Wedding Hnniversaries

The practice of giving particular gifts on wedding anniversaries originated in Germany during the Middle Ages. It was customary for friends of the couple to present the wife with a wreath of silver when she had lived with her husband for 25 years and a wreath of gold after 50 years. The wreaths symbolised harmony and fidelity. From this arose the silver and gold wedding anniversaries. Since the 1800s additions have been made to the wedding anniversaries and the list has become quite elaborate. We present a list of traditional anniversary gifts and their modern equivalents. Major wedding anniversaries are indicated in bold.

## ANNIVERSARY TRADITIONAL GIFTS

## **MODERN GIFTS**

$1^{st}$	PAPER: artwork on paper, love letters & poetry, books, concert tickets, personalised stationery, paper parasol, airline tickets, photo album	clocks & watches
2nd	COTTON: clothing, bed linen, napkins & tablecloths, cushions, sarong, bath towels, parasol, kimono	fine china
3rd	LEATHER: designer shoes, jacket, desk set, handbag, wallet, luggage, briefcase, gloves, drums	crystal & glass
4 <sup>th</sup>	FRUIT & FLOWERS or SILK & LINEN: fresh flowers, garden plants, fruit basket, exotic teas & coffee, perfume, incense, wine, linen, lingerie, silk pyjamas, silk scarves & ties, books are also traditional	appliances
$5^{\mathrm{th}}$	WOOD: (traditionally symbolising the stability of the marriage) furniture, wood carvings, bonsai plants, piano, wood boxes, jewellery boxes, cattle are also a traditional 5th anniversary gift!	silverware
6 <sup>th</sup>	SUGAR & CANDY or IRON: handmade chocolates, recipe books, dessert wines, liqueurs, cast iron cookware, fire tools, fire screen, decorative ironwork	wood
$7^{\mathrm{th}}$	COPPER & WOOL: wool suit, carpets, tapestry, bells	desk items
8 <sup>th</sup>	BRONZE & STONE: bronze bowls, bronze casts, bells, cymbals, candlesticks, stone table, marble sculpture	linen & lace
9 <sup>th</sup>	POTTERY & WILLOW: decorative pottery, kitchen earthernware, porcelain, Japanese tea set, serving plates, woven mats, also real estate	leather
$10^{\mathrm{th}}$	TIN: tin lanterns, wok, aluminium boat, pewter flasks and bowls Traditionally red roses are given on the 10th anniversary symbolising the marriage in full bloom	diamond jewellery
$11^{\mathrm{th}}$	STEEL: stainless steel cookware, cutlery, cocktail shaker	modern jewellery
12 <sup>th</sup>	SILK & LINEN: bed sheets, silk robe, lingerie, artworks on linen, anything Japanese, trip to Japan	pearls & gems
$12^{1/2}$	Some European countries celebrate $12^{1/2}$ years of marriage as the copper anniversary	
$13^{\mathrm{th}}$	LACE: lingerie, lace parasol, lace fan, clothing, anything French, French cookbook, trip to France, traditional flowers are violets and lily-of-the-valley	textiles, furs
14 <sup>th</sup>	IVORY: As the ivory trade is banned in many countries, we suggest anything to do with elephants; elephant carvings, paintings, tapestries from India, trip to India or Africa or just to the zoo!	gold jewellery
$15^{\mathrm{th}}$	CRYSTAL: vases, bowls, wine glasses, champagne flutes, perfume bottles, mirrors, ski trip, semi-precious stones	watches



ANNIVERSARY	TRADITIONAL GIFTS	MODERN GIFTS
$16^{\mathrm{th}}$	PERIDOT	silverware
$17^{\mathrm{th}}$	WATCH or ORCHIDS	furniture
18 <sup>th</sup>	CAT'S EYE & TURQUOISE	porcelain
$19^{\mathrm{th}}$	AQUAMARINE & MOTHER-OF-PEARL	bronze
$20^{th}$	FINE CHINA: dinnerware, chrysanthemums are also traditional	platinum
$25^{\mathrm{th}}$	SILVER JUBILEE: silverware, shaving accessories, jewellery, cufflinks, picture frames, camera, art photographs, a family portrait by a professional photographer	silver
$30^{\mathrm{th}}$	PEARL: pearl necklace, pearl earrings, letter opener with mother-of-pearl handle, inlaid mother-of-pearl boxes	pearls & diamonds
$35^{\mathrm{th}}$	CORAL & JADE: jewellery, coral or jade pendant, ring, fish tank, trip to a tropical island or the Great Barrier Reef, trip to the Orient	jade
$40^{\mathrm{th}}$	RUBY: ruby jewellery, ruby red glassware	ruby & garnet
$45^{\mathrm{th}}$	SAPPHIRE: sapphire jewellery, sea cruise	sapphire
$50^{\mathrm{th}}$	GOLDEN JUBILEE: gold jewellery, gold ring	gold
55th	EMERALD: emerald jewellery, anything Irish, trip to Ireland	emerald & turquoise
60 <sup>th</sup>	DIAMOND JUBILEE: diamond jewellery, anything English, trip to the UK	diamond & gold

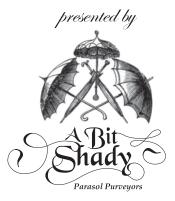
## 60<sup>111</sup> DIAMOND JUBILEE: diamond jewellery, anything English, trip to the UK

To arrange for the couple to receive a Diamond Wedding Anniversary telegram from Her Majesty, the Queen, the family should send a copy of the marriage certificate to:

## Assistant Private Secretary to HM the Queen Buckingham Palace, London SW1, United Kingdom

with the word Anniversary written in the bottom left corner of the envelope.

- 65<sup>th</sup> **BLUE SAPPHIRE**
- **70th** PLATINUM JUBILEE
- 75th **DIAMOND & ALABASTER**
- 80th OAK



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