



The Secrets to Delivering a Perfect Wedding Speech

Top Tips from the Wedding Speech Expert

Your Speech Should:

- Be a maximum of 1,000 – 1,200 words or 7-10 minutes of speech
- Strike the right note. Do you want it to be humorous and funny, or sweet and sentimental. Both can work really well but if you are using one-liners, make sure that they are tried and tested beforehand
- Be entertaining but not necessarily funny unless you have a really good joke
- Above all, be genuine and sincere
- Not make fun of other people at their expense! It is, too often, not funny at all
- Include maybe one two anecdotes or reminiscences, at most, otherwise it can become boring for your audience

You Should Always:

- Be courteous
- Look at the person to whom you are referring, if they are in the room
- Raise your head from your script as much as possible, and always at the start and end.
- Be aware of your dress. Is your tie in the right place and are your trousers secure!
- Try to end your speech on a high note of intent, of faith or of thanks

Don't:

- Start your speech saying how nervous you are!
- Over-indulge with alcohol or you may sound like Donald Duck!
- Criticise anyone in the room
- Make jokes about past romances or ex-partners
- Swear or make any explicit sexual references
- Repeat anything said to you in confidence e.g. maybe the bride or groom told you that they were getting 'cold feet' and wanted to call off the wedding
- Refer to race or religion
- Mention any family squabbles

Do:

- Practice! Practice and rehearse your speech until you are word perfect.
 - Check out the room when you arrive at the venue and that the microphone is working
 - Make sure you know exactly when you are going to be speaking
 - Listen to the other speeches on the day and try to make some links in your own
 - Compliment the families of both bride and groom
 - Make sure you can pronounce the name of everyone correctly
 - Write the bullet points of your speech to remind you rather than having to read it all from a wad of paper
 - Use double line spacing if you do need paper, and if you wear reading glasses, make sure that you have them to hand!
 - Allow pauses at the end of each sentence
 - Be aware of your body language and tone of voice
 - Look around the room at the audience as much as you can
 - Let the speech come from the heart, for then it will flow naturally!
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Your Next Step

Contact the Wedding Stress Expert and let her take the stress out of writing and delivering your wedding speech.

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