

# Wedding & Event Photography — Workbook

This workbook turns every module of the Wedding & Event Photography course into hands-on preparation and practice. Complete each section before or alongside the corresponding module so the decisions you make at actual events feel automatic. Exercises use real planning scenarios, checklists use production-proven items, and templates are designed to survive a full wedding day.

## Gear, Settings, and Pre-Event Planning

Audit your current kit, build your three custom camera profiles, and complete a venue walk so you arrive ready for anything.

### Exercise: Gear Audit and Gap Analysis

List every piece of gear you currently own that is relevant to wedding photography. Then compare it against the course kit list and identify what is missing, what needs upgrading, and what can be rented rather than purchased.

- What is your current camera body and what is its reliable ISO ceiling based on your own testing (not marketing specs)?  
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- Which of the three core lenses do you own, and what is the most cost-effective way to cover the gap — rental, purchase, or borrowing?  
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- How many batteries and memory cards do you currently have? What is the minimum you need to add before your first booking?  
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- What is one piece of backup gear you do not own that would reduce your single point of failure most?  
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### Worksheet: Custom Camera Profile Builder

Fill in the settings for each of your three scene profiles. Test each in the actual environment type (outdoors, indoor low light, reception flash) and record what you find after reviewing the test frames. Update the numbers until you have a profile you can deploy in under 10 seconds.

Profile 1 name (e.g., Outdoor Ceremony)

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Profile 1 — Mode (Aperture Priority / Manual)

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Profile 1 — Aperture

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Profile 1 — Shutter / minimum shutter

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Profile 1 — ISO range

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Profile 1 — White Balance (Kelvin or preset)

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Profile 1 — Test result notes

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Profile 2 name (e.g., Indoor Ceremony)

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Profile 2 — Mode

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Profile 2 — Aperture

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Profile 2 — Shutter

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Profile 2 — ISO range

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Profile 2 — White Balance

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Profile 2 — Test result notes

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Profile 3 name (e.g., Reception Flash)

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Profile 3 — Mode

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Profile 3 — Aperture

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Profile 3 — Shutter

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Profile 3 — ISO range

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Profile 3 — Flash power starting point

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Profile 3 — Test result notes

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### Checklist: Venue Walk Completion Checklist

- Visited venue at the same time of day as the wedding
- Photographed the ceremony aisle from both left and right altar positions
- Identified the best outdoor backdrop for couple portraits
- Noted ceiling height and color for bounce flash planning
- Confirmed whether flash is permitted during the ceremony
- Located electrical outlets and restrooms
- Identified parking and entry point for gear load-in
- Noted any obstructions (pillars, hanging fixtures) that block sightlines
- Photographed the reception room with house lights on and off

[ ] Sent a summary email to the coordinator with questions arising from the walk

## Lighting and Exposure in the Field

Practice lighting decisions in controlled environments before the wedding day so you respond automatically under pressure.

### Exercise: The 5-Scenario Lighting Practice Session

Before your first wedding, run a deliberate practice session using a willing subject (friend, partner, or fellow photographer) to rehearse each of the five lighting scenarios covered in the module. Review your results in Lightroom and note what you would adjust.

- For the shade-edge technique: how many feet inside the shadow line produced the most even light on your subject's face, and what was the histogram reading for skin tones?  
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- For bounce flash: at what ceiling height and flash power did you lose acceptable light quality, and what did you switch to at that point?  
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- For backlit golden-hour portraits: how many stops of positive exposure compensation were needed to expose faces correctly, and did you use a reflector, fill flash, or nothing?  
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- For the mixed-lighting scenario: describe the Kelvin value you chose, what color cast remained, and how you corrected it in Lightroom.  
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### Worksheet: Venue Lighting Reference Card

Complete this card for each venue you work at. Print or save to your phone for on-day reference. One completed card per venue.

Venue name

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Ceremony room: ceiling height (ft)

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Ceremony room: ceiling color / material

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Ceremony room: window count and direction

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Ceremony room: house lights type (tungsten / LED / mixed)

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Ceremony room: flash permitted? (yes / no / restricted to specific moments)

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Reception room: ceiling height (ft)

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Reception room: ceiling color / material

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Reception room: uplighting color

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Reception room: recommended starting ISO

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Reception room: recommended shutter speed

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Reception room: flash bounce angle

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Outdoor areas: best portrait backdrop location

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Outdoor areas: shade source type (building / tree / overhang)

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Golden hour window at this venue (start and end times)

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### Checklist: Flash System Ready-to-Shoot Checklist

- Speedlite batteries replaced with fresh lithium AAs (not rechargeable — they drop voltage suddenly)
- Flash tested at full, half, quarter, and eighth power in bounce configuration
- Radio trigger paired to receiver and tested at venue distance
- Off-camera flash stand and umbrella packed and accessible without opening full bag
- High Speed Sync enabled on trigger and confirmed working at 1/500
- Flash exposure compensation set to 0 as starting point (not a previous event's dialed value)
- Second body synced to same flash trigger channel

## Posing, Direction, and Timeline Management

Script your direction phrases, build your standard timeline template, and rehearse group control before the wedding day.

