Guide To Writing Great Wedding Speeches

For help with your wedding speech, visit:
http://www.UltimateSpeeches.com

Need an amazing wedding gift?
# Table of Contents

- p. 03 Introduction
- p. 04 History of Wedding Speeches and Toasts
- p. 06 The Basics of Giving a Speech
- p. 10 Considerations for the Wedding Speech
- p. 16 Preparing Your Speech
- p. 18 Mind Mapping
- p. 24 Wedding Toasts
- p. 28 Presenting the Wedding Speech
- p. 31 Build Your Confidence in Twelve Steps
- p. 34 Dealing with Speech Anxiety
- p. 38 Speech Topics
- p. 40 Jokes and Anecdotes
- p. 41 Sample Speeches
  - p. 42 Best Man Speeches
  - p. 49 Maid of Honor Speeches
  - p. 55 Father of the Bride Speeches
  - P. 61 Groom Speeches
  - p. 63 Bride Speeches
  - p. 66 Generic Speeches
- p. 70 Toasts
- p. 71 Conclusion

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Introduction

Giving a speech in public can be one of the greatest fears that you can imagine. Giving a speech can be as frightening as the highest height imaginable! In fact, some surveys have suggested that public speaking is the number one fear for many North Americans. Some respondents to surveys about speech giving have even admitted that they would rather go out of their way to avoid any social situations in which speeches might be necessary.

So just why are speeches so frightening? Studies have suggested that most people are afraid of looking foolish or saying the wrong thing while giving a speech. Those people who fear giving speeches find that they are being judged and looked at. The pressure to give a speech can make some people feel nauseous, shaky, and have a sick feeling in their stomach. People who suffer from a serious phobia of giving speeches may actually become violently ill before appearing in public.

Despite all the problems with giving speeches most of us are expected to give a speech from time to time. For many of us our first confrontation with giving speeches comes at a wedding. Weddings are a time when everyone involved seems to be expected to give a speech. While many people do so willingly others are more reserved about it because it can be hard to find just the right words to say that will be welcomed and enjoyed by the Bride, Groom and guests at the wedding, including the Bridal party. The pressure to say the right things at a wedding can be tremendous burden when you’re required to come up with the perfect speech that is sure to capture the attention of everyone attending and be remembered years from now.
If you are nervous about giving speeches, or have never given one, this guide will cover some of the basic information that you need to come up with the perfect speech and overcome your fear. This book covers the fundamentals of writing a wedding speech and will tell you how you can deliver a speech that is sure to make an impact. Some of things that you’ll learn in this book include:

- the history of wedding speeches and toasts
- the basics of giving a good speech
- some things to consider when you’re writing a wedding speech
- how to start your speech
- how to use “Mind Mapping” to create a speech
- tips for wedding toasts
- sample wedding speeches and toasts
- how to present your speech and make an impact
- how to build your confidence
- how to deal with speech anxiety
- topics for wedding speeches
- all about jokes and anecdotes

You will learn how to write a speech, how to give a speech orally, and much more. You will also learn good relaxation techniques that will help make you appear and feel more confident when you’re in front of an audience. The selection of sample speeches will give you a starting point for creating your own personal speeches.

One of the most important things to remember is that you don’t have to agonize over any speech that you’re giving at a wedding. After reading this book the next time that you are at a wedding and have to give a speech you’ll be prepared to leave them all smiling. This book will allow you to be as

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
prepared as possible for the speech that you’ll be giving so that you can enjoy the celebration without worrying about your turn in the spotlight.

**History of Wedding Speeches and Toasts**

In the past, women didn’t play much of a role in giving speeches at weddings. In European and North American cultures it was father of the Groom and the father of the Bride who were responsible for taking control of the toasts and speeches. However all this has changed and today both men and women give speeches and toasts at weddings.

The style of wedding speeches varied widely by country. For example, in ancient Egypt, blessings and offerings to the Gods were given as part of wedding ceremonies. These blessings and offerings functioned much like the wedding speeches of today. In Europe, the fathers of Brides and Grooms usually spoke at weddings. In Great Britain mothers give wedding day blessings as well as toasts at the receptions and ceremonies.

Some past wedding traditions didn’t involve the Bride and Groom at all. Celebrations were still a part of the wedding reception but these celebrations were generally not focused on the married couple; rather, these celebrations were a time and place for the wedding guests to enjoy themselves. There was less focus on the wedding party and speeches took second place or were nonexistent. For example, the Maid of Honor and the Bridesmaids traditionally didn’t deliver a speech at all.

The onset of the 20th century changed many wedding traditions and added some new ones. Today it is common for the entire wedding party to give speeches to the Bride, Groom, and parents of the Bride and Groom. After these main speeches have taken place other guests may choose to come up to the microphone or head table to deliver a speech of their own.

Wedding speeches have also changed in tone and content from past years. While in the past serious blessings were bestowed on the couple as part

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
of the wedding speeches, today speeches can seem positively flippant by comparison. These days, many successful wedding speeches contain humor and some level of teasing towards the wedding couple. Rather than simply giving blessings many speech givers at weddings are expected to reminisce and comment on the couple as well as to propose a toast and offer good wishes to the Bridal pair.

This new set of loose rules has many would-be wedding speech givers more nervous than ever. It’s not always possible to tell what humor, if any, is appropriate and will be appreciated by all the guests attending the wedding. With more choices than ever many people who wish to give a speech at a wedding end up feeling confused and completely unsure of how to proceed. In the following pages you will learn all you need to know to write a speech that is appropriate will be received with applause.

**The Basics of Giving a Speech**

For many people a wedding is their first real chance to give a large speech in front of an audience. If this is the case for you then chances are that you may be very nervous. That’s perfectly normal. In fact, most people giving speeches at weddings probably feel the same way. Even people who give speeches frequently are often nervous before speaking at a wedding. Don’t look at your anxiety as a sign of failure. Quite the opposite, in fact: your nervousness may well be the motivation that you need to get started on writing the speech. Nervousness is something that you can use to your advantage as you prepare for your turn at the microphone. Once you work on your speech, and use the techniques in this guide, your nervousness will start to subside as you see the progress that you’re making.

One thing that makes wedding speeches so scary is that guests at a wedding all seem to be waiting for that one speech that will leave the couple speechless and full of emotion. Many guests seem to expect a speech that will

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
have a great impact on the wedding couple. The trick to giving a great wedding speech is learning how to turn that nervous energy into a memorable speech! There are several ways to use this nervous energy to your advantage:

- Everyone gets nervous about public speaking. In fact, some people are more scared of public speaking than they are of dying! Realizing that you are not the only person who is nervous is often one of the first steps to overcoming pre-speech jitters. Putting your nerves into context makes you feel less “alone” in your anxiety. It also lets you adopt a more controlled attitude about speech giving. Many other people are also nervous about speeches and still manage to deliver well composed words despite their nervousness.

- You have the ideal audience at a wedding. The wedding guests and Bridal couple that you are speaking to are going to be a very supportive, close, and interested audience while you are giving your speech. People will be anxious to hear what you have to say. The people attending a wedding are there to celebrate the wedding of two people they know and love, and not to listen to speeches that are perfect.

- Before you begin work on your speech keep in mind that speeches that are easier to give are generally less scary, easier for your audience to listen to, and more effective as well. Many beginning speech writers want to develop complicated and elaborate speeches that will really “wow” the audience. However, simplicity is usually best.

A simple speech is composed of a few key parts:

- **The hook:** People will be listening to a lot of speeches at a wedding and you want yours to stand out from the rest. The best way to do that is to
start by saying something that will catch their attention at the beginning of
the speech. This is called the “hook”. The hook can be in the form of a
personal story, a hypothetical scenario that will make people think, or an
anecdote about the couple. A quote can also work well as a way to hook
the audience and grab their attention. Anything that shows why you care
about the couple, or why other people should care, will make your audience
WANT to listen to what you have to say. You should begin a wedding speech
with a hook of some sort.

• The set up: Once you have made your audience want to listen to you, you’ll
want to make it as easy as possible for them to follow your speech from
beginning to end. The most effective way to do this is to indicate what tone
you will be using and what your speech will cover. You should NOT give a
breakdown of your speech since you want to keep the talk quite short.
However, a simple phrase or sentence that gives your audience a sense of
what is to come is always appreciated.

• The follow-through: After you’ve mapped out your speech make sure that
you follow your speech map, taking care not to drift too far from what you
intended to say. Generally, you will want to end your speech with a toast
or a blessing of some sort.

While you do not need to follow the above simple speech plan to the
letter it does give you a quick idea of what sort of speech outline tends to work
well for many speeches. If you are at a wedding and wish to make a quick
toast, or speech on the spot, this simple and easy-to-remember three-part
structure will see you through. This structure can also give you some early
ideas about how wedding speeches work and how they can be written.
You will want to keep the above key parts of a speech for making impromptu toasts and speeches. While a wedding gives you a chance to plan, write, and practice a speech ahead of time there may be several times throughout the wedding when you will want to give a toast with little preparation. If you are a member of the wedding party and are attending rehearsal dinners, showers, and bachelor parties you may find that you need to give a speech. You will not always be told ahead of time whether this will be the case for the events you will be attending. Many times one person will start with a toast which will lead to several toasts and speeches. Keep the above key points in mind for speech structure and you will always be prepared.

If you have been told ahead of time that you’ll be required to speak at the shower, bachelor party, Bridal shower, or rehearsal you will want to prepare a little more. You do not want to be giving the same speech to the Bridal couple several times and this means that you will have to develop a few speeches that you can use. Since all of your speeches are going to be different you need to know exactly what you are going to say in a general sense so that you can prepare your speech. Here is a short list of the most important questions that you must consider before writing each of your speeches:

- What kind of speech do I plan to make (humorous, poetic, sentimental)?
- How long will my speech be?
- What is my role in this wedding (father of the Bride, Best Man, Maid of Honor, Bridesmaid, or other)?
- What type of impression am I hoping to leave with the audience?
- Is this a first wedding or second?
- How well do I know the couple?
- How long have I known the couple?
- How do I want the couple to remember my speech?

