

A Sample Lesson / Excerpt from Module One
BH&J PRO, Wedding Crafts Academy

Pearls

Pearls

In many cultures, pearls are a symbol of love, purity and perfection. Pearls are associated with joy but sometimes also with tears.

Superstitious customers might order only those accessories that are made with crystals and diamonds as bridal jewellery made with pearls can allegedly bring bad luck.

In most parts of the world, pearls represent happiness rather than sorrow. In ancient Greece, brides believed that pearls would protect them from crying during their married life.



Similar qualities are associated with dark coloured Tahitian pearls.

Polynesian legend even says that pearls were the first light here on Earth that inspired

the goodness of beauty and harmony to create stars.

As pearls look feminine and romantic, headresses and jewellery sets made of pearls always sell well.

Pearl Grades and Pearl Shapes

The grade of pearls depends on their origin (natural or cultured, freshwater or saltwater), their size, shape, surface, colour and their “lustre”.

“Lustre” refers to the pearl’s shine and the way it reflects light. The best lustre is found in pearls that are formed of numerous thin translucent layers.

Pearls are graded by experienced jewellers and many different grading systems can be used.

To avoid any confusion, exquisite pearls are usually



accompanied by a written description.

Top grades are given to large round pearls of exceptional quality, with excellent lustre and a flawless surface.

Lower grades are given to small pearls of irregular

shapes, to pearls with an unwanted hue and to pearls with surface flaws.

The most typical pearl shapes are round, near round, button (flattened), oval, drop and baroque (uneven).

Round pearls are perfect for making earring studs, necklaces, headbands and other types of headdresses.

Drop pearls look nice when made into pendants or dangly earrings. Oval and button-shaped pearls make beautiful bracelets.

Pearls by Origin

Natural Pearls



Naturally occurring pearls are extremely rare and very valuable as it is estimated that only one in 10,000 oysters produces a pearl spontaneously.

The formation process of a natural pearl is started by a microscopic particle.

The oyster then uses its inside coating called “nacre” to surround this particle, thus forming a pearl.

Cultured Pearls



Cultured pearls are formed by saltwater oysters or by freshwater mussels in pearl farms.

Tiny beads, stones or grains of sand are inserted into clams to force them to form a pearl.

The four main types of cultured pearls are:

Freshwater Pearls, Akoya Pearls, South Sea Pearls and Tahitian Pearls.

Freshwater Pearls



Freshwater pearls are formed by mussels living in ponds and rivers.

These pearls are usually white or ivory but can also have peach, lavender, cream or pink hue, depending on the type of mussel that produced them.

As freshwater mussels can produce several pearls at the same time, these pearls tend to be relatively inexpensive.

Akoya Pearls



Akoya pearls are imported mainly from Japan and China and are named after the “Akoya” oyster which forms them.

Akoya pearls are relatively small, typically with a diameter measuring less than half an inch (one centimetre).

An evenly round shape and a fine lustre is typical for Akoya pearls.

The most common colour shade is light ivory, with a hint of pink or silver.

Tahitian Pearls



Tahitian pearls can be distinguished from other types of pearls easily as they come in dark shades such as black, dark green, navy or purple.

Although Tahitian pearls are not the most common choice when it comes to making bridal jewellery, these pearls are valuable.

A necklace made with Tahitian pearls will make a very nice present for the mother of the bride or the mother of the groom.

South Sea Pearls



South Sea pearls are imported from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Australia.

These exquisite pearls are produced by gold-lipped or white-lipped oysters that are much larger than other types of pearl-making clams.

As South Sea pearls are highly valued by jewellers, these pearls are sold at premium prices and are not used for making handmade bridal headdresses very often, due to their price.

Mother of Pearl



Mother of pearl, also known as “nacre” is the inner layer of oysters. This material is relatively inexpensive and most manufactures of beading components cut mother of pearl into irregular chips or into decorative shapes.

Mother of pearl beading components come in various colour shades, such as ivory, pink, peach and lavender. These components can be over two centimetres wide and are often polished and engraved.

Faux Pearls



Faux pearls are artificial pearls made of glass, plastic or metal.

When using faux pearls for making bridal jewellery, it is important to order from a trusted supplier as many faux pearls are of inferior quality.

The coating of budget friendly faux pearls is often thin. It can scratch or rub off easily.

Faux pearls come in a wide range of colours, from pure white and ivory to bright shades of red and green.

