Chinese Marriage
• Since ancient times, marriage has been regarded as one of the three most blessed events in the life of a Chinese person.

• The other two are pass the imperial examination and the birth of one’s children.

• Marriage was solemnized with lots of interesting customs performed to this day.
Proposal

- Free love
- Matchmaker on line /company /newspaper/TV show
- Arrange a match by parents’ order
A special phenomenon

• Matchmaking Park----parents
• If the parents do not object to the marriage, some family will then ask for the girl and boy’s birthday and birth-hour to assure the compatibility of them. (superstition)

• Picking a auspicious date to get engaged.

• Engagement Party
Engagement

• The bridegroom’s family will then arrange to present betrothal gifts. (Depending on local customs and family wealth.)

Engagement money (for girl)

Engagement jewelry (diamond ring, gold ring, earring ...)

Other gifts
• Normally, the bridegroom’s family prepare house.
• Picking a wedding auspicious date to hold the wedding ceremony.

• Wedding photographs
dowry 嫁妆

• Usually the bride’s dowry shall be sent to the bridegroom’s family by the day before the wedding day.

• A traditional dowry normally consists of valuable items such as jewelery, embroidered beddings, kitchen utensils and furniture.
Wedding

• Unlike Western tradition, the color red dominates traditional Chinese wedding. Chinese people tend to use or wear red to add a joyful atmosphere to such a festival occasion.
The Character “喜 xǐ”

• It consists of two of the same characters for “喜 xǐ (happiness )”, so it is also called double-happiness. It is stuck on the walls and doors to indicate the wedding.
On the wedding day

• Morning, the bridegroom sets out to receive his bride
  (Wedding usually in the morning if the new couple are married for the first time)

• Bridesmaid blocked the door--Red packets

• Eat dumpling

• Wedding banquet (Hotel) 11:28, 11:38, 11:48
Video: Wedding Ceremony
Teasing the Bride 闹洞房

- This happens in the newly-couples’ new room. In the evening of the wedding ceremony, the relatives and friends can stay in their new room and tease the couples with various kinds of small tricks, which are called “teasing the bride”.
huí mén 回门

• Traditionally, the newlyweds are to return to visit the bride’s parents three days after the wedding.
• The parents will be hailed with a banquet.
Honeymoon
Marriage certificate