

**CLASS – 10**

**ENGLISH**

**First Flight**

**CH-9 : The Proposal**

**Part – 1**

**A Russian Wedding**

**ARPITA SHARMA**



# OVERVIEW

1. A Russian Wedding

2. Lomov Arrives at Chubukov's House

3. Argument Over Oxen Meadows

4. Continuation of the Conflict

5. Natalya Learns About the Proposal

6. The New Argument

7. Teasing and Mockery

8. The Sudden Proposal



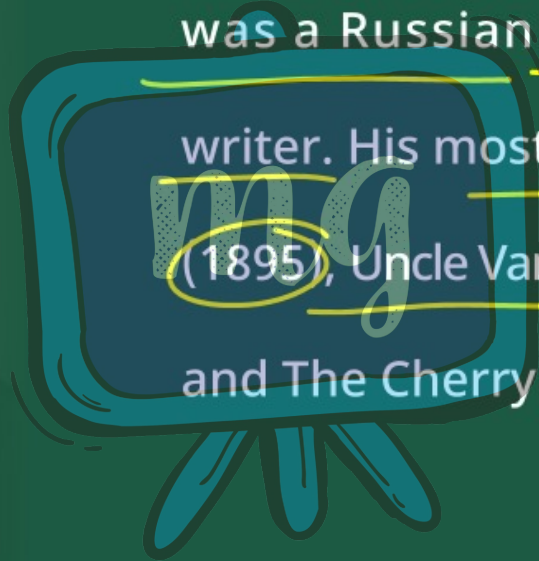
Anton Chekhov (29 January 1860 - 15 July 1904)

was a Russian playwright and short-story

writer. His most famous plays are: The Seagull

(1895), Uncle Vanya (1897), Three Sisters (1901),

and The Cherry Orchard (1904).



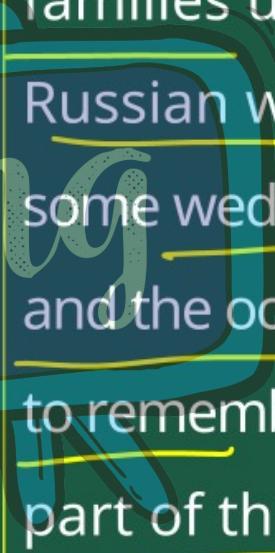


## A Russian Wedding

Do you know anything about a Russian marriage ceremony? Read this article about a Russian wedding.

Preparations for a Russian Wedding: A

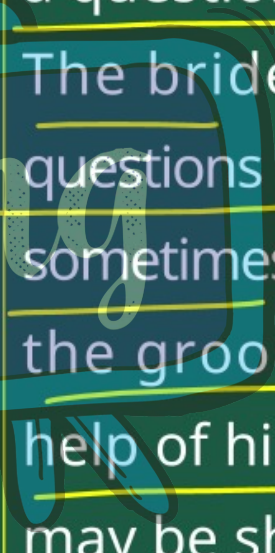
Russian wedding is very simple. The planning only includes arranging for rings, brides' dress, cars, and a reception. Earlier, the bride's family paid for the reception,



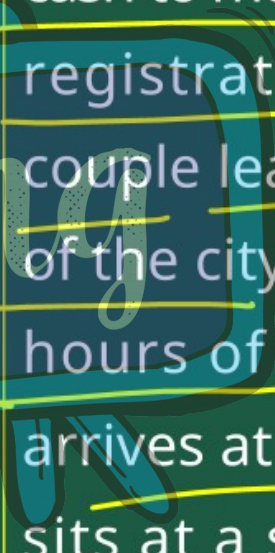
but now-a-days brides' and grooms'  
families usually share expenses. A  
Russian wedding lasts for two days;  
some weddings last as long as a week,  
and the occasion becomes something  
to remember for years. The necessary  
part of the wedding ceremony is a  
wedding procession of several cars.