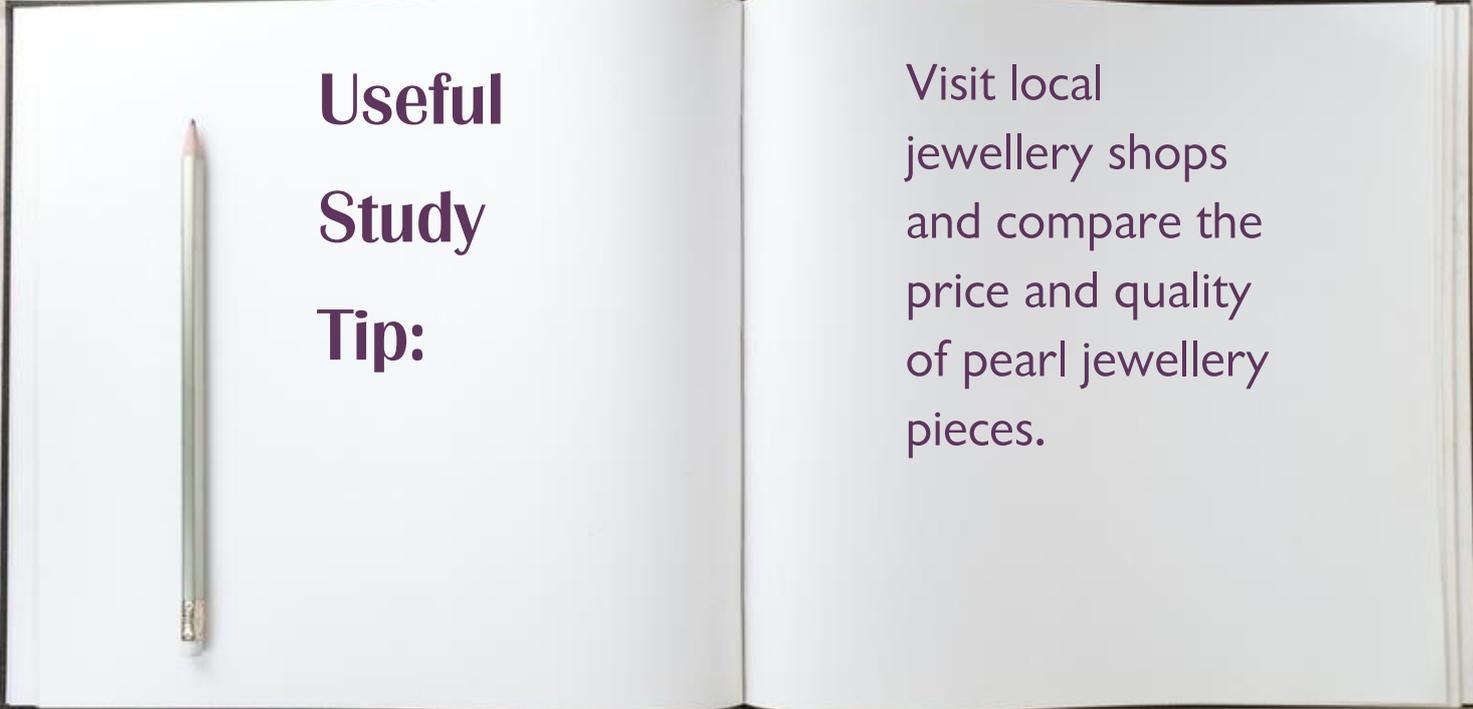
Crystal Pearls



Crystal pearls, made by Swarovski®, are a special type of faux pearls with a quality crystal core and a durable, non-scratch coating.

Thanks to their crystal core, the weight of these pearls is similar to the weight of genuine cultured pearls. Their surface also resembles the surface of cultured pearls.

Swarovski® white pearls are perfect for making bridal accessories as their very pale ivory tone complements bridal gowns.



**Useful
Study
Tip:**

Visit local
jewellery shops
and compare the
price and quality
of pearl jewellery
pieces.

How to enrol:

To become a qualified bridal headdress designer, you can enrol at the Wedding Crafts Academy website:

<https://www.weddingcraftsacademy.com/bridal-headpieces-and-jewellery-course/>

Any questions?

Feel free to contact us before enrolling, we are here for you to answer any questions you may have about any of our courses:

[weddingcraftsacademy.com/contact-us](https://www.weddingcraftsacademy.com/contact-us)

Wedding Crafts Academy

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