Need an amazing wedding gift?  

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
The more that you know about the Bride and Groom, the more personal information you’ll be able to include in your speech. Finding the answers to the following questions about the Bride and Groom will help you find your inspiration as well as give you some ideas for what to include in your speech. Don’t hold back when you’re finding out information about the couple and make sure that you write down everything that you learn for reference as you’re writing your speech. You will have plenty of time to edit the content later. Here are some questions that you should ask the couple or people who are close to them, such as parents, siblings, and best friends:

- How long have the Bride and Groom known each other?
- How and where did the couple meet?
- How did the Groom propose?
- What was the Bride’s reaction to the proposal?
- Does the couple have any children?
- What are the Bride and Groom’s mutual interests?
- Ask the Bride what five words come to mind when she thinks of the Groom.
- Ask the Groom what five words come to mind when he thinks of the Bride.
- What is the funniest thing that happened to the Groom while Bride was around or missing in action? And vice-versa?
- What do the Bride and Groom dream about for their future?

The above questions are more important that you might think. When you find the answers to these questions you will find themes and ideas that can help you write a memorable and treasured speech that will be fondly remembered by the Bride and Groom for years to come.

**Considerations for the Wedding Speech**
Writing a wedding speech is especially hard if you don’t know what is expected of you. If you have not attended many weddings, or have not really listened to the speeches given at weddings, you may be wondering what the point of wedding speeches is. It is important that you understand the motives behind giving speeches before you try to write one of your own.

Wedding speeches are, in general, a way to help the wedding couple celebrate the wedding. They are often given in conjunction with toasts. At the reception there is usually a time allotted for wedding speeches. This can be before the meal, during the meal, or after the meal. Many speeches are also given when the new couple arrives at the reception.

At some weddings there is a separate, smaller set of speeches that takes place during the wedding ceremony. If you are part of the Bridal party you may want to ask exactly when the speeches will take place so that you know the agenda of the wedding celebration. In most cases someone who is in charge of coordinating the wedding will let you know when you’ll be giving your speech.

At the wedding reception speeches are often announced by the master of ceremonies who will invite members of the wedding party to come up and give their speech. At smaller weddings the Best Man may start off the wedding speeches. In general the speeches will take some time. Speeches will be heard by the Best Man, the Maid of Honor, the Bridesmaids, and other wedding party members. The father and mother of the Bride and Groom will also be asked to give speeches. Finally, the Bride and Groom will be asked to say a few words. At this point the floor will be opened for other guests to come forward and give their well wishes in the form of a speech or a toast.

At some weddings, however, only specific people (usually the wedding party) are asked to give speeches. The speeches will follow a short welcoming comment that is made by the Best Man or master of ceremonies. During many wedding receptions it is typical for the master of ceremonies to introduce each
speaker to the audience as they are inviting them up to the microphone to give the speech.

After the speeches the Bride and Groom are toasted and then the couple will have a chance to give their own speeches. At some larger weddings the toasts and speeches are intermingled throughout the evening so that speeches don’t take up too much time all at once.

The Bride and Groom will generally reply to each speech by thanking the speaker. Many times the speaker will walk past the wedding couple for the shaking of hands or giving hugs. At many weddings the Best Man will toast the Bridesmaids or make toasts on their behalf. The Best Man will also often toast the wedding hosts. However, this does not mean that the Bridesmaids and wedding hosts will not make their own speeches.

There are several different types of wedding speeches that can take place during the wedding reception:

- **The Best Man:** The speech of the Best Man is often longer and more formal than any of the other speeches. It often ends with an invitation for guests to join the Best Man in a toast. At many weddings the Best Man will begin the evening’s speeches. However, the speeches of Best Man vary widely from wedding to wedding. In many cases these speeches are humorous, although many best men also deliver excellent sentimental or touching speeches as well.

- **The Maid of Honor:** The Maid of Honor is often expected to give a speech after the Best Man. Usually the Maid of Honor will talk about the couple and will lead the guests in a toast. The same rules that apply to the Best Man’s speech apply to the Maid of Honor’s speech as well.
• **Parents of the Bride and Groom:** Like the Best Man and the Maid of Honor the parents of the Bride and Groom will often deliver longer speeches. In many cases these speeches will wish the couple much joy and will reflect on the bringing together of two families. Again, these speeches often end in blessings or wishes for the Bridal couple and a toast.

• **Bridesmaids and Ushers:** The Bridesmaids and ushers may present a speech together or individually as friends of the Bride and Groom. Bridesmaids and ushers are not always expected to give speeches at weddings but it is a good idea if you are a Bridesmaid or usher at a wedding to be prepared to give a speech. Since the Bridesmaids and ushers are often close friends, or family, of the wedding couple it is often a nice touch for them to share their own feelings by giving a speech.

• **The Bride and Groom:** After the wedding party has presented their speeches the Bride and Groom may wish to offer their own speeches as well. They will usually thank their parents and anyone else who went out of their way to help them plan the wedding. They will also thank their wedding party and guests for coming together to help them celebrate their marriage. If any person has traveled a long way to take part in the wedding they are also traditionally thanked by the Bride and Groom in their wedding speeches. Often the Bride and Groom will also use their wedding speeches to declare their love, express their hopes for the future, and to reflect on the special occasion. The speeches of the Bride and Groom are very anticipated by the wedding guests and often can get quite emotional.

• **Guests of the Wedding:** Guests are often invited to give speeches at a wedding. They can come up individually or in groups to share their blessings for the new couple. These speeches tend to be shorter than the speeches of the wedding party and may often contain stories about the
Bride and Groom. Guest speeches generally end with a toast to the new couple.

While these guidelines can tell you what many speeches are like at weddings you should not follow the guidelines too closely. Many wedding speeches vary widely depending on each individual wedding. Wedding speeches should celebrate the life and union of the Bridal couple, allowing the guests to share in the couple’s joy.

As long as your speech helps to celebrate the wedding in some way you won’t have to worry too much about content. Most speeches are really about sharing the joy of the wedding celebration. Whether you do this with a formal speech, a poem, or an informal anecdote is less important than what you are able to accomplish with your words.

There are some key points that you’ll want to keep in mind when you’re planning your speech:

• **Develop a plan and imagine objective and potential outcomes.** There is nothing worse than not knowing what you want to get out of giving your speech during a wedding. Do you want to be funny? Do you want to thank the caterers? Or do you want to bring out the emotions of the wedding guests? Before you begin writing your speech you need to work out what it is that you want to achieve. A rambling and unfocused speech is more likely to make you feel terrible about giving speeches and it can be difficult to listen to. Having a plan makes the speech better for both you and your listeners.

• **Form a solid structure:** You’ll want to have a solid speech structure such as a beginning, middle and end to your speech. Listeners love to hear a
structured speech and the best speeches stick to this rule. You’ll want to have a welcome in your wedding speech, a body, and a conclusion. The conclusion of your speech can encourage a toast or blessing of some kind.

• **Saying too little is better than saying too much:** Keep your speech simple and short, no longer than five to seven minutes. Anything longer and your speech will be too long winded. This means that you risk boring the audience. You’ll also keep other speech makers waiting if you go on for too long and this can create havoc with the reception schedule.

• **Keep your speech positive:** Keep the content of your speech on a positive note and avoid making any negative comments about previous wives and husbands, girlfriends and boyfriends, or other ‘black sheep’ family members. Remember that the wedding reception is supposed to be a celebration and isn’t the right time to talk about uncomfortable topics. Negative or hurtful comments can sour the mood of an entire wedding.

• **Research your speech with personal information:** Personal stories can help you to connect with your audience in a more meaningful way. You are going to want to reflect on at least three different events that demonstrate how much your care for and love the couple. If you do not research or reflect on the couple you may end up writing a very general or vague speech. Personalized speeches are often the most touching because they will be a true celebration of the Bridal couple.

• **Personal stories are not about you:** Keep personal anecdotes very short and use them to demonstrate a point while at the same time not making them the focus of the speech. Let your audience visualize the moment the stories
took place by creating a brief sketch rather than a detailed portrait of the story.

- **Have a strong opening and closing:** People will many times remember the opening of a speech and it can make the difference between people listening to you or tuning you out. The closing of your speech is important because it will reinforce the key message you want the audience to go away. Ending your speech with some sort of call to action can be a powerful way to get your audience to act on your message. In the wedding speech the call to action is easy. All that you have to do is ask people to help you in toasting the families, wedding party, or wedding couple.

- **Avoid consuming too much alcohol before you give your speech:** You need to be alert if you are going to make a good and lasting speech. Save the alcoholic celebrations until after your speech so that you don’t say or do anything silly. Being intoxicated while giving a speech makes it appear that you do not care about or respect the wedding party.

- **Make eye contact and use simple notes for recall:** Use index cards with key points if you are planning to make a longer speech. Avoid reading it directly and maintain eye contact with your audience as much as possible because it shows that you are being sincere. Lack of eye contact is a major problem in speeches as it gives the impression that you do not care for your audience.

- **Practice and rehearse:** Practice your speech or at least get some feedback from someone you trust beforehand. Recording and listening to your speech is the fastest way to improve your speaking skills, check for inconsistencies, and help you memorize the speech. Practicing is also one of the best ways
to be polite to the audience as it shows that you care enough about your listeners to provide them with the best speech you can possibly create.