### Exercise: Direction Script Development

Develop your personal library of 10 direction prompts across three categories: physical placement, touch, and emotion/action. Test them on at least one willing pair before your first booking and note which produced genuine reactions.

- Write three physical placement directions (where to stand, how to hold the body) that you feel natural saying out loud.
- Write three touch prompts that produce natural connection without feeling awkward for the couple.
- Write four action or emotion prompts that have produced genuine laughter or connection when you tested them — include the exact words you used.
- Which direction prompt produced the strongest reaction in your test, and why do you think it worked?

### Worksheet: Wedding Day Master Timeline Template

Fill in this timeline template for your next real or practice booking. Block every camera-active segment and every buffer. Share the completed timeline with the coordinator one week before the wedding.  
Photographer arrival time

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Getting ready (bride) — start time

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Getting ready (bride) — end time

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Getting ready (groom) — start time

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Getting ready (groom) — end time

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First look — start time (if applicable)

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First look — end time

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Travel to ceremony venue — departure and arrival

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Ceremony — start time

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Ceremony — expected end time

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Buffer after ceremony (minutes)

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Formals — start time

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Number of formal combinations planned

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Formals — expected end time

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Cocktail hour coverage — start and end

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Couple portrait session — start time

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Golden hour window — start and end

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Reception coverage start

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First dance time

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Speeches time

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Cake cutting time

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Last dance / photographer departure time

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## Checklist: Pre-Wedding Day Coordination Checklist

- Shot list confirmed with couple and returned signed or acknowledged by email
- Formal groupings list sent to best man or maid of honor with names
- Timeline shared with coordinator and any conflict resolved
- Golden-hour window communicated to couple with the specific start time
- Dietary restriction (or none) confirmed with catering for photographer meal
- Venue walk completed and notes filed
- Second shooter (if any) briefed on timeline, shot assignments, and communication protocol
- Emergency contact numbers saved: coordinator, venue manager, officiant
- Weather backup plan confirmed for outdoor ceremony or portrait locations
- Camera profiles tested and saved as custom modes on both bodies

## Post-Production, Editing, and Client Delivery

Build your cull-to-delivery workflow, set your export settings, and prepare your gallery delivery communication templates.

### Exercise: Reference Edit and Sync Drill

Using a practice set of 100 images shot across at least three different lighting scenarios, complete a full edit workflow from import to export. Time yourself and record where the bottlenecks are.

- How long did the 3-pass cull take per 100 images, and what was your keeper rate (percentage selected after pass 3)?  

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- Describe the 6-step develop adjustments you made to the first reference image in each lighting scenario — specific numbers, not just panel names.  

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- After syncing settings to a group of similar images, how many required individual adjustment, and what was the most common correction needed?  

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- What is your total edit time for 100 fully finished images, and what would that project to for a 500-image delivery set?  

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### Worksheet: Gallery Delivery Setup Worksheet

Fill in each field to configure your gallery platform account and delivery communications before your first wedding booking.

Gallery platform chosen (Pixieset / Pic-Time / Cloudspot / other)  

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Account tier and storage limit  

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Gallery PIN format (6 digits / 8 digits / custom)  

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Download expiry period (days)  

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Print lab integration (if any)  

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Export settings — JPEG quality value  

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Export settings — color space  

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Export settings — filename convention  

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Delivery email subject line template

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Review platform link (Google / WeddingWire / both)

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Album ordering deadline stated in delivery email (days from delivery)

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Backup copy location (external drive / cloud — specify)

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Backup retention period (years)

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### Checklist: Gallery Delivery Quality Control Checklist

- All images exported at correct settings (JPEG 90, sRGB, full resolution)
- Filename convention applied consistently across all files
- Gallery reviewed on both a calibrated monitor and a mobile phone before sending link
- A minimum of one image from every major section is present (getting ready, ceremony, formals, portraits, reception)
- No technically failed images remain (blurry, clipped highlights on faces, significant camera shake)
- Gallery PIN set and tested from an incognito browser tab
- Download function tested — files download and open correctly
- Delivery email proofread and review link tested
- Backup copy confirmed on at least two separate physical or cloud locations
- Calendar reminder set for album ordering deadline follow-up

### Your Action Plan

1. Complete the Gear Audit worksheet and order or book rentals for any critical gaps before accepting your first booking
2. Build and test your three camera profiles (outdoor / indoor / reception flash) in real environments and save them to your camera's custom modes
3. Complete a venue walk for your first booking venue, photograph reference frames, and fill in the Venue Lighting Reference Card
4. Rehearse your 10 direction prompts on a willing pair and record which produced genuine emotion — refine or replace any that felt forced
5. Build your Wedding Day Master Timeline for the first booking and share it with the coordinator one week before the wedding
6. Run the 3-pass cull drill on a practice set of 100+ images and record your keeper rate and time-per-image
7. Complete a full Lightroom reference edit across 3 lighting scenarios, time the process, and identify your personal workflow bottlenecks
8. Set up your gallery delivery platform account, configure export presets, and draft your delivery email template before you need it
9. Complete the Gallery Delivery Quality Control Checklist on your practice edit to build muscle memory before a real delivery
10. After your first paid event, review your master timeline against what actually happened and update your buffer rules accordingly













