

HOW TO SURVIVE THE RECEIVING LINE



Slow line

- Ask a member of the wedding party to leave the line and quietly tell a slowly moving person that someone in the other room very much wants to meet her now, then lead the slow-mover away.
- Instruct the band to relocate nearby and play very loudly so guests cannot be heard over the music and will not stop to talk.
- Insert a sweaty sous chef into the line.
- Instruct the caterers to serve food and beverages but not to get too close to the receiving line. If someone leaves the line, do not let them back in.



Chatty guest

- If a guest remains for too long, look over his shoulder, smile, and reach out your hand or cheek to greet the next guest in line, or say you will stop by the guest's table later to talk more.



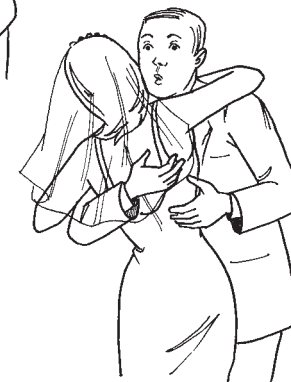
Kiss on lips

- Position your face so that you are clearly offering your cheek for an air kiss.
- If a guest appears determined to make lip contact, recalculate the angle by using your ear as the target for his or her lips and turn your head sharply at the last second. Throw your arm around them to make the diversionary maneuver seem like a hug.

Dodging a Kiss



Calculate angle of approach.



*Turn at last second.
Throw arm to hug.*

- If you know from past experience that a particular guest will lean in to kiss your lips, begin to move toward each other and then fake a cough or sneeze. When the guest momentarily pauses, rapidly move your cheek beside their cheek, completing the air kiss.
- Always keep your lips together, just in case a guest does surprise you with a direct hit.



Avoid a hand that's been sneezed on

- A bride should wear formal gloves in the receiving line to avoid germs from outstretched hands.
- Reach out and wrap one or both arms around the guest in a gracious hug.



Long bear hug

- Pat the hugger on the back. Continue increasing the force of the pats until you are released.
- Stomp on the hugger's foot. Once the hugger releases his clinch, apologize for losing your footing.
- Put your hands against the hugger's chest, stomach, or waist—whatever you can access—and push back. Do not go below the belt.
- Feign a fainting spell and transfer your total body weight onto the hugger for him to support. This will force him to recalculate his balance and give you the opportunity to step back.
- Cough in the hugger's ear.
- Give in and enjoy the moment.



Cheek pincher

- As the pincher approaches, drop your purse or pretend your watch fell off and quickly bend over to retrieve the object.
- Give a deep bow or curtsy, as is gender appropriate. This will result in the pincher missing his mark. Quickly turn to the next guest in line.



Ex-lover of spouse

- Use the “crusher” handshake. As your hand closes around your spouse's ex-lover's hand, add your other hand and exert maximum force. Smile. Grooms should not attempt if the ex is bigger and stronger.
- Pretend she is so unimportant that you do not even recognize her. Blandly say, “So nice of you to come,” and briskly move on to the next person.



Face tired from smiling

- Turn away from your guest and do some facial exercises to loosen cramping muscles and relieve tension. Grimace fiercely, then release the expression and open your mouth and eyes wide. Slide your jaw from side to side, curl your lips around your teeth to stretch the muscles around your mouth. Use your thumbs to press under your brow bones to release tension. Turn back around and resume smiling.