- *Don’t share too much personal information:* It is customary that some stories about the wedding couple are shared at the wedding. In fact, in many cases, rather personal, funny, or embarrassing stories about the couple are shared. However, you should be sure that any story that you share has not been told to you in confidence. Remember: your goal is to make the audience feel good, not embarrassed.

- *It’s all about the Bride and Groom:* Nervous speech givers will sometimes end up talking more about themselves than the wedding couple. While it is very likely that many of the stories and reflections you know also include you, and while you are sharing your own ideas and feelings, be sure that you focus on the couple and not on your own role in their lives.

- *Pay attention to your audience:* Don’t forget that weddings are all about the guests at the receptions as well as the Bridal party. Try to avoid making off-color or questionable comments during your speech and toasts. No matter how funny you think a story is make sure that it will not offend anyone before you share it with the whole room.

- *Never force a speech:* Many people think that they are expected to give a very funny or a very emotional speech at a wedding even if that sort of speech isn’t their style. If you are not funny your funny speech may seem forced or, worse, insincere. Stick with the type of words that suit you and your sincerity will show through and be much appreciated by all.

**Preparing Your Speech**

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Now that you have a good idea of what is expected from a wedding speech, and some of the conventions surrounding wedding speeches, you’re ready to get started on your own speech. Take the information that you’ve learned so far about wedding speeches to craft your own words. You’ll want to start thinking about the couple that you’re talking about.

The first step that you need to take when actually writing your speech is to getting to know your subject. You are probably close to either the bride or Groom so this may not seem very challenging. However you likely don’t spend lots of time thinking consciously about the couple. Begin by thinking of what first pops into your mind when you consider the bride and Groom. Consider your favorite memories of the time you have spent with the couple. Reflect how the couple met. Think of the personalities of the bride and Groom, funny moments they have shared, and their history together. Ask yourself what you like best about the couple. Any one of these ideas can start as the base for your speech as long as they are appropriate for all ages and not likely to embarrass or offend anyone.

One of the best ways to plan a wedding speech is to brainstorm ideas. This is also called “Mind Mapping”. Mind Mapping is a very useful technique in creating presentation ideas because it helps you to visualize the structure of your speech.

From the time we are taught to write in school we are taught to sort our thoughts in an organized way. We learn to write (and, therefore, to think) line by line, left to right, top to bottom on the page. You may have even learned how to prepare speeches that way already: either writing them out word for word or writing outlines with the main points, then sub-points, then sub-sub-points, and so on.

While this is a useful way to keep your writing pages neat it is not the ideal way to plan a speech. Our minds simply don’t work in such a neat linear way. When you are getting a speech ready you don’t think in terms of points
and sub-points. You likely think in separate idea links. You likely think in associated and almost random images. Mind Mapping is simply a technique that is used for translating these mental ideas to paper. Mind Mapping will help you to:

- put your ideas down on paper quickly so that they are remembered later
- build a speech out of disorganized thoughts, ideas, and fragments of ideas
- reduce, and possibly even eliminate the need for structured notes

The following chapter will help you use Mind Mapping to create your speech.

**Mind Mapping**

The basic idea when you are Mind Mapping is that instead of writing out your speech in its entirety you draw it in pictures. This naturally means that a Mind Map is just a sample of your speech using pictures or half sentences.

Here’s a quick overview of how to create a Mind Map:

- Start your Mind Map by using a blank piece of paper and a set of colored pencils or markers.
- Draw your speech topic in the middle of the paper.
- Draw lines with branches coming out of it: one for the introduction, one for the conclusion, and one for each main point in your speech.
- Identify each line with a symbol or other picture that will help you to easily identify the point. If you can’t think of a picture, label the line with a word.
- If you have many different sub-points to make draw other lines branching out from your main points and repeat the process.
Here is a sample Mind Map that can be used for speeches. As the diagram shows, each idea should be placed in a separate bubble all its own. It can be filled with pictures or whatever else you need to use that will help you recall it later.

The Mind Mapping technique is also good to use when you are trying to remember family and friends names, etc. This structured format for brainstorming can be used for anything. As long as your speech topic or main theme is in the center, you can’t go wrong with this technique.

Source: www.strategictransitions.com/literaturepage2.htm#speech

When it comes to the actual structure of your speech here are some more tips for creating your speech:

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
• Take your time. You don’t have to rush through your speech. Think about what you want people to know about the new couple and what you wish for their future.

• Let your guard down. Don’t be afraid to let your emotions show; it’s ok to cry or let out your real feelings. This is one time when it is not only accepted but expected.

• Be yourself. If you are a reserved person trying to write a witty speech will not only make reciting it more difficult, it will sound fake. You can’t be sincere if you are not being yourself.

Once you have tried your hand at Mind Mapping you will likely develop a number of ideas that can fit quite nicely into a speech. At this point you may start wanting to write the actual speech itself. Do not be afraid of writing a few speeches, or revising a lot, in order to get the right words. You may also want to look at the sample speeches in this guide as you write to give you some great ideas.

It is not uncommon to have no idea where to begin when faced with a blank page. Many professional writers find themselves in the same predicament. You may be having trouble starting because you are thinking about writing something phenomenal and wonderful. Or you may be so worried about writing the perfect speech that you have trouble writing anything at all.

The perfect antidote to this is simply to begin writing. Look at your Mind Map and at the things you wish to communicate to the audience. Then simply begin. If you want to explain to the wedding guests why you think the Groom and bride make a wonderful pair do not begin with the history of romance in Europe. Begin simply. Saying “I think Cathy and Mark are the most beautiful couple I have ever seen. I became convinced of this last week when I saw....” or “I want to tell you why this wedding means so much to me” is a very effective way of beginning a speech. Your audience will appreciate your
honesty and sincerity. They are not looking for a literary masterpiece. They simply wish to celebrate the wedding with you. You can help in the celebration by focusing on the couple and on a simple honoring of their love.

Of course, if you are having trouble getting started, finding something to start with can be a big help. Consider some of these ways of beginning a wedding speech:

- **Quotes**: There are many quotation books out there that cite lovely or funny quotes about marriage and love. As long as you choose a brief quote you can easily build an entire wedding speech around it.

- **Famous romances**: You can easily compare the passion and devotion of a famous couple to the current bridal couple.

- **Personal stories**: Many wedding speeches begin by recounting how the couple met or talking about incidents that occurred during the courtship. Personal stories about the wedding couple make guests really feel that they are part of the couple’s lives. Personal stories are also quite interesting.

- **Jokes**: As long as a joke is not potentially offensive, telling a joke can be a great way to get the audience’s attention and make yourself seem confident and at ease. You can always switch the tone to a more serious or sentimental one simply by saying “But seriously, ladies and gentlemen, what I really have wanted to tell you is…”.

- **Anecdotes**: Relating one interesting fact or detail about weddings or love can be a great way to start a speech. However, avoid peppering your speech with anecdotes.
• **Poems:** Many beautiful love poems have been written about love. You can easily select one, read it, and tell the audience why it reminds you of the wedding couple. This is one of the simplest ways of building a wedding speech, but it can also be very effective (as long as no one else at the wedding has a speech with the same poem).

• **Passages from favorite books:** Again, writers often express their love in wonderful ways. Quoting a very short passage from a book (and telling the audience where the quote is from) can be a good way to start to say what you wish to say.

• **Lines from movies or songs:** Many romantic songs and movies have very simple sentences or phrases that make great beginnings to wedding speeches.

Once you have begun to write your speech (and you may wish to begin a few wedding speeches, just in case one opening inspires you more than the next) you will ideally be able to keep writing. Once you have something on the page you can describe why the poem or idea or story is important to the wedding couple. You can also thank the wedding couple for their friendship and offer them your wishes for their future.

In general you will want to have only a few main points. One to five main points is about ideal for a wedding speech. For example, you may wish to share how you knew when you first saw them together that the wedding couple was destined to be together. Then explain why the wedding couple means so much to you or describe what you wish for the couple in the future. This would be a simple three-part speech structure.

Once you have come to the end of your speech you will want to end it well. The endings of wedding speeches are generally quite brief. In many cases
the best way you can end a wedding speech is simply by offering your best wishes. You can also end with a small toast. A simple sentence such as “I know all of us here want to wish you the very best for an entire lifetime together” or “Let me make a prediction right now: Mr. and Mrs. ____ have many years of abundance and bliss before them today” is sufficient.

After you have a speech written down and polished you should set it aside for a few days before reading it again. This will give you a chance to approach the speech with a fresh perspective. You will be able to see mistakes you did not notice before and you will be able to notice any awkward phrases that can trip you up at the wedding. You should read your speech out loud into a mirror or tape recorder to get a sense of how it sounds and how long it is. You will also want to give your speech to a few friends for criticism and comments. All this effort will be well worth it, as it will give you a chance to correct and edit your speech.

When you’re done writing your speech you will have to decide how to deliver it. You may be surprised to find that a number of wedding party members will arrive with no note cards or index cards. Some may simply have their speeches memorized, while others will have only a general idea of what to say!

You will have to decide whether you want to memorize your speech word for word and deliver it just as it is written or whether you will want to have an outline and ad lib your speech. There are disadvantages and advantages to each method. If you memorize your speech, you may sound less “natural.” Memorizing an entire speech can also be quite time consuming, and will give you no assurance that you simply won’t forget all you have just memorized when the pressure increases in the moments before you are to give the speech. On the other hand, memorizing a speech will give you confidence and will ensure that you remember enough of the speech to present well.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
On the surface, ad-libbing a speech seems far riskier. It is true that you will have less control over length (nervousness may make you ramble on) and you may feel more nervous by having nothing “solid” prepared. You may stumble over words a lot and have trouble articulating what you want to say. On the other hand, you will sound very natural and will be able to make eye contact with the audience. If you choose this route, you will want to use the tips in this guide to create an outline that you can take with you on a cue card. This will help reduce your stress and ensure that you have some idea of what to say.