Indian  
Wedding

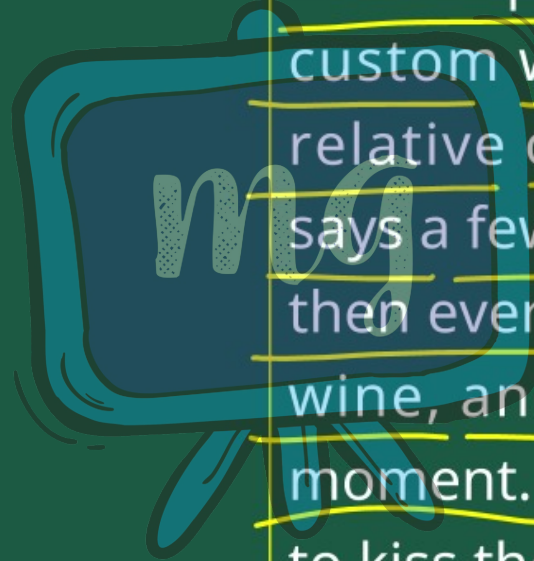
The best friends of the groom/bride meet before the wedding a few times, make posters, write speeches and organise contests. When the groom arrives to fetch the bride for the registration, he has to fight to get her! Russians usually live in apartments in tall buildings, and the groom has to climb several stairs to reach his bride.



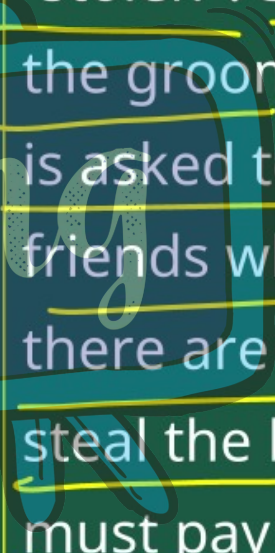
But at each landing he must answer a question to be allowed to go up. The bride's friends ask difficult questions (sometimes about the bride, sometimes just difficult riddles), and the groom must answer with the help of his friends. For example, he may be shown a few photos of baby girls and he must say which one his bride is.



If he guesses wrong, he must pay cash to move ahead. After the marriage registration, the newly-married couple leaves the guests for a tour of the city sights. After two or three hours of the city tour the couple arrives at the reception. The couple sits at a specially arranged table with their family, friends and invited guests.




The reception starts with toasts to the couple. A wedding toast is a custom where a close friend or relative of the groom or the bride says a few words to wish the couple, then everyone raises their glass of wine, and drink it up at the same moment. The groom is then asked to kiss the bride. After a few toasts, people start eating and drinking, and generally have fun.



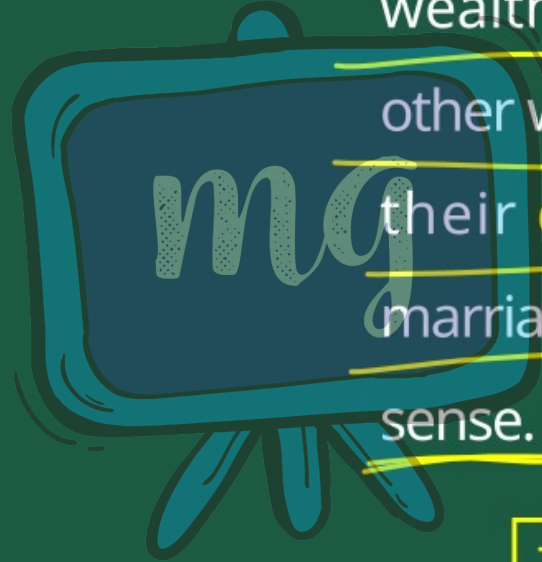
After some time, the bride gets 'stolen'! She disappears, and when the groom starts looking for her, he is asked to pay a fee. Usually it is his friends who 'steal' the bride. Then there are the bride's friends — they steal the bride's shoe. The groom must pay money for the shoe too. The guests enjoy watching these tussles, and continue partying.

## BEFORE YOU READ



'The Proposal' (originally titled 'A Marriage Proposal') is a one-act play, a farce, by the Russian short story writer and dramatist Anton Chekhov. It was written in 1888-89.

- The play is about the tendency of wealthy families to seek ties with other wealthy families, to increase their estates by encouraging marriages that make good economic sense. )



Tendency : प्रवृत्ति

Estates : जायदाद

Ivan Lomov, a long time wealthy neighbour of Stepan Chubukov, also wealthy, comes to seek the hand of Chubukov's twenty-five-year-old daughter, Natalya.

