

10 PRACTICAL TIPS FOR WEDDING SPEECH WRITING

A helpful guide for wedding guests preparing a speech or toast based on my 10+ years experience as a wedding photographer



1. Keep It About the Couple

It's lovely to share a personal story or memory, but remember, the speech is about the newlyweds. After brief intro, shift the focus to their relationship and what makes them a great match, what top three qualities they have etc

2. Stay Kind and Appropriate

Humour is welcome, but steer clear of anything that could embarrass the couple or their families. Avoid crude jokes, inappropriate stories, or mentions of past relationships. If in doubt, leave it out. Keep it classy!

3. Keep It Short and Sweet

Aim for around 3 minutes. Even if you're asked to speak briefly, speeches tend to run longer with laughter and applause. Keeping it concise helps hold everyone's attention and keeps the day flowing. Do not be the one that delays the party!

4. Find One Great Story

Rather than rehashing the entire life history of the child getting married/the couple, relay one good or funny story that says everything about them. One well-crafted story is better than a timeline. Tip for parents - skip birth and embarrassing childhood stories!

5. A Toast Instead of a Speech

Consider scripting an expanded toast that offers wishes of good fortune and wellbeing. Focus on the future instead of the past as most speeches tend to do. Offer your best piece(s) of advice for a healthy marriage or an optimistic and happy vision of it.

6. Practice Ahead of Time

Rehearse your speech in front of a friend or in front of the mirror. It'll settle jitters and help flow. Rehearse slow, clear speech – nerves have a tendency to make us speak quickly. Allow for applause after each paragraph/thanks/funny bit.



7. Write It Down

Even if you intend to memorize your speech, have notes along. The adrenaline of the day might get the best out of anyone and make them forget their lines. No one cares if you read, especially if you're engaging with the audience. Paper notes in hand look better than phones on photos!

8. Hold Back on the Drinks (Until After)

It's easy to rely on the open bar, but try to keep it to a minimum before your speech. A clear head will enable you to give something genuinely memorable - for all the right reasons!



9. Thank yous

Review with the couple who do thank yous. There is nothing worse than 6 speakers thanking the same people and waiting/receiving applause after each thanks. After the 3rd speaker, the audience will get bored and the energy will be killed. If the couple is thanking parents and suppliers, someone else highlights the wedding party involvement, skip this completely. Instead, offer a brief compliment to the wedding party or the couple.

10. Lastly, avoid clichés

Most people know who you are, no need for 'for those who don't know me'. If you get introduced, skip intro altogether, otherwise simple 'hi, my name is X and I am the Best Man/ Father of the Bride etc' is perfect.

Good luck and have fun!