Which of these two methods you choose is up to you. Do what feels comfortable for you. However, do make sure that you are well prepared to give the speech and do make sure that you practice ahead of time. Also, do not make that mistake of many first time speech-givers. Do not simply write the speech and bring the written version with you, intending to read it out. This method will affect your body language and will prevent you from making good eye contact with your audience. Unless there are unique circumstances, you will want to either memorize your entire speech or just memorize your speech outline and improvise on the exact words.

**Wedding Toasts**

Once you have your speech ready, you may start to feel better about speaking at the wedding. However, many would-be speech givers are thrown by suddenly being told that they have to give a “toast.” If you are a member of the wedding party and are expected to give a toast there is no reason to panic. This handy section will give you the most frequently asked questions about toasting and will provide you with the answers you need to toast with style!

Need an amazing wedding gift?


Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
What are wedding toasts? Wedding toasts are generally invitations to raise a glass to the bride and groom. They are a traditional way of saying “we wish you well.” Toasts in many of today’s weddings take the place of earlier blessings. Certainly, toasts have a similar intent. In many of today’s weddings, toasts take place at the same time as wedding speeches. In fact, some people use the term “wedding speeches” and “wedding toasts” to mean the same thing. This means that it is very important that you check to make sure you understand what is expected of you at the wedding. If you are expected to give both a speech and a toast, you will be expected to add a toast to the end of your speech, in most cases. If you are expected to give a speech, you can generally add a toast to the end of the speech, if you wish. If you have been asked to give a toast, however, it is important that you do not provide a speech, which is much longer and very different in tone. Find out ahead of time what is expected of you and you won’t be facing unpleasant surprises.

What is the basic rule of toasting? The best toasts are always very brief. They have to be because so many people give them. They are nothing like giving a speech. Toasts help to add to the celebratory mood. Think about it: the wedding is about the bride most of the time. This is not the time for the best man or some guest to try out his new stand-up comedy routine. The longer the toast is the less effective it is for the couple and for the guests to hear. Keeping it brief also allows for others to add their toasts.

Who is the Master of Ceremonies for the toasts? Many people think the bandleader or the disc jockey is in charge of the toasts. This is actually not true! It may be hard to believe, but the best man is generally in charge of toasting. This is the same person who was chosen to be the best man mostly because of his ability to plan the bachelor party. However, while best men will spend days, even weeks, planning the end of his friend’s bachelorhood, he may
only start thinking about the toasts the night before the actual wedding. If you are planning a wedding, you may want to choose a best man that is able to deliver a good toast as well as a good party. If you are going to be a best man, you will want to start thinking about the toast at the same time you start planning the bachelor party.

Who actually does the toasting? The couple should decide who is likely to want to toast at the wedding and who would have a good impact. This varies widely based upon the formality of the wedding and the feelings of the rest of the family. Nowadays, it is common for the best man to toast the bride, the maid/matron of honor to toast the groom, and the father of the bride to toast the couple in general. It is also common for the bride and grooms to toast their parents and the guests.

More toasts may depend on things such as who is actually hosting the wedding. For example, if the bride's step-father is paying for the wedding, chances are he will be the one who wants to toast the couple. Even if the groom's side is not actually paying for the couple’s wedding, they should be offered the opportunity to offer their best wishes as well.

As you can see, the toasting can become pretty complicated and very quickly. It is best to consider the toasts well beforehand if you are going to address any issues that may come from it. It really is taken seriously as an affront to leave someone out of the toasting, so do choose carefully who will be allowed to toast you at your wedding.

What about Toasting at the rehearsal dinner? Often people are concentrating so hard so about the toasting at the wedding that they completely miss the opportunity for toasts at the rehearsal dinner. The rehearsal dinner provides the right time for anyone who is involved in the wedding to share their thoughts with the bride and groom in more relaxed environment. Also,
rehearsal toasts at the rehearsal dinner can be spontaneous and can be longer than wedding-day toasts. Perhaps if you don’t want the pressure of making a wedding a wedding toast you can offer it at the rehearsal dinner because there will be less people there. The people at the rehearsal dinner will also be likely close friends and relatives, which can make toasting less stressful.

When are the toasts? For formal weddings, the toasts are generally given after the meal. If the wedding cake the couple is cutting will also be the desert, the toasts are done following the cutting of the cake. If the cake the couple is cutting is not the cake that is going to be served, the toasts may occur immediately after the meal. For less formal weddings and those that are done on the beach or in the afternoon, toasting is generally done after the couple’s first dance as husband and wife. Either way, you should talk to the caterer so that they can plan the timing of the dessert course.

What do the bride and groom do during the toasts? All that the couple usually does during the toast is sit still and smile. The bride and groom cannot toast to themselves. If you desire to, you should get up and return a toast. Returned toasts, if you can imagine, are even briefer than the original toast to ensure that the evening continues along at a reasonable pace.

Here are some quick tips for wedding toasts:

• Make sure that you are prepared. You have to decide who is toasting, in which order they will be toasting and what you will say in advance of the wedding.
• Be very sincere. You have to use your own words and speak from the heart. This will be easier for you to remember and mean more to the couple than a toast that you borrowed from a book.
• Again, make it brief. You have to keep the toast within a two to three
minutes time-frame. Remember that your toast is not the only one of the
evening.
• Be as tactful as possible. You have to refrain from embarrassing the couple
on their special day. The groom's old girlfriend, the bride's breast
augmentation, any previous marriages the bridal couple has had, and what
happened during the bachelor/bachelorette party should all be left out of
the toasts.
• Be as complimentary as possible. After all, the whole purpose of a wedding
toast is to say something nice about the couple that is being honored.
• Practice the toast, in front of a mirror, or to friends and family without
using your notes. You have to memorize the toast because you will be
holding a microphone in one hand a drink in another. You don’t have enough
hands to also hold an index card.
• Again, you should avoid alcohol until you give your toast. You do not want
to give your toast while intoxicated.
• Use your manners. Take small sips of your champagne. Wedding toasts are
not a chugging contest. Your glass should not need to be refilled after each
toast. Also, clinking should be done with care; especially when you are
using crystal stemware. Unlike beer mugs, crystal is quite delicate. Some
hotels and caterers now even have rules about toasting and use of glassware
in order to prevent breakage. Be sure to follow any rules regarding toasting
that you are given from the caterers or the bridal party.
• Connect with your listeners. Make eye contact with the couple and with the
guests while making your toast. Be sure that you are speaking slowly and
clearly so that your words can be easily understood.
• Don’t forget to be charming and courteous. You have to remember to raise
your glass during the toast and sip from your glass at the end of the toast. It

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.

29
is never good to drink during the toast. This also applies while someone else is giving one.

**Presenting the Wedding Speech**

Now that you have written a wedding speech and prepared to present it, you will have to face the actual giving of the speech at the wedding. To give a successful speech, you not only have to write a good speech, but you also have to prepare yourself to present the speech well. This means practicing, of course, but it also means thinking seriously about what you need to do while you are at the center of attention giving your speech.

As you begin practicing your speech and planning the actual presentation of the speech, you may wish to review some basic do’s and don’ts of wedding speeches:

**Do’s and Don’ts of Wedding Speeches.** When it comes to giving a speech, there are specific things that you should and shouldn’t do:

- If you are the Best man, don’t forget that your speech is not an extension of the stag night. It will be far better received if you don’t use vulgarity, bad language, or make references to the groom’s prior relationships. It is possible to make a speech which will be accepted very well by omitting all of these.
- Do try to make sincere parts of the speech sound sincere. I know some men are not happy at being thought of as being sincere or corny, but do it anyway. A wedding is a loving occasion and your reputation will remain just the same no matter how corny you are.
- Don’t forget the speech card in case you forget what you were going to say. If you wear glasses don’t forget them.
- Do try to relax and take some long deep breaths beforehand. It really helps.

Need an amazing wedding gift?


Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
• Do try to open the speech with a witty comment or joke. Once you have got a laugh, you will feel much more confident. Make sure that you smile.

• Do hold your head up in the air, look around the room and give everybody a big smile. This makes people think you are relaxed, and it also relaxes them.

• Don't mumble. If there is no microphone, please try and speak loud and clear, so that the people at the back can also hear your speech.

• Do wait until everybody has stood up when you are making a toast. Lift your glass positively into the air before making the toast, and wait until everybody has lifted their glasses before giving it.

• Don’t pass around any photos or props while you are giving your speech. This only causes people to start chatting, so that they cannot fully listen to the wonderful things that you are saying. If you need to use pictures, use a slide projector or set up a photo album that will allow guests to see the photos after the speeches.

In addition to these basic do’s and don’ts there are a number of ways that you can prepare to give a great wedding speech:

• Get familiar with your space: Check out the room before you do or say anything. Test the microphone, if you’re going to be using one, to make sure that the volume is right. Set up and test your other equipment if any (projectors etc.). Speak to the person who’s going to introduce you right away by giving an acknowledgment and a thank you. Greet people in the audience; particularly the wedding party so that you can begin establishing a connection with them.

• Mind your attitude: You can set yourself up for failure by adopting negative thinking such as, "I better not blow this" or "If I make a mistake, I'll just

Need an amazing wedding gift?


Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
die.” Instead, you need to remind yourself that the audience wants you to succeed. After all, it is a wedding. And remind yourself that you want your audience to succeed.

• **Smile:** Even while you are sitting in your seat, people will be looking you over, and checking you out; especially if you are best man and expected to give a speech. Look confident and excited and not afraid doing this will help you to start on the right foot.

• **Stand with confidence:** When you’re introduced, stand up confidently to the podium and shake the emcee’s hand.

