She was wearing an **outfit** she'd bought the previous day...她穿着前一天买的那套衣服。
5. **wedding-themed trade fair** 婚礼主题交易会
6. **vendor** n. (*formal*) a company that sells a particular product (某种产品的) 销售公司  
e.g. software vendors 软件销售商
7. **photo shoot** n. 尤指为模特或名人进行的) 照片拍摄 A **photo shoot** is an occasion when a photographer takes pictures, especially of models or famous people, to be used in a newspaper or magazine.  
e.g. ...a long day of interviews and photo-shoots. 一整天的采访和拍照工作
8. **racetrack** n. a track for races between runners, cars, bicycles, etc. 跑道；赛道  
e.g. You can't cross the road—it's like a racetrack. 那条马路像赛道一样，让人无法横穿过去。

For centuries, marriage in China was about ensuring **heirs** for the **groom's** family. Ceremonies centred on the groom's **kin**: couples **kowtowed** to the man's parents but the woman's relatives were absent. Unusually, both the groom's and the bride's family exchanged money or goods. The more money changed hands, the more **opulent** the wedding.

### Vocab

1. **heir** n. 继承人 An **heir** is someone who has the right to inherit a person's money, property, or title when that person dies.  
e.g. His **heir**, Lord Doune, cuts a bit of a dash in the city. 他的继承人杜恩勋爵在城里出了一番风头。
2. **groom** n. 同bridegroom A **groom** is the same as a **bridegroom**. 新郎 A **bridegroom** is a man who is getting married.  
e.g. ...the bride and **groom**. 新娘与新郎
3. **kin** n. your family or your relatives (统称) 家属, 亲属, 亲戚  
e.g. next of kin
4. **kowtow** v. to show sb in authority too much respect and be too willing to obey them 叩头; 磕头; 卑躬屈膝; 唯命是从
5. **opulent** adj. made or decorated using expensive materials 豪华的; 富丽堂皇的; 华丽的  
e.g. ...an **opulent** office on Wimpole Street in London's West End. 伦敦西区温波尔街上的一间豪华办公室

### Sentence

The more money changed hands, the more opulent the wedding.

句型: the more..., the more....

After it came to power in 1949, the Communist Party imposed **frugality**. **Dowries** consisted of necessities like bed **linen** or a bicycle; guests brought their own food coupons. But since the 1980s the **extravagance** of nuptials has matched the country's rise. Celebrations moved out of homes into hotels. Brides swapped traditional red dresses for white, **flouncy meringue**-like ones (some now wear both, in sequence).

### Vocab

1. **frugality** n. 俭省, 节俭
2. **dowry** n. 嫁妆; 陪嫁 A woman's **dowry** is the money and goods which, in some cultures, her family gives to the man that she marries.  
e.g. The money from her **dowry** was invested in her mother's store. 她的嫁妆钱都投到了母亲的铺子里。
3. **linen** n. (桌布、床单、枕套等) 家庭日用织品 **Linen** is tablecloths, sheets, pillowcases, and similar things made of cloth that are used in the home.  
e.g. All **linens** and towels are provided. 提供全套日用织品和毛巾。
4. **extravagance** n. 奢侈; 铺张; 浪费 **Extravagance** is the spending of more money than is reasonable or than you can afford.  
e.g. When the company went under, tales of his **extravagance** surged through the industry. 公司破产后, 有关他铺张浪费的种种传闻传遍了整个行业。
5. **flouncy** 张开的; 向外鼓起的
6. **meringue** n. 蛋白酥; 蛋糖甜饼 **Meringue** is a mixture of beaten egg whites and sugar which is

baked in the oven.

e.g. a lemon meringue pie 柠檬蛋糖馅饼

### Sentence

Brides swapped traditional red dresses for white, flouncy meringue-like ones (some now wear both, in sequence).

swap 这里表示新娘从传统红色 dresses 变成白色的 flouncymeringue-like 那种

这里 for 表示换取: in exchange for sth 换取 e.g. I'll swap these two bottles for that one. 我要拿这两瓶换那一瓶。

ones 指代 dresses

in sequence 按顺序 即: 穿衣按照顺序来, 指代这句话中提到的两种衣服, 按顺序穿

A large industry has emerged to serve the 13m couples who marry each year. Wedding planners are increasingly common, particularly in cities. A decade ago Cosmo Bride, an American-owned lifestyle magazine, launched a Chinese-language edition in China. An average wedding cost \$12,000 in 2011 (the latest year for which such data exist)—the equivalent of more than two years' income for the average urban household. An increase in the average marriage age by 2.5 years since 1990 has given parents (who still usually pay for weddings, despite the earning power of their children) more time to save up.

### Vocab

1. equivalent adj. equal in value, amount, meaning, importance, etc. (价值、数量、意义、重要性等) 相等的, 相同的

e.g. Eight kilometres is roughly equivalent to five miles. 八公里约等于五英里。

2. save up 储蓄, 积攒, 攒钱 If you save, you gradually collect money by spending less than you get, usually in order to buy something that you want.

