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*Jennifer Morrison
of House
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Paper Primer

The language of wedding stationery may seem foreign, but fluency is a crash course away. Here's everything you need to know to put together a complete suite, from save-the-dates to ceremony programs, seating cards to thank-you notes

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER CEGIELSKI

PHOTOGRAPHED BY GEMMA COMAS

invitation variations

Stack several pieces together, or say it all on a simple card—the option you choose depends on your style

Single Enclosure

The simplest and oldest invitation style is a single card containing both the ceremony and reception details; it's enclosed in two envelopes. These invitations are quite formal and therefore typically engraved or printed by letterpress. A response set is not included, because guests are expected to send a handwritten reply on their own stationery. Letterpress invitation with lined and unlined envelopes, price available on request, Printed Editions; 846-657-7203.

DOUBLE ENVELOPES

Whether containing single or multiple enclosures, invitations are packaged in two envelopes: The inner one, with the invitee's name only, holds all enclosures and is left unsealed. The larger, outer envelope, which is sealed and addressed, protects the contents from getting soiled in the mail.



Mail to

ALEXANDER • UNWAYDSSID
42 EIGHTH STREET N° 1100
CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Postmark

Ask your postmaster to hand-cancel your invitations to avoid any machine-processing gaffes and to preserve a crisp look.



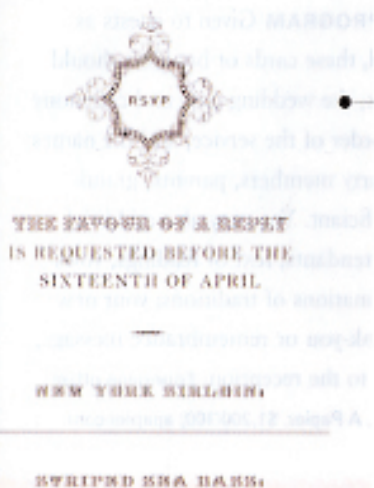


● **RECEPTION CARD**

A smaller adjunct to a ceremony invitation (far left), it indicates where and when the reception will be held, if it's not at the place where vows are to be exchanged.

Tissue

Once laid atop slow-drying ink to prevent smudging, it's now merely decorative—and a piece you may leave out of the ensemble.



● **RESPONSE SET** This duo—a card paired with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope—helps ensure that guests RSVP by making it easy for them to do so. There are several formats, but at the very least the card should read “The favor of a reply is requested,” with a response date about two weeks before the wedding.

Multiple Enclosures

The standard ensemble includes the invitation, detailing ceremony information only; a separate reception card; and a response set, all tucked into double envelopes. Offset-printed vintage-style invitation suite on white card stock. Grapevine, \$4,500/100; grapevinepaperie.com.

Reception Only

When the ceremony is small and private, and the majority of guests will be attending only the party, this invitation contains just the reception information. It is mailed in double envelopes with a response set.

Engraved invitation and ceremony card with engraved gold border, Vera Wang Fine Papers, \$1,241/100 sets; verawang.com for stores.



● **CEREMONY CARD** Those guests invited to both the small ceremony and larger reception receive this card—with all the information about where and when the couple will say “I do”—along with the reception invitation.

Optional Enclosure

● **RESERVED-SEATING CARD**

This “ticket” is sent to close relatives and friends to indicate priority seats at the ceremony. Guests should present it to an usher on arrival. Thermography on card stock, Checkerboard Ltd., \$89/100; einvite.com.