• **Create your space:** If you’re speaking from a podium or dinner table, set your notes down. Adjust the microphone so that it points to your mouth. Plant your feet firmly. Take a breath. Look up. Now take another breath. If you’re speaking without a podium, walk to where you want to stand. Plant your feet. Take a breath. Look at the bride and groom and the rest of the room. Take another breath.

• **Try to connect with your audience:** Look at your audience one person at a time. Don’t try to address the audience as a whole. Speak to individuals because this really makes it easier for you to give the speech. Look at one person then another and so on. Establish eye contact. And speak to that person for 5 to 7 seconds. Then find someone else to look at and repeat the process. When you do this, each person in the audience will feel personally addressed. And you’ll feel much more confident.

• **Speak from notes or memory if possible:** Don’t read your entire speech from cards. And, if you’re using PowerPoint slides, don’t read them either.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Remember that you want to communicate a message to the happy couple, not say each and every word you planned on speaking.

- **Speak as if you are holding a conversation:** Don’t be afraid to say "I" and "you." When giving a wedding speech, you are not trying give a lecture, so speak naturally. Speak in language, images, and terms that the audience readily understands.

- **Be yourself:** If you have a good sense of humor, use it. If you’re a wonderful storyteller, by all means tell a story. You should never try to imitate another speaker, even a good one. Don’t try to be too unique or interesting. If you make a mistake, apologize and go on. Laugh it off when you can. Your audience will love you for it.

**Building Your Confidence in Twelve Steps**

You need to feel and look confident when you are giving your speech. If you do not, you simply cannot give a great wedding speech. For some people, being and acting poised may be easier said than done. Luckily, you can simply follow these 12 easy steps to gain confidence for giving your wedding speech. You can even use these tips to appear calmer and feel better about any speaking engagement.

1. Expect to be nervous and accept it.

   Even the most experienced speakers get nervous. Instead of trying to completely get rid of your fears, turn them into energy you can use to give your delivery a boost. Most of the people at the wedding will feel the same way about giving their own speeches. Rather than telling yourself that you are not nervous, try telling yourself that you are excited about giving a good speech.
2. Prepare first.

When you know exactly what you are going to say and why you want to say, it certainly changes everything. If you try to give a speech without being prepared, you should be nervous because your mind is likely to go blank. This is when people start a speech by saying something like “Good gentlemen evening.”

3. Practice in front of others.

Seek out supportive audiences like family and friends to practice in front of. The more you do this the easier it gets. Your practice audience can also make helpful recommendations that can ensure that your speech is terrific. You may want to check whether there is a local toastmaster’s club in your area. These clubs focus on giving speeches. Some club members may be willing to help you with your next speech - or you may be able to drop into a meeting for some great speech advice.

4. Breathe in deep and soothing breaths.

In the moments before you begin speaking, take three slow, deep breaths through your nose, filling your belly. As you breathe out, remind yourself to relax. This will help soothe your nerves and will help ensure that your voice sounds calm and relaxed rather than wobbly and high-pitched.

5. Give yourself affirmations.

Give yourself a pep talk just before you give a speech at a wedding or anywhere else. Tell yourself things like “I can do this” and “If I make a mistake, it’s okay because it happens all of the time.”

6. Focus on your audience and not yourself.
Most stage fright is rooted in self-preoccupation. Don’t ask yourself questions about your performance while you are giving it. Stop focusing on yourself. Focus, instead, on your audience and on what you want to say to them. If you are really concerned about how you sound during a wedding speech just ask your audience. Believe it or not, it is very welcome.

7. Simplify what you plan to say.

Most beginning speakers try to say far too much in a single speech. Then they worry about leaving something out or losing their train of thought. What you should be doing is saying only what you must say and not everything that you have ever thought.

8. Visualize success.

Practice relaxation techniques in the days before your presentation. Lie down or sit comfortably in a quiet place. Breathe slowly. Close your eyes. Try to picture what you will be saying and how people will react. Picture yourself speaking with confidence and thoughtfulness. Make the details as sharp as possible. This works because your body cannot always tell the difference between imagined experience and actual experience. If you vividly imagine yourself giving great speeches, your mind and body will accept this as actual experience. You will be getting actual speech-making experience while relaxing. Visualization is often used by Olympic-winning athletes to help them perform better. It really works!

9. Connect with your audience.

Make the audience your allies. Talk to individuals before your presentation to get to know a few of them. Look them in the eye as you speak to them, one person at a time. If you can get your audience to identify with you, your job as a speaker becomes much easier and you can relax.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
10. Learn to fake it.

Most people won’t see how nervous you are. If you lose your train of
thought, it helps to be able to wing it. If you learn to fake it, no one will know
that you made a mistake. As long as you hold your chin up, stick your chest
out, and look confident, even you will not feel inclined to focus on your
mistake. After awhile you’ll begin to feel as confident as you look.

11. Learn from your mistakes.

Accept your mistakes during a wedding speech as part of the learning
process. Just because you might make a mistake doesn’t mean that you can’t
learn from it. When you follow the other steps mentioned in this section, you
will deal with it in no time.

12. Research your topic

If you are running low on information about the bride and groom, don’t
be afraid to ask around. People are always willing to help you out if they know
you are creating a wedding speech.

**Dealing with Speech Anxiety**

Speech anxiety is not just a fear for most people, it is an actual phobia.
The sweaty palms and itchy skin are just the beginning. Some people actually
get ill from their fear of giving speeches. There are 20 simple tips that can help
you control your speech anxiety before it gets to that stage:

- Remember that during a wedding you already know the audience. The
  few that you don’t know, you will only have to see during the wedding.
  Why be afraid?
• Get to know your audience beforehand. The more you know about your audience, the more confidence you have that your speech will be successful. Just mingle with those that you don’t know before you give your speech. They will likely seem far less frightening to you once you nod and smile hello.

• Select the right topic for your speech. The more comfortable you are speaking about a topic and the better you know it, the less anxiety your speech will actually cause you. Choose an aspect of the couple that you know something about.

• If you have successfully given the speech when you practiced it, try to deliver it the same way.

• Make sure that your notes are organized properly. Having them be in the wrong order is going to make it much harder if you should forget something.

• Imagine yourself being wildly successful in delivering the wedding speech. Even if you are about to speak, closing your eyes and imagining the applause you will hear is soothing and will help you focus. It really does renew your confidence when you need it.

• Be prepared for possible problems and make contingency plans. Before speaking, you have to think about what might go wrong and plan what you’ll do if it does. That way, you’re not surprised by anything that might happen. This is especially important if you are using mechanical devices (e.g., laptop and projector for PowerPoint) Having contingency

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
plans means that you’ll feel good about your preparation no matter what happens, and if that problem occurs, it won’t bother you.

• Use deep breathing techniques. Learning some relaxation breathing techniques can help you calm your nerves before you stand up to speak.

• Make sure that you look your best. If you don’t feel like you look well physically, you will not perform as well mentally. You should also make sure that you go to bed at a reasonable hour the night before you speak, and avoid alcohol since drinking too much can also interfere with good sleep. Eating a healthy breakfast or lunch before you go to the wedding will also help your body function at its best when you have to speak.

• Act calm, even if you don’t feel calm, because you will then perceive success which will allow your behavior to follow suit.

• Focus on the message, not your speech anxiety -- Speech anxiety is perhaps the only problem in life that will always go away if you can ignore it well enough.

• Try to see your physical symptoms (heart increase, sweaty palms) as anticipation rather than anxiety.

• Use some hand gestures and move your body as you give your speech. In moderation, leaning forward to make a point or gesturing with your hands can dispel your extra nervous energy and can make you look more relaxed. If you are just standing stiffly in front of a room you are more likely to feel and look tense and nervous.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
• Realize that a few errors will not hurt the speech as long as you continue without getting hung up on them. An occasional stumble has no impact on the quality of the speech. Stopping and apologizing for a minute for every mistake you make will impact your speech. Rather than worrying that there might be a small problem at some point, focus your attention on more important matters, such as communicating your overall message.

• Focus on what you do right. Even if you do make a few mistakes, you will also do many things right during a course of a speech, so you may as well think about the things you do right. Dwelling on the mistakes will give you a negative attitude that causes more mistakes and greater anxiety. Think about what went well.

• Remember that when you’re in a relaxed environment like a wedding, the listeners don’t notice as much as you think. Speakers know what they intended to do, and are very much aware of symptoms of anxiety. Audiences can rarely tell if a speaker made a mistake and are much less sensitive to anxiety cues than the speakers. Knowing that you are the only person who knows if you made a mistake should help to ease some of the anxiety.

• If you do a good job on the introduction or if the first 30-60 seconds of the speech go well, the success will relax you. So, focus on preparing and presenting your intro really well. You will be glad that you did.

• Look at friendly faces in the crowd. Look at your friends and family members or the bride and groom who are likely to be enjoying your presentation. Glance their way sometimes when you need a little
positive reinforcement while you are talking. Just don’t stare at those people all the time, because that will make them uncomfortable and makes the rest of the audience feel left out.

- If you want, you can use presentation aids to help you draw attention away from yourself. Just make sure that you don’t draw too much attention to the aids instead of your speech. In excess, presentation aids are distracting, so only use them as needed.

- It is also a good idea to try out a public speaking class which is a great start to learning to speak comfortably in front of an audience. A large reason for speech anxiety is the strangeness of the situation, and this is the best way to reduce that problem.

Speech Topics

As with writing any other type of speech, you need to develop a speech topic for a wedding speech. It is often easier to decide what to write into a speech if you develop it around a particular theme, as well. You can choose from a variety of themes that are appropriate for a wedding:

Congratulations Theme:

For this type of speech, you really need to accentuate the reasons why you are so thrilled with the couple’s marriage and why the event is so joyous. This speech is especially appropriate for co-workers and casual friends giving a wedding speech. This type of speech generally lasts for no more than 2-3 minutes.

