Affordable Reception Activity Cards

20 low-cost activities. Print, cut and hand each card to whoever runs it.

Each card lists materials, preparation and instructions. Pick a few; you do not need all of them.

ACTIVITY 1

Borrowed lawn games

MATERIALS
Cornhole, hoops or bocce (borrowed)

PREPARATION
Mark a clear play area

INSTRUCTIONS
Set the games out at arrival. Guests join and leave as they like.

ACTIVITY 2

Table question cards

MATERIALS
Printed cards, one per table

PREPARATION
Write 5 to 8 easy questions

INSTRUCTIONS
Place a card on every table. Guests answer when they feel like it.

ACTIVITY 3

Couple trivia

MATERIALS
A card with 5 questions

PREPARATION
Choose light questions

INSTRUCTIONS
Read one question between courses. Skip the scoring.

ACTIVITY 4

Advice and wishes cards

MATERIALS
Cards, pens, a box

PREPARATION
Print a short prompt

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests drop a card in the box. Read them later together.

ACTIVITY 5

Song request cards

MATERIALS
Cards, pens, a box

PREPARATION
Give the DJ a deadline

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests write one song and a reason. The DJ picks from the box.

ACTIVITY 6

DIY photo backdrop

MATERIALS
Fabric, paper or greenery, tape

PREPARATION
Hang it on a wall or frame

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests step in front of it. Add a tripod if you want.

ACTIVITY 7

Photo scavenger hunt

MATERIALS
Printed prompt cards

PREPARATION
Choose 10 to 30 prompts

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests photograph prompts as they spot them.

ACTIVITY 8

Wedding bingo

MATERIALS
Printed bingo cards, pens

PREPARATION
Choose squares like "someone who flew in"

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests mix and fill squares. First full row wins a small prize.

ACTIVITY 9

Open-when envelopes

MATERIALS
Envelopes, cards

PREPARATION
Set out a labeled box

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests write a note to open on a future day.

ACTIVITY 10

Guest-built playlist

MATERIALS
A shared playlist link

PREPARATION
Add the link to your website

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests add songs before the wedding.

ACTIVITY 11

Request-only first dance hour

MATERIALS
Collected song cards

PREPARATION
Sort the cards for the DJ

INSTRUCTIONS
Open the dance floor with guest requests.

ACTIVITY 12

Memory jar

MATERIALS
A jar, slips of paper

PREPARATION
Add a small sign

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests write a favorite memory with the couple.

ACTIVITY 13

Name that tune

MATERIALS
A DJ playlist

PREPARATION
Pick 10 song clips

INSTRUCTIONS
Play 10 seconds of a song. Tables guess.

ACTIVITY 14

Coloring pages for kids

MATERIALS
Printed pages, crayons

PREPARATION
Set up a kids' table

INSTRUCTIONS
Kids color during dinner.

ACTIVITY 15

Chalk message wall

MATERIALS
Chalk, a board or sidewalk

PREPARATION
Mark a spot

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests leave messages for the couple.

ACTIVITY 16

Bubble send-off

MATERIALS
Bubbles, a basket

PREPARATION
Check venue rules

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests line up and blow bubbles as you exit.

ACTIVITY 17

Table superlatives

MATERIALS
Cards with categories

PREPARATION
Write 5 categories

INSTRUCTIONS
Tables choose a winner for each, such as best dancer.

ACTIVITY 18

Toast-along cards

MATERIALS
Cards with unfinished sentences

PREPARATION
Write 3 prompts

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests finish a sentence and read it aloud if they want.

ACTIVITY 19

Photo strip pose cards

MATERIALS
Cards with pose ideas

PREPARATION
Print one per table

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests follow the poses on their phone camera.

ACTIVITY 20

Family recipe swap

MATERIALS
Recipe cards, pens, a box

PREPARATION
Add a sign

INSTRUCTIONS
Guests share a recipe. Collect them as a keepsake.