

I'm not a robot



Hello In my culture, when someone dies, there are typically four ceremonies performed. First, the deceased's body is prepared, usually at home. Second, people carry the body in a coffin and walk on the street in a gathering towards the cemetery. They walk slowly, while reciting prayers. Third, after reaching the cemetery, they bury the deceased, again while reciting prayers. Fourth, the deceased's family go home and receive guests who come to offer their condolences. The guests sit together, listen to a recitation of the Koran (scripture) and leave. They may be offered some black coffee and water, but no food or special drinks. I'm trying to find translations for the 2nd and 4th steps. Can we call them both "funeral"? Thank you The second is called a funeral procession. The fourth is called a wake. I wouldn't use the word "wake" of a solemn event: when I hear that word in real life now, it usually refers to drinks in the pub after a funeral, when everyone lets their hair down. Emanko, what are the Arabic words for these? Maybe these Arabic words have some currency in the English-speaking world? The trouble is, in very culturally specific questions, there might not be a real answer because cultures are not the same. We don't have words for things we don't do. I personally wouldn't call that a wake, even though it's sort of like a wake. Here's a definition of wake: A wake is a social gathering associated with death, usually held before a funeral. Traditionally, a wake takes place in the house of the deceased with the body present; however, modern wakes are often performed at a funeral home or another convenient location. All my life, that's how I've understood a wake. The body is present and people gather before the funeral. Since neither of those key elements are present in your version, it's hard for me to consider it a wake. But I don't have another word for it either. Normally, at the end of a burial here, people simply go home. The burial is the last formal event. [Also, I mostly associate wakes with Catholicism. Protestant churches that I'm familiar with don't use that term. Is a wake only Catholic?A wake is usually thought to differ from a viewing only in that, for those of the Catholic faith, it includes a brief ceremony in which a priest recites a liturgy of scripture and prayers - including the faith's famous "rosary" prayer - before the body and all who are present are invited to participate.] How you should describe (translate?) such an event depends on the exact context. For example, if the text is specifically about a Muslim funeral, then it might be best to use the Arabic term but explain its meaning in English. Checking how it's worded in existing texts might be helpful, maybe starting with Wikipedia: Islamic funeral - Wikipedia I wouldn't use the word "wake" of a solemn event: when I hear that word in real life now, it usually refers to drinks in the pub after a funeral, when everyone lets their hair down. Emanko, what are the Arabic words for these? Maybe these Arabic words have some currency in the English-speaking world? I agree with you about "wake". The ceremony is serious and dignified and it occurs after the burial. The Arabic word is وعاء and it translates to "condolences" and by extension the event where we offer our condolences, just like I described in#1. I'm responding to the suggested term 'wake'. For me, there must be a body for the wake (and the idea is to keep a vigil). The party-after meaning appears to be Irish (but appears to have filtered through to BrE from the comments made above). The Wikipedia link given by lingobingo has some useful pointers. But to your specific question. My suggestions: 2. Funeral Procession (agreeing with Glasguensis) 3. Burial or Interment 4. After-funeral Gathering The trouble is, in very culturally specific questions, there might not be a real answer because cultures are not the same. We don't have words for things we don't do. I personally wouldn't call that a wake, even though it's sort of like a wake. Here's a definition of wake: A wake is a social gathering associated with death, usually held before a funeral. Traditionally, a wake takes place in the house of the deceased with the body present; however, modern wakes are often performed at a funeral home or another convenient location. All my life, that's how I've understood a wake. The body is present and people gather before the funeral. Since neither of those key elements are present in your version, it's hard for me to consider it a wake. But I don't have another word for it either. Normally, at the end of a burial here, people simply go home. The burial is the last formal event. [Also, I mostly associate wakes with Catholicism. Protestant churches that I'm familiar with don't use that term. Is a wake only Catholic?A wake is usually thought to differ from a viewing only in that, for those of the Catholic faith, it includes a brief ceremony in which a priest recites a liturgy of scripture and prayers - including the faith's famous "rosary" prayer - before the body and all who are present are invited to participate.] I agree and totally understand that sometimes translation isn't available, but I still thought about asking, just in case there were equivalent words in English. And I was right about "funeral procession". Thanks, everyone. I'm responding to the suggested term 'wake'. For me, there must be a body for the wake (and the idea is to