Nostalgic theme:

This speech works best for family members and close friends of the bride and groom. The idea is to develop a speech around some of your personal
experiences and remembrances that are more sentimental in nature. In order to prepare a speech like this, you need to know the groom and bride well enough to have some anecdotes to relate. This speech can be as long as 5-7 minutes.

Humor Theme:

In order for this theme to work, you have to know the bride and groom very well. You also have to know their sense of humor, since you don’t want to offend or write a witty speech that is not understood. A funny wedding speech generally offers funny stories about the bride and groom and can include amusing comments or distorted facts. You can even use this speech to offer humorous wedding advice to the bride and groom. You have a lot of freedom with this theme and humorous speeches are generally quite well liked by wedding guests and wedding couples alike. However, you must use caution for this theme because the style of wedding that is being thrown will play a large role in whether or not this theme is welcome. For example, a casual wedding on the beach or in a home will generally lend itself well to this type of speech. However, a very formal wedding, or a very religious or romantic themed wedding may not be the correct place for jokes about marriage and the bachelor party.

Religious Theme:

In order to properly give a speech around a religious wedding theme, you need to respect and understand the religion. Get to know the correct terms for blessings and words of congratulations. Adding selections from religious texts can also be a nice touch in this sort of speech.

Personal Theme:
This speech theme is often used by parents and other married couples. It often gives advice to the newly married couple so that they avoid common mistakes. This advice can be funny or sentimental. However, it should never be preachy. You may want to compliment the couple while advice. Saying something such as; “be sure to compromise. Since she is so open minded and he is so thoughtful, I know this will be easy” will help make the advice more personalized and will also help give the advice a positive twist.

Poetic Theme:

Most people who choose this theme will simply briefly introduce themselves and then read a poem that they feel best applies to the couple’s marriage. This theme works great with romantic themed ceremonies and receptions. There are many romantic poems that you can choose for the wedding. If you are creative, you can even create a special poem of your own to share. This can be a very successful wedding speech as many poems are relatively short and can be quite lovely. The couple will also have a romantic poem that will always be linked to their wedding once your speech is done.

Jokes and Anecdotes

Today, humorous speeches are by far the most popular wedding speeches. Many people feel more comfortable giving light, humorous speeches rather than romantic or poetic ones. Audiences also tend to react quite favorably to humorous speeches, further encouraging the popularity of this kind of speech. Plus, many movies and television shows give the impression that humorous wedding speeches are most often used - whenever you see a wedding speech on a show or in a movie, it is likely a humorous one. All this means that would-be wedding speech givers are given one piece of advice above all: “keep it light and make it funny.”
For those who are comfortable with a comic role, this is fine. However, it is important to take this advice with a grain of salt. If you are not humorous by nature, a funny speech can easily backfire. No one might understand your jokes and laugh at them, creating an uncomfortable silence. Worse, you might someone’s feelings with your comments. It pays to be careful when it comes to humor and personal stories.

On the other hand, when used properly, jokes, funny stories, and anecdotes make good beginnings, middles and endings for speeches. They are interesting and tend to draw the audience in more than more serious-minded words. They can also make your audience enjoy the wedding, which is likely what you want to help accomplish with your speech.

If you are uncomfortable with telling jokes, you can try out each of your jokes with someone that is not going to be at the wedding to see if your jokes actually sound funny. Practicing jokes will also give you some practice with timing and wording and will let you change your stories around until they are ideal.

There are many books of quotes and joke books available on the market which can provide you with jokes about couples and marriage. You can start by looking at these books to get an idea for a joke you might like to tell. You can also ask humorous friends, speech writers and speech givers for help.

When you are considering jokes and stories you might use in a wedding you speech, you need to know that there are some things that you must avoid mentioning at all costs at a wedding. You should not discuss sex, politics, or religion at any wedding because these things are very personal and important to people. If you do talk of these things, your speech could cause offense or even create an altercation - not the type of thing you want your speech remembered for.

Also, try to be wary with self-deprecating humor. Making fun of yourself may be funny, but if you talk about yourself for too long, then you will not be
talking about your intended topic - the wedding couple. Also, much deprecating humor can seem quite whiny or complaining. Saying something like “I don’t know why anyone picked me to give a speech. I’ve never given a speech in my life before. I hope that my speech is ok” is not funny - it simply sounds like evidence of a poor attitude.

**Sample Speeches and Toasts**

The following speeches are samples that you can use as a basis for your own speeches. You can add more filler as you include personal stories and family stories are more content for personalized speeches.

**Best Man Speeches:**

**Sample Speech #1 - Spiritual**

Hello, and welcome everyone!
I’m Mike, John’s Best Man, and I’m very glad to see all of you this evening as we celebrate the wedding of Cathy and John. Don’t you all agree that Cathy and John are the most beautiful couple that you’ve ever seen?

I feel very blessed to be here today at this celebration as God smiles down on all of us, and particularly on Cathy and John. As I look out at your faces I see my family and friends….and I know that the tears I see in your eyes are tears of happiness for this newly married couple.

I’ve known John for ____ years. He has been my best friend during good times and bad times, and I’m honored to be standing beside him today as he takes the hand of Cathy as his wife.
There are many people who have traveled far and wide to be here today to celebrate with John and Cathy as they take their vows before God. Cathy and John, we are all here today to join in your happiness as you enter the next phase of your life as husband and wife. Cathy, we’re all very happy that you found John and that’s he’s the right match for you. And John, with your honor and integrity we all know that you’re the one for Cathy. With the strength of your love, and the love of God, we all know that your marriage union will last through the good times and the hard times.

Cathy and John have a glow about them that shines with their love for one another. Let us all offer our prayers to this wonderful marriage that has been committed to God. Let us pray that this union between Cathy and John is blessed a hundred times.

Cathy and John, I would like to end this speech with just one great piece of advice: before you fall asleep together at night learn to pass all your worries and concerns to God, who will guide through even the roughest waters. Always wake up with a smile on your face as you take your place beside the one that you love. There is nothing more precious than a marriage that is blessed in the eyes of God.

A toast to Cathy and John.....may you always be smiling.

*******************************************************************************

Sample Speech #2 - Witty

Hi...I’m Mike, John’s best friend and Best Man. So that must mean that I’m the one responsible for the first speech of the evening.
John is one of those people who many people consider a friend for life. When times are tough, you know that you can count on John to be there for you. And when times are good, you know that you can count on John to share in the laughter and smiles.

I want to thank John for giving me this opportunity to talk about him for a few minutes. I can say a few things about him and he has no way to defend himself until after the speeches are over.....and by that time he'll have been toasted a few too many times and won’t remember what I’m about to say! John is one of those guys who always acts tough, but as Cathy already knows, John is one big sensitive guy.

I was always certain that no girl would be crazy enough to marry John. I’ve shared an apartment with him in the past and have yet to recover from the mess he left. I’m sure that on the top of Cathy’s list of things to do after the wedding is to teach John the meaning of cleaning. But despite John’s messy side, and his inability to properly dress himself, he’s quite the catch. John is educated, interesting, charming, good looking, sexy, employed, and has a great sense of humor....oh wait...that’s me! If there are any single girls out there....see me after the first dance.

On a more serious note...Cathy....you are a vision of beauty tonight. It’s your graceful loveliness that complements John’s handsome good looks. Your family and friends have gathered here to celebrate your marriage and to send you on your way with good wishes....and gifts. I’ve seen the gifts on the table in the hall and I must say that I’m impressed!

Again, let me try to be serious, although I’m still trying to charm the girls out there....but let me try. Cathy and John, I can’t think of two people more in
love than the two of you. I hope that one day I can be as lucky as you John. Cathy is an amazing girl and I know that the two of you will be happy for a lifetime.

Everyone, please join me as I toast my very best friend John and his new Bride on their wedding day......may your hands be forever clasped in friendship and your hearts forever joined in love.

**************************************

Sample Speech #3 - Classic

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great honor that I stand before you as John’s Best Man.

When John first told me that he was going to marry Cathy, I was crushed. How could my best friend desert me just when we were having so much fun as single men? Who was going to watch sports on television with me on Saturday nights? Who was going to match me beer for beer? Who would be there to listen to all my complaints in life? As I got to know Cathy more and more though, I realized that there was no way that John, if he was smart, would let her remain just “the girlfriend”. Cathy is one of the most beautiful and smartest girls that I know.....and I’m hoping that one of her beautiful Brides Maids is going to be just as wonderful as Cathy....and single!

John and I have known each other for a long time. We’ve been through some great times together as well as some interesting ones. John, I can’t tell you how much I admire you. Thanks for being there for me all these years.

I’ve been watching Cathy and John together now for quite some time. And I’ve learned a few things from them. They are always challenging each other to be

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
the best that they can be. They support each other, no matter how much they think the other one is wrong. Cathy and John are a delight to be around. I love spending time with them since they always put a smile on my face with their positive attitudes.

Cathy and John exude magic and happiness….and this magic touches all of us.

Let me end this speech by giving the two of you some advice….advice that will keep you happy during your married life: First of all, never go to bed angry. Always take the time to resolve your problem or put it aside and sleep on it until morning....or John, you sleep on the couch! Second, John, remember these wise words...."yes, honey". Third, never forget an anniversary. This day marks your entry into blissful marriage.

Everyone, please raise your glasses and join me as we toast Cathy and John in their marriage. Here’s to matrimony, the high sea for which no compass has yet been invented.

**************************************

Sample Speech #4 - Mature

Thank you everyone, for joining Cathy and John as they celebrate their marriage. My name is Mike, and I’m John’s Best Man and oldest friend.

