



LEE SUCKLING'S GUIDE TO

# MODERN ETIQUETTE

Our new advice column tackles your perplexing social dilemmas.

*I'm single, and have been invited to a good friend's wedding next month with a 'plus-one'. I don't have anyone in mind. Do I have to take somebody?*

It may seem somewhat scary to attend a wedding on your lonesome, but there are several benefits to it. Namely, you get to do away with all the pretence of being in a relationship. You are clearly on your own, and not afraid of your own company.

You don't have to do countless introductions or fake your way through conversations about how long you've been together, nor do you need to pose for cliched couples photos with silly cardboard moustaches in the photo booth.

You also don't need to babysit anybody throughout the night. When you bring a plus-one you're usually bringing someone into an unknown group, and you spend much of the wedding ensuring they are having fun. You have to explain all your in-jokes,

and you'll end up overcompensating and likely make your plus-one feel like they're being infantilised.

If you do change your mind and want to bring somebody, however, there are some modern etiquette rules to the plus-one invitation.

First, a plus-one must be a date, or someone resembling a date. It can't be your best friend. A wedding isn't the place for you and your mate to cackle in the corner at the open bar.

You must also ensure your plus-one's name is sent with the RSVP, so they have a place card at dinner. It will be terribly awkward for you both if that card has simply "your name +1" on it.

If you've RSVP'd with your plus-one's name and they later back out, you'll need to call the bride/groom and explain the situation.

Don't substitute your date with



somebody else and simply turn up to the wedding with him or her.

Equally poor form is turning up alone when you confirmed you were a team of two: the wedding party has paid for your plus-one, and it's your duty to pull through on your promise. Otherwise, the soon-to-be-newlyweds have wasted their money on an extra person's food and booze, and their

seating arrangement will look off-kilter.

Your wedding gift, however, remains a gift from you. You don't need to put your plus-one's name on it, nor should you ask them to help pay for it. ●

**Stumped on a modern day dilemma?**

**Send your curly questions to [life.style@fairfaxmedia.co.nz](mailto:life.style@fairfaxmedia.co.nz) with Modern Etiquette in the subject line.**