keep a vigil). The party-after meaning appears to be Irish (but appears to have filtered through to BrE from the comments made above). The Wikipedia link given by lingobingo has some useful pointers. But to your specific question. My suggestions: 2. Funeral Procession (agreeing with Glasguensis) 3. Burial or Interment 4. After-funeral Gathering Thank you, Nat. I happened to be on the page before you edited your post. Why did you remove "reception"? I saw it, looked it up online and found that it's kind of used, along with "repast". Yes, I changed my mind. I looked at your description that there wasn't any food offered, and that the main activity was giving condolences and Koran recitation, and thought reception might be misleading. Yes, some funerals here end with a reception and food and drink is provided. Hello everyone! I wonder about the meaning of a "removal" referring to the process of a funeral. Is it when the body remains uncovered in church? Thank you It usually refers to the act of taking the body away from the place where the death occurs for its preparation for burial or cremation. Hola, I think "removal" is the taking/transport of the body from where the person died to the funeral home where the body is prepared for the funeral. I think "viewing" refers to when the body remains uncovered in the church. Does this make sense in your context? Hola, I think "removal" is the taking/transport of the body from where the person died to the funeral home where the body is prepared for the funeral. I think "viewing" refers to when the body remains uncovered in the church. Does this make sense in your context? Hola, I think "removal" is the taking/transport of the body from where the person died to the funeral home where the body is prepared for the funeral. I think "viewing" refers to when the body remains uncovered in the church. Does this make sense in your context? I'm talking about Ireland. Perhaps in Ireland they call it "removal" while in the States it's the viewing! You are absolutely right. In Ireland, the "removal" is the "viewing", although often this ceremony is held in the funeral home. Then the coffin/casket is closed and the body transported to the church for a short service and Rosary. The coffin might then remain in the church overnight, and the actual funeral Mass said the following day. After the Mass, the coffin is taken to the cemetery for another small service and burial. The funeral service may then be followed by a "wake", which is a celebration (food and drink) of the life of the individual. You are absolutely right. In Ireland, the "removal" is the "viewing", although often this ceremony is held in the funeral home. Then the coffin/casket is closed and the body transported to the church for a short service and Rosary. The coffin might then remain in the church overnight, and the actual funeral Mass said the following day. After the Mass, the coffin is taken to the cemetery for another small service and burial. The funeral service may then be followed by a "wake", which is a celebration (food and drink) of the life of the individual. wow... You really know about it. I did not the whole process. Thanks a million. You have helped me a lot! What is the difference between a graveside service and a graveside committal after funeral? A service involves a religious rite. The actual funeral service could be held at the graveside. A graveside committal is a few words spoken over the coffin before the coffin is placed in (committed to) the ground. Hi whodoyouthinkyouare, (I always want to finish your name with the next line in that song: Mr. Big Stuff) In a Roman Catholic funeral, there's the funeral Mass at church, and then the car procession to the cemetery, where there is a final, smaller service at the gravesite, with the priest blessing the deceased with holy water and "releasing" him into the ground. Sometimes other prayers might be recited. There may be some special music performed at the site, (TAPS being played, for instance), and the final good-byes are actually said. The casket isn't covered in dirt until after the family has left. Sometimes, there isn't a church service, and the entire ceremony is conducted at the gravesite, so the moving from the actual service into the committal service is rather seamless, it might seem, because everything is taking place right there. I know here in Michigan, in the winter when it's freezing out, this final part of the funeral takes place inside a small chapel that's on the grounds of the cemetery. The "committing" of the body back into the earth is rather symbolic when done like this, because the casket is still not in the ground yet. This is how I understand the distinct steps to be different from each other. I hope this helps! AngelEyes By the way, should it be "graveside" or "gravesite"? I've heard of it as a whole expression "graveside/gravesite committal service". Thanks, dn88 dn88, That's a great question! It happens at the gravesite. But you could also say the ceremony takes place graveside. I would say Gravesite is the noun, and Graveside is the adverb. Maybe others will have more insight. Edit: No, graveside is either an adjective or noun. In my opinion, either word could be used then. AngelEyes I have the phrase Graveside Committal after Funeral... dn88, That's a great question! It happens at the gravesite. But you could also say the ceremony takes place graveside. I would say Gravesite is the noun, and