Cathy and John, I love both of you very much. You’ve both been great friends to me before you even started dating. I’ve had the pleasure of standing beside the both of you through the years. And I’ve watched the two of you grow into a most amazing couple while at the same time growing individually. Separate and apart from each other you are wonderful people who I am blessed to know,
but as a couple you are remarkable and bring a smile to the face of everyone you come into contact with.

Cathy and John, in each other you have found your best buddy, your lover, your partner, your equal, and the one you want to walk through life with. I’m honored to be part of your marriage celebration and a part of your friendship.

There will be many ups and downs in your married life but I know that you will come through every challenge and obstacle stronger and more in love than ever. The hardships that you share will bring you closer as you learn more about each other.

I know that Cathy and John want to thank everyone for joining them today, and I know that they’ll say more about this later. On my behalf I want to thank everyone for coming, especially those of you who have traveled many miles to be here on this day of celebration. To Cathy and John’s parents....thank you for these two wonderful people who I know are a reflection of the things that you showed them over the years.

Cathy and John, thank you both for being such great friends over the years. I look forward to many more evenings spent with you in friendship. And I look forward to watching you as you enter your marriage with the love of your family and friends who are gathered here tonight.

Would everyone please join me as we toast Cathy and John on the day of their grand union:

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back,
the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rain fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again
may God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Irish Blessing

*********************************************

Sample Speech #5 - Funny

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by saying that you are completely at my humor and mercy from
the beginning of this speech to the end. I expect to see laughter…. laughter
for my sense of humor and not at the way the Groom is dressed today. I,
personally, would have bought my tux instead of renting.

There isn’t much you can say about a guy who comes from the most humble of
beginnings. Someone who is at the top of his field at work, who is smart, great
looking, and always achieves what he sets out to accomplish. A guy who stands
out from the rest and who leaves friends and happiness wherever he goes.
Okay, that’s enough about me, now I better say a few words about John…but
first let me say….Cathy….you should have married me!

Seriously, John is a good catch. Cathy is a better catch because she’s
beautiful, charming, and witty, but John is still okay. John and I have been
friends for ____ years. Over this time I have come to know John’s good side as
well as his cranky side. John is easy to get along with, that is until someone
beats him at his own game. Then watch out! John is a slob. I don’t envy Cathy
as she trains him to eat at the dinner table, put his dirty clothes into the
hamper, and brush his teeth.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
But seriously….I’m just glad that someone is willing to marry John and take him off my hands. I won’t have to drive him home anymore after he’s had a few too many drinks. That will be Cathy’s job now. I won’t have to listen to him moan that he’s not feeling well. That will be Cathy’s job as well. And most of all, I will no longer have to spend Saturday night at the bar with him, drinking beer while we watch the game….unless of course Cathy lets him out.

Let me try a serious tone of speech here one more time. Thank you for coming everyone, as we celebrate the wedding of this cute couple...well one half is cute, the other is wearing a rented tux. Raise your glasses in a toast: “Down the hatch, to a striking match!”

**************************************

*Maid of Honor Speeches:*

*Sample Speech #1 - Classic*

Hello,  
I want to thank everyone for allowing me to toast my best friend, Cathy and her husband, John. Cathy, you are simply glowing and radiant today. And John, you are handsome and dashing. I’m looking at the perfect wedding couple….you are both smiling and happy….a great example for all of us whether we are married or single.

Need an amazing wedding gift?  
I feel very honored and distinguished today to be Cathy’s Maid of Honor. Cathy and I have known each other for a very long time. Most of the time it seems like I just met her since time flies by when the two of us are together. We’ve been together through some really great times as well as times when we didn’t think that we would ever be happy again. Cathy has taught me so much in life: how to laugh, how to have fun, how to stand proud and be myself. And how to give 100% to any relationship in my life, just as Cathy gives 100% to everyone around her. Just as I know that she is going to give 100% to her marriage with John.

I have loved watching Cathy’s love for John grow. They started off slow as friends and worked their way up this great couple who is an inspiration for all of us. I learn a lot watching Cathy and John and I want to thank them both for being a part of my life.

I know that Cathy and John have a great future together. They are perfect together, as friends and as lovers. They have that something about them that touches every area of their lives.

Please join me as I toast my best friend and her husband:

Love is not finding someone to live with,
it’s finding someone you can’t live without.

Rafael Ortiz

**************************************

Sample Speech #2 - Single Matron of Honor

Need an amazing wedding gift?
Hello,

My name is Anne and I’m Cathy’s best friend. Cathy’s jealous best friend, since Cathy is getting all the attention today and I’m usually the one who insists that the attention comes my way! But I won’t stamp my foot until later, when some of you great looking guys out there ask me to dance.

Cathy, you are my best and oldest friend, and I love you dearly. We have been through so much together. We’ve flirted with the best guys, drank the best wine, and had the best vacations together. And I know that we’ll continue to have fun despite that fact that you’re going to be much more preoccupied these days as the wife of John. Except for the flirting part. From now on I flirt alone.

But John, really, you do know that she can’t cook. Do you remember all those meals that Cathy made for you? Come on now….those were MY cooking skills at work. I’m the cook, Cathy is the diner. And those times that Cathy said something particularly witty. Mine too, MY lines that I rehearsed with Cathy ahead of time. In fact, without me, Cathy most likely wouldn’t have you!

In your future I’m not sure what the two of you will do. I can read a map, Cathy can’t. There goes that rule that men can’t follow a map and women can. I haven’t been invited along on the honeymoon, but I’m sure after John makes one more wrong turn according to Cathy’s directions….I’ll be there!

There are many more things that I’m better at than Cathy…except for one thing. She got the cute guy! John, you’re a great catch and I know that Cathy won’t regret taking you home and keeping you.
John, I’m glad you’re marrying my best friend. I hope you can afford all those expensive trips to the mall….I’m sure you can. Just don’t ask me for advice on how to keep Cathy from spending….I’m still paying off the credit card I loaned her last year.

You know, I could go on and on charming you with my wit….but I know the kitchen is on a tight schedule and they tell me that hot food won’t stay that way forever. So let me end by saying….Cathy I love you and I wish nothing but blessings for you and John forever.

Will everyone please join me as I toast Cathy and John: To many years of happiness and health.

**************************************

Sample Speech #3 - Mature

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure and honor that I stand before you and ask you to join me as we celebrate the marriage of Cathy and John. Cathy is my oldest and best friend, and I hope that I can make it through this speech without crying.

I have shared the best of times with Cathy. She has been my mentor, my friend, my advisor, and my right arm in so many capers that I’ve lost count. We share albums full of photographs that take us from one vacation to another, from one adventure to the next. I don’t know what I would do without Cathy in my life. She is my inspiration in so many things. One of those inspirations is the relationship that she has with John.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Cathy and John are an amazing couple and I’ve know them both for a very long time. I’ve watched their friendship blossom into love. No matter what life throws at them, Cathy and John throw it right back. I know that their future is one that will be filled with joy as well as challenges....challenges that they will meet head on and joy that they will spread to their family and friends.

When you know someone as well as I know Cathy, you know how happy she is right now. Cathy, you are absolutely stunning as a Bride. And John? You are her matching radiance. The two of you are glowing on this, your wedding day.

There are many wonderful things that I wish for Cathy and John, and I know that you will all join me in these wishes. I wish for you to always be the best of friends, as well as passionately in love. I wish for you to always support each other, even when you know the other person is wrong. I wish for you to continue to grow as a couple so that as you grow old together you know each other like the back of your hand.

But mostly....for the both of you, I wish eternal happiness and joy.

My toast to you, Cathy and John is this: Treasure each other always.

*************************************

Sample Speech #4 - Spiritual

Hello everyone,

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
On behalf of Cathy and John I want to thank you all for being a part of this blessed celebration. I am honored to be Cathy’s Matron of Honor and I was overjoyed when she approached me and asked me to be a part of her wedding party. Thank you Cathy for entrusting me with the opportunity to stand beside you in the face of God as you give your hand in marriage to John.

The marriage of Cathy and John is a sacred one....and one that they both have been looking forward to for a long time. As they stand before God and commit their love and lives to one another the heavens are smiling.

Looking out at all of you today, I know that I too am blessed to have such good family and friends around me tonight. The wedding of Cathy and John is an event that makes us all recognize the good and wonderful in our lives. With their strength in each other, and in God, Cathy and John are destined to a life of happiness. Unions that take place in the church are marriages that can withstand all of the rigors that life tosses their way as well as all the happy times that they deserve.

I know that Cathy and John have an evening of celebration planned for you all. It’s important that we celebrate together, letting our love for Cathy and John, and for each other, envelope this room.

In these days of uncertainty in the world it’s vital that love bind people together so that they can hold fast and withstand anything that comes their way. Cathy and John have this love....the kind of love that lets them be anything that they want to be and do anything that they want to do.

Please, help me toast Cathy and John so that are blesses on this day of their marriage:

Need an amazing wedding gift?  

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
And this is my prayer: that your love 
may abound more and more in knowledge 
and depth of insight. 
Philippians 1:9

Sample Speech #5 - Sister of the Bride

Thank you everyone, for joining our family as we celebrate the marriage of Cathy and John. My darling sister looks enchanting this evening, and her charming Groom looks dashing and dapper.

Cathy….I love you very much and am honored to be your sister and your Matron of Honor. I’m thrilled to be standing up here telling everyone how wonderful you are......even though I think that they already know that. You are an amazing person.....you spread sunshine wherever you walk, you leave people feeling positive about their life, and you instill in others a feeling of confidence.

John, our family welcomes into the fold. We have watched you and Cathy together and know that she couldn’t be in better hands. You are a remarkable guy and we look forward to a lifetime of having you in our lives. Cathy couldn’t have made a better choice when it comes to her life partner.