Save up means the same as save. save up 同 save

•Julie wanted to put some of her money aside for holidays or save up for something special...朱莉打算把她的钱拿出一部分用于度假或者存起来作特殊用途。

•People often put money aside in order to save up enough to make one major expenditure.人们常常为了一笔大的开销而存钱。

### Sentence

An increase in the average marriage age by 2.5 years since 1990 has given parents (who still usually pay for weddings, despite the earning power of their children) more time to save up.

主干: An increase in the average marriage age has given parents more time to save up.

by 2.5 years since 1990 这里自然是指这个 increase 的幅度了,

who still usually pay for weddings 这个非限定性定语从句的先行词是 parents

despite the earning power of their children 这里 earning power 指赚钱能力, 即, 尽管他们的孩子有赚钱能力

The change in wedding frippery also reflects a fundamental shift in society. For the first time in the history of Chinese family life, the child—rather than ancestors or parents—is regarded as the centre of the family, says Yan Yunxiang of the University of California, Los Angeles. Most newly-weds now are single children, born since the one-child policy was introduced more than 30 years ago. Parents have more to spend if they only have to fork out for one wedding (they usually share costs with

the spouse-to-be's family).

### Vocab

1. **frippery** n. 俗丽的装饰;无用的玩意儿;华而不实之物 If you refer to something as **frippery**, you mean that it is silly or unnecessary, and only done or worn for pleasure

e.g. ...a **sombre display, with no frills or frippery**. 没有多余或虚华的装饰的朴实的展示

2. **fundamental** adj. serious and very important; affecting the most central and important parts of sth 十分重大的; 根本的

e.g. A **fundamental change** in the organization of health services was required. 公共医疗在组织上需要有一个根本性的变革。

3. **ancestor** n. a person in your family who lived a long time ago 祖宗; 祖先

e.g. His ancestors had come to America from Ireland. 他的祖先从爱尔兰来到美国。

4. **fork out** v. 支付; 放弃

5. **regard** v. ~ sb/ sth (with sth) | ~ sb/ sth as sth to think about sb/ sth in a particular way 将...认为; 把...视为; 看待

e.g. She is **widely regarded** as the current leader's natural successor. 人们普遍认为她是现任领导的当然继任者。

### Sentence

For the first time in the history of Chinese family life, the child—rather than ancestors or parents—is regarded as the centre of the family, says Yan Yunxiang of the University of California, Los Angeles.

主干: says Yan Yunxiang of the University of California

Los Angeles 位置状语, 解释该大学的位置

主要从句的主干: the child is regarded as the centre of the family

rather than ancestors or parents 即是 child 而不是祖先或者父母

William Jankowiak of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who has **documented** relationships in China for 30 years, says love plays a larger part in young people's lives—both in choice of partner and in their relationships with parents. Love is far more often spoken about. The result is evident in weddings, which now focus on the couple. Both sets of parents are represented, but their position is **peripheral**. Weddings often feature a day of wedding photos, shot before the event, with the couple in a range of outfits against romantic backgrounds, but with no family members.

### Vocab

1. **peripheral** adj. ~ (to sth) (formal) not as important as the main aim, part, etc. of sth 次要的; 附带的

e.g. Fund-raising is peripheral to their main activities. 对他们的主要活动而言, 筹集资金是次要的。

2. **document** v. to record the details of sth 记录, 记载 (详情)

e.g. Causes of the disease have been well documented. 这种疾病的起因已有完备的记载。

3. **feature** v. 由...主演;以...为主要内容;重点介绍 When something such as a film or exhibition **features** a particular person or thing, they are an important part of it.

### Sentence

Weddings often feature a day of wedding photos, shot before the event, with the couple in a range of outfits against romantic backgrounds, but with no family members.

主干: Weddings often feature a day of wedding photos

shot before the event 这里shot 指拍摄，即拍摄 wedding photos  
with the couple in a range of outfits against romantic backgrounds 这里 with 是表伴随，即结婚照的拍摄是新婚夫妇一起的  
but with no family members 这里 with no 即表示不和家庭成员一起

This article appeared in the China section of the print edition

## Marriage: Wedding vows

### 婚姻：婚礼盛世

How the one-child policy changed Chinese nuptials.

计划生育政策如何改变了中国人的婚礼。

OVERSIZE cupids in pink, furry outfits hand out heart-shaped balloons with “I Do” written on them (in English) at a wedding-themed trade fair in Beijing. Vendors offer romantic photo-shoots of couples under water or at a racetrack, personalised wedding cigarettes, and biscuits with names such as “Date & Fate”. An emphasis on love is a new addition to Chinese weddings—and shines a pink-filtered spotlight on social change.