Graveside is the adverb. Maybe others will have more insight. Edit: No, graveside is either an adjective or noun. In my opinion, either word could be used then. AngelEyes Thank you, AngelEyes I actually think that both are nouns, however, their meanings differ from each other. graveside - the area on the side of a grave gravesite - the place where graves are dug Does it make a great difference? dn88 Boy, it's such a tiny difference, I wouldn't have a problem using either word. True, the Committal Service takes place directly next to (at the side of)the place in the ground the casket will go, but it's also taking place at the gravesite - the site of the grave. I'm really picky, but in this situation, either word would work for me. Graveside does have a certain reverence to it, though. I do think I like this one best. AngelEyes Thank you for your patience, AngelEyes. No, thank you for making me think. AngelEyes (Oeco mentioned "gravesite" a few times, I would substitute "graveside" in each case, so the funeral ceremony is held at the graveside, or there is an additional graveside ceremony.) Interesting. In the US the place is usually called a gravesite. Graveside is used mostly as an adjective in my experience. Graveside services. Graveside prayers. Not that gravesite can't also be used that way. The WR Dictionary doesn't have an entry for either of these words! Merriam-Webster seems to agree with you. It has graveside but not gravesite! google also seems to agree, with double the number of hits for "graveside services" than for "gravesite services." I'll have to ponder all that the rest of this day. In this thread: funeral wake Oeco referred to gravesite ... I replied: (Oeco mentioned "gravesite" a few times. I would substitute "graveside" in each case, so the funeral ceremony is held at the graveside, or there is an additional graveside ceremony.) ... then I found this thread ... where I see that there are several who expect gravesite rather than graveside. That is interesting. In my mind, graveside is the proper term for the place at the side of the grave where the committal happens and where the mourners stand. It is the adjective of choice for that kind of ceremony. It is perhaps worth noting that a graveside is only a graveside when the grave is open. Standing in exactly the same place some weeks later I would be at the grave, not at the graveside. Gravesite conjures up a very different idea. To me, a gravesite is an archaeological (pew) location. To summarise, my own perspective on this is: The graveside is close to the open grave. The grave is the place of burial. The gravesite is something related to archaeology. The British National Corpus has one gravesite, referring to Arlington, and 44 gravesides. The Corpus of Contemporary American English has 159 gravesites, 166 gravesides. Is this really another AE/BE difference? That could be. But interestingly I just got a note this morning from a man planning his wife's funeral and he used the word "graveside" in the note. I would appreciate to the natives the following questions about the sentence I was at his funeral I was in his funeral 1) are both correct? If so what are the differences. "At his funeral" means that you attended the funeral. You can say you are "in someone's wedding" if you are an attendant, the flower girl, etc., but even if you are acting as a pallbearer (one of the people to carry the casket), it would be quite unusual to say that you were in a funeral, which could make it sound as though you were being buried, too. "At his funeral" means that you attended the funeral. You can say you are "in someone's wedding" if you are an attendant, the flower girl, etc., but even if you are acting as a pallbearer (one of the people to carry the casket), it would be quite unusual to say that you were in a funeral, which could make it sound as though you were being buried, too. Thank very much for your answer Eliane. I was at a funeral for a friend... Is "funeral of a friend" absolutely natural in its own right? Or is "for" more accepted and idiomatic? Or are they equal? Just the intended meaning of the author is different? I was at a friend's funeral. Both of them sound natural. I think "for" is more common. Not a native speaker here. My guess is that both are correct. funeral of a friend = a friend's funeral funeral for a friend = a funeral held for a friend who has deceased "I was at a funeral of a friend" sounds extremely unidiomatic to me. "I was at a funeral for a friend" sounds idiomatic, but I find it odd because it almost sounds like it was one of more than one funeral, or at least that there could have been more than one. To my knowledge, people usually only get one funeral. "I was at the funeral of a friend" sounds all right to me. So does "I was at a friend's funeral". "Funeral for" sounds odd to me. Maybe I should've given it in full. Maybe my version causes confusion about "a funeral". I was at a funeral for a friend from college, sitting in a row with all my old pals... (Jen Sincero, You Are a Badass at Making Money". Interesting. Like my fellow Brits, I find "the funeral of a friend" the obvious way to refer to such a function. I think I would only use for if referring to arranging a funeral for (= on behalf of) someone else. All of those examples use "the funeral", not "a funeral" as in the OP sentences. I was not sure whether it mattered. Each of the following sound ok to me: "A funeral for a friend" "The