Cathy and John, your wedding ceremony today was beautiful and emotional. You have reminded everyone here of what life is all about: love, joy, happiness, and the sustaining breath of being husband and wife. We are all honored that we could be part of your wedding celebration.


Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
I know that your future will be filled with adventure and excitement mixed with the trials that life throws at everyone. And I also know that the two of your will meet all these adventures and trials together. Your families will always be walking beside you in whatever path you choose to follow. Thank you both for being a part of all our lives.

And now, would everyone please join me as we toast Cathy and John on their special day: The time to be happy is now, and the place to be happy is here.

************************************************

**Father of the Bride Speeches:**

**Sample Speech #1 - Spiritual**

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you and welcome you all as we celebrate the marriage of my daughter Cathy to John.

I am a man that has been many times blessed. I have a wonderful wife, wonderful children, and now I have a wonderful son-in-law. John....I welcome you to our family with love and respect.

God is looking down on us all right now as we join Cathy and John in the celebration of their marriage. It is with God’s blessing that we are all here, in love and friendship.

Cathy, you have been, and continue to be, a great source of joy and pride in my life. I have watched you grow from a baby to a small child, to teenager and then into a beautiful young lady. And today I am honored to watch you become the wife of your chosen life partner, John. I’m proud to have you as my

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
daughter and look forward to many years of watching the two of you grow stronger and more spiritual in the eyes of God and your family and friends.

I would now like to ask everyone to join me in a toast to my darling daughter and her new husband:

For where the heart is, that is sure to be where your treasure is.  
*Matthew 6:21*

Sample Speech #2 – Funny

At last, after attending wedding after wedding for the children of friends, I get to stand up here at my own daughter’s wedding....finally. Thanks for keeping me waiting, Cathy, until I had grey hairs!

My wife, Edith, and I have waited years to finally see Cathy married. Only John will know how much we really paid him for this pleasure. Thank you, John, for taking this one off our hands.

Cathy, from the first day that I laid eyes on you I have loved you with all my heart. And it was from when I first heard you cry in the hospital that I knew that you would be a handful. You are stubborn.....some would say this makes you determined. You are beautiful....thank god you take after your mother. You are intelligent.....yes, you can thank me for this one. And you are one of the most charming people I have had the pleasure of having in my life.
From the first day that Cathy brought John home for a visit we knew that he was the one. No, it wasn’t that Edith and I were hoping he would be the one to marry her and make our lives easier. It was the way that they looked at each other. Cathy had the look of startled deer whenever John was around. And John had a look of adoration that is only seen in those men who are stricken with the love potion. John, just let me say that the women in this family keep that potion on hand at all times. So when you think that you’re going to say no, you can’t buy that pair of shoes….well out will come that potion.

Over the years Cathy has put Edith and I through the severe trials and tribulations of being the parents of a high spirited girl. We know that it’s this spirit that John has fallen in love with. Don’t try taming her John….as with the love potion, the women in this family dance to their own tune. All you can do is try to keep up. Fortunately the women in this family are also very good at waiting. No wait, I’m the one that is good at waiting….years of practice waiting for the women of this family to finish in the bathroom. But that’s another story.

Cathy, I’m thrilled for you that you found that you one you want to grow old with….the next man in your life that you’re going to watch develop grey hairs. Your mother and I are honored and pleased to be able to say that we’re your parents. We love you.

To everyone, please raise a glass, or two, as I toast my darling daughter and her husband:

Here’s to love:
A little sighing, a little crying,

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
a little dying, and a touch
of white lying.

******************************************

Sample Speech #3 - Classic

Hello everyone,
Please join me in a toast as I begin this speech: To the happy couple: may all your troubles be little ones.

I want to thank everyone for being part of our family’s celebration of the marriage of Cathy and John. This is a big day for us, as we watch Cathy and John prepare for a life together. We couldn’t be happier.

John, we have come to know you over the past year. You are a wonderful partner for Cathy. You share her zest for life, her love of laughter, her determination to achieve, and her ability to spread love wherever she goes.

To John’s parents….you have a wonderful son who we are proud to call our own as he marries Cathy today. We couldn’t ask for a finer son-in-law than John. It’s apparent that his charm and personality are a direct result of your love for him. We’re looking forward to the union of our two families.

Cathy….our darling daughter….you are a joy to have in our lives. You have brought us so much happiness from the day that you were born. There is not a day that has gone by that I haven’t looked at you and marveled that you are mine. I love you very much and wish only happiness for you forever. No matter where you go, no matter what you do, you know that your family is

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
here to support you and stand beside you, as we stand beside you today on your wedding day.

As I look out at the tables of familiar faces of loved ones and friends, I feel blessed that you’ve all come together to join in this celebration. Please enjoy the food and drinks, and most of all the companionship that can only come about when there is love in the room. Thank you.

**************************************

Sample Speech #4 - Witty

Cathy, Cathy, Cathy….once again you are costing your mother and I a fortune! After tonight, she’s all yours John!

Edith and I want to welcome you all here today to celebrate the marriage of our daughter Cathy to John. Despite our rush to marry all of our children as soon as we could, Cathy resisted and waited until she found the right guy. This is a good thing, I guess, since maybe we won’t have to go through an expensive divorce now that Cathy has found the right one. Thank you Cathy.

Now that Cathy is moving out, Edith and I have big plans. First we’re going to take a long vacation…..alone. And then we’re going to convert Cathy’s bedroom into a media room. A new large screen TV, surround stereo. But perhaps I better not mention that here since John is a big sport’s fan and may think that my big screen TV is his big screen TV. John….anything I have is yours…..my daughter, the use of my car, drop in dinners whenever you want them….but the TV….it’s all mine.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Another thing that Edith and I are going to do is go over the Cathy and John’s for dinner….often and frequently! So John, better sign Cathy up for those cooking lessons!

To John’s parents….thanks for welcoming our daughter into your family. Do you really know what you’ve just gotten?? A high spirited girl who is going to keep you on your toes. Let me know if you need any advice or tips on how to deal with some of the things that she comes up with.

Cathy….we love you very much…no joking on that one….we love you. Your mother and I wish you years and years of happiness, joy, and prosperity.

************************************************************************

Sample Speech #5 - Generic

Hello,
There are many days in a man’s life when he feels proud….and today is one of those days. As I stand here before, looking at my daughter Cathy seated beside her new husband, I’m feeling nothing but love and pride. This young lady has been a joy in life from the day that she was born. I have cherished every minute that I have had you in my life, Cathy. And now I look forward to watching you grow as a wife to a very wonderful man.

The time has flown by from the day we brought you home from the hospital. Like all families we have our stories….of when you first learned to walk, when you learned to ride your bike, the first boy that you ever brought home, to the day you graduated from high school. Cathy, your mother and I wouldn’t change a thing. Thank you for being you!
From the first day that you brought John home, I was pleased with your choice in a boyfriend. John was polite, charming, and intelligent. And he treated you with the respect that you deserve. I couldn’t be more happy for you, Cathy, in your choice of a husband.

John, Edith and I would like to welcome you to our family with open arms and hearts. We know that you are the one and only for our daughter, and it is with great pride that we share your relationship and marriage with all our families and friends.

Let me finish off my speech with a bit of wisdom for Cathy and John: May you grow old on one pillow!

Groom Speeches:

Sample Speech #1 - Groom to Bride

Cathy, my sweetheart, I am almost speechless on this, our wedding day. I have looked forward to this day for so long. The day when I could stand before my family, your family, and our friends... the day that I took your hand in mine in marriage.

I love you with all my heart. I have loved you for so long, in so many ways. As I look at you today, so beautiful in your wedding dress, I love you even more. You are all that I look for in a life partner...thank you for being who you are and for loving me for who I am.
Cathy, I know that you’ve worked really hard to make this day a special one. As I look around me at our family and friends I can see that this is a wedding that no one is soon to forget!

I look forward to growing old with you, to sharing every up and down that life tosses our way, to walking beside you through the smiles and the frowns. I love you, Cathy, and am honored that I stand beside you today as your husband.

Sample Speech #2 - Groom Speech to Parents

Everyone, please join me in a toast to my parents, without whom I wouldn’t be here today. Mom and Dad.....it’s an honor to be your son and an even greater honor to have you here with me today as I marry the love of my life.

Dad....for all the things you did for me that I complained about at the time...thank you. Thank you for the discipline you dished out and the tough knocks you made me learn along the way. It’s made me what I am today....someone I can be proud of.

Mom....for everything that you’ve ever stood beside me for....from the small things like making my school lunches, to the big ones like listening to me when I had something to say...I love you.

I am blessed to have two wonderful parents...two people who have accepted Cathy into their hearts. I know that Cathy will be a part of your lives as I am.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Mom and Dad.....I love you.

****************************************

Sample Speech #3 - Groom Speech to Guests

To all my family and friends....thank you for joining me and Cathy today as we celebrate this special day. I’ve waited a long time, through lots of wedding planning, to marry this girl!

I’ve been blessed with an awesome family and incredible friends. I wouldn’t be standing here before you if it weren’t for the help that many of you have given me over the past years. Without you I wouldn’t be who I am today....and for that I thank you.

Cathy and I couldn’t have gotten married unless you were all here.....it just wouldn’t have been the same. As I look out at all of you I realize just how luck I am. There are so many of you that I have to thank....my Best Man....thanks for standing beside me through everything. My parents...thank you for loving me and making me who I am. My friends......here’s to many more fun times. To all our guests...thank you for making this celebration all that it could be.

Cathy and I hope that you’ll spend the next few hours eating, drinking, dancing, and having a great time.

Happiness consists not in the multitude of friends
but in their worth and choice.
****************************************

Need an amazing wedding gift?
Bride Speeches:

Sample Speech #1 - Bride to