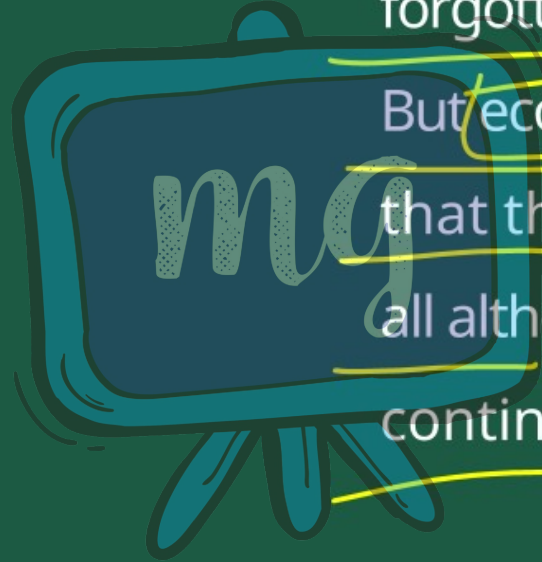
All three are quarrelsome people, and they quarrel over petty issues.

✓ Quarrelsome : झगड़ालू

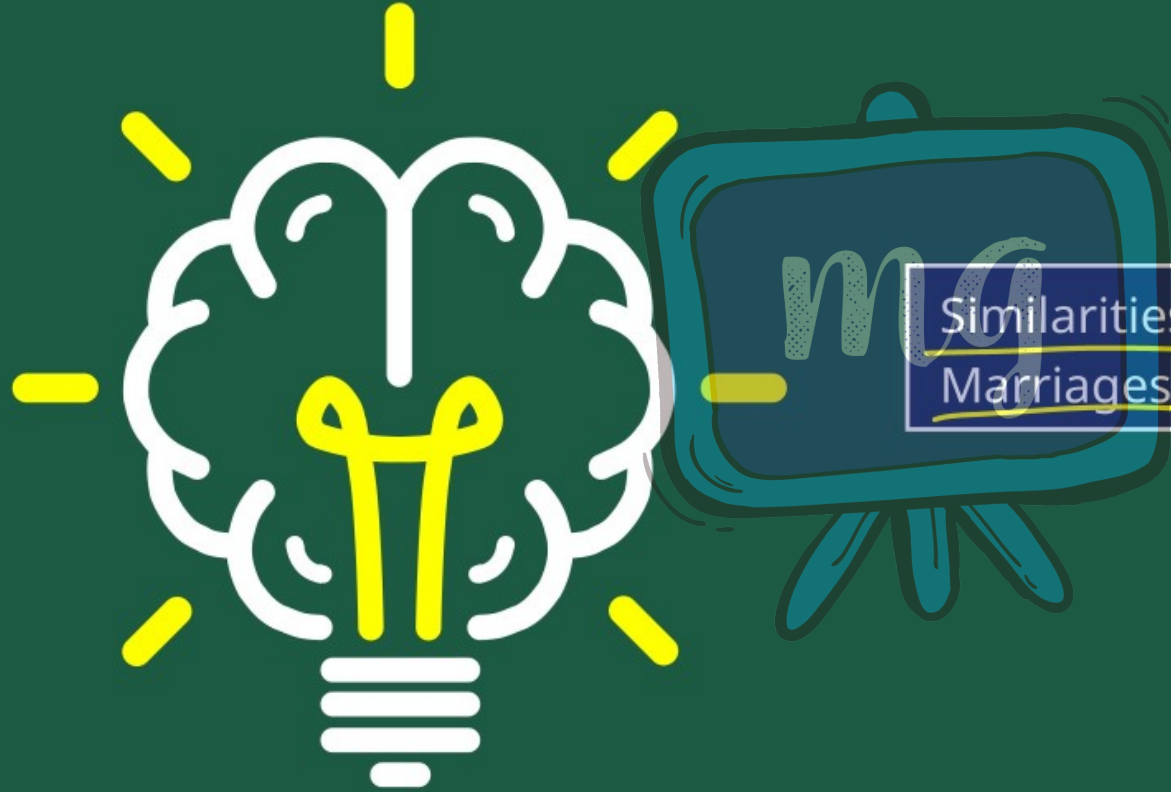
✓ Petty issues : छोटे मुद्दे

▮ The proposal is in danger of being forgotten amidst all this quarrelling.

But economic good sense ensures that the proposal is made, after all although the quarrelling perhaps continues!



# LEARNING OUTCOME



Similarities between Russian and Indian  
Marriages

# ASSESSMENT

1

How long does a typical Russian wedding last?

A One day

B Two days

C A week

D Three days

2

In the play The Proposal, who seeks the hand of Natalya?

A

Stepan Chubukov (2)

B

Ivan Lomov (3)

C

A wealthy merchant

D

A distant relative

# ASSESSMENT



3

What is the underlying theme of 'The Proposal'?

A

The importance of love.

B

Marriages for economic reasons.

C

Friendship among neighbours.

D

The joy of celebration.