funeral for/of a friend" However if "funeral service" is said, then I only think that "for" sounds correct. I don't know why. From the BBC News website today: Victoria Beckham and Kate Moss were among the famous faces attending a memorial service for Dame Vivienne Westwood on Thursday in London. But I googled "funeral of Vivienne Westwood" and got a count of 804, whereas "funeral for Vivienne Westwood" came up with only 2 (one on Facebook, though I couldn't find it; the other on a Latin American website). I have to fess up to possessing Reginald Dwight's Sir Elton John's song Funeral for a Friend. And there's a Welsh band of the same name (but the music's very different). Now I know that we always say that art doesn't have to use conventional language, etc. etc. But still All of those examples use "the funeral," not "a funeral" as in the OP sentences. That's interesting. Here's something to occupy the back left corner of your brain today, @elroy, while you go about your daily life: where do English speakers swap 'to' and 'for' depending on whether the associated noun is preceded by a definite or indefinite article? Now that you mention it, "a funeral for/of a friend" sounds to me as though the friend might have had more than one funeral, which seems odd. Did you see this? "I was at a funeral for a friend" sounds idiomatic, but I find it odd because it almost sounds like it was one of more than one funeral, or at least that there could have been more than one. To my knowledge, people usually only get one funeral. Or perhaps I went to a funeral for some stranger on behalf of my friend who was unable to attend. I've spent a lot of time in Mexico and attended velorios and the like, but I was wondering if someone could offer me a more detailed explanation of the novenario when someone dies. Please keep in mind that I'm not Roman Catholic. . . . I was also curious if it is observed even if the deceased was not religious, although not atheist. Thank you I've spent a lot of time in Mexico and attended velorios and the like, but I was wondering if someone could offer me a more detailed explanation of the novenario when someone dies. Please keep in mind that I'm not Roman Catholic. . . . I was also curious if it is observed even if the deceased was not religious, although not atheist. Si la familia es.If the family is. Thank you Es una tradición que despues del sepelio empieza el Tradicional "Novenario", durante nueve dias se resa el rosario, tambien mucha gente envia flores. It is a tradition after the funeral to start "The Novenario" during nine days people say the rosary, also many people send flowers. Indeed, it is a tradition, but from what I know about Catholicism it is of great importance because the people who attend the "novenario" pray for the soul of the deceased, so that he/she is forgiven for all his/her sins by God and accepted into heaven. Once it is completed the faithful believe that they have help in some way for this person to rest in peace. It kind of gives closure to family members as well. I hope this helps! KIBS I've spent a lot of time in Mexico and attended velorios and the like, but I was wondering if someone could offer me a more detailed explanation of the novenario when someone dies. Please keep in mind that I'm not Roman Catholic. . . . I was also curious if it is observed even if the deceased was not religious, although not atheist. Thank you Hi Kate, My late father-in-law was an atheist who memorably refused to see a priest on his deathbed (Tú y tus curas me la). However, his widow and daughters did carry out a novena. I'm afraid I can't offer you a detailed account of what happens as it does seem to vary from place to place, but the basic idea is that a novena is 9 days of prayer, sometimes non-stop. In some cases the rosary is repeated over and over, and in others, one of the mourners will lead the others in various kinds of prayers. I think the guided repetition is quite therapeutic for some grievers. I hope this helps. Lola A novenario (nine days of prayer, can be masses or just rosaries) or a triduo de misas (three masses, on three consecutive days) are the most widely used forms of observance after the deceased has been laid to rest. Usually, the family is catholic, however, most of these traditional observances are for the relief of the living, i.e., we believe we do everything we can for the soul of our loved one, regardless if the person was a firm believer or not. We believe we can "help them gain entrance to the kingdom of God". (This explanation is extremely simple and superficial. Let me see where you can go to, so that you can learn more about our traditions. First choice, your local catholic church, regardless of your faith. I am sure, they will try to answer your questions. There are also the Gregorian masses, which many people claim that even the most evil person (deceased) cannot resist and will subsequently gain entrance thru the pearly gates. These masses should be held for a complete month, one mass for each day of the month, and as far as I know, the salvation of the deceased has to be the only intention of the mass. In other words, the priest should pray only for that person's soul. The novena isn't done just for deaths. It's considered one of the strongest forms of prayer, and there are hundreds of possible novenas--for specific needs, to specific saints, for specific times, etc.

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