一次在北京举办的婚博会上，身着粉红色绒毛服饰的巨型丘比特分发着心形气球，上面印有用英文写成的“我愿意”（I Do）。销售商为新婚夫妇们准备了浪漫的婚庆摄影，场景涵盖水下，以及赛车赛道，同时还向新人们提供私人订制的婚庆香烟、印有名字的饼干（比如巧遇饼干）。爱是中国婚礼上新的主旋律，这同时也为中国的社会变革抹上了一笔西化的浪漫粉红色。

For centuries, marriage in China was about ensuring heirs for the groom's family. Ceremonies centred on the groom's kin: couples kowtowed to the man's parents but the woman's relatives were absent. Unusually, both the groom's and the bride's family exchanged money or goods. The more money changed hands, the more opulent the wedding.

几个世纪以来，中国人的婚姻旨在保障新郎家族的延续。仪式以新郎家族为中心：新婚夫妇向新郎的父母磕头，但是女方亲属并不在场。不同寻常的是，新郎和新娘的家族还交换金钱或者礼物，互送的财物越多，婚礼越隆重。

After it came to power in 1949, the Communist Party imposed frugality. Dowries consisted of necessities like bed linen or a bicycle; guests brought their own food coupons. But since the 1980s the extravagance of nuptials has matched the country's rise. Celebrations moved out of homes into hotels. Brides swapped traditional red dresses for white, flouncy meringue-like ones (some now wear both, in sequence).

中共在1949年执政后便强制推行“勤俭节约”的政策理念，当时的嫁妆只是些必需品，比如红染的床上用品或是一辆自行车，宾客会自带粮票作为“礼金”。但自20世纪80年代开始，中国人婚礼的奢华程度就像这个国家的迅速崛起一样，让人惊叹不已。婚庆地点从家里移到了酒店，曾经身披传统红裳的新娘，如今穿上了蛋糕裙样式的白色蓬松婚纱（现在也有一些新娘会先穿婚纱再换红裳）。

A large industry has emerged to serve the 13m couples who marry each year. Wedding planners are increasingly common, particularly in cities. A decade ago Cosmo Bride, an American-owned lifestyle magazine, launched a Chinese-language edition in China. An average wedding cost \$12,000 in 2011 (the latest year for which such data exist) —the equivalent of more than two years' income for the average urban household. An increase

in the average marriage age by 2.5 years since 1990 has given parents (who still usually pay for weddings, despite the earning power of their children) more time to save up.

中国每年有1300万对夫妇喜结连理，婚庆生意因此成了一个巨大的市场。在中国，尤其是在城市地区，婚礼策划公司变得愈来愈普遍。来自美国的生活时尚杂志《时尚新娘》，十年前开始在中国发行中文版。最近一年的数据显示，2011年，一场普通的婚礼需花费1万2千美元，这相当于一名普通城镇居民两年多的收入。如今，中国人的平均结婚年龄相比90年推迟了约2.5年，从时间上讲，这使中国的父母（通常仍会花钱筹备子女的婚礼，尽管他们的子女有赚钱能力）能够为其子女的婚礼筹备更多的钱。

The change in wedding frippery also reflects a fundamental shift in society. For the first time in the history of Chinese family life, the child—rather than ancestors or parents—is regarded as the centre of the family, says Yan Yunxiang of the University of California, Los Angeles. Most newly-weds now are single children, born since the one-child policy was introduced more than 30 years ago. Parents have more to spend if they only have to fork out for one wedding (they usually share costs with the spouse-to-be's family).

单从婚礼装饰的变化，就能反映出中国社会的根本改变。洛杉矶加州大学的闫云翔说，有史以来，中国家庭的生活首次将孩子——而非祖先或是父母——视为整个家庭的中心。计划生育政策在中国推行了30多年，如今大多数的新婚夫妇都是在这期间出生的独生子女。他们的父母也因此有更多的钱花在他们唯一子女的婚礼上（通常，双方父母会共同承担婚礼费用）。

William Jankowiak of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who has documented relationships in China for 30 years, says love plays a larger part in young people's lives—both in choice of partner and in their relationships with parents. Love is far more often spoken about. The result is evident in weddings, which now focus on the couple. Both sets of parents are represented, but their position is peripheral. Weddings often feature a day of wedding photos, shot before the event, with the couple in a range of outfits against romantic backgrounds, but with no family members.

来自内华达大学拉斯维加斯分校的 William Jankowiak 记录下了30年间中国人家庭关系和爱情关系的变化。他说，在年轻人的生活中，爱情扮演了重要的角色，不仅是在他们选择伴侣时，在他们处理与父母的关系时同样重要。中国人不再忸怩于表达自己的爱。这一结论在婚礼上显而易见，新婚夫妇如今成为了婚礼的主角。双方家长的地位却被边缘化，成了婚礼上的象征。在婚礼前，新婚夫妇通常都会花上一整天的时间轮番穿上数套礼服，在浪漫背景下拍摄婚纱照，但他们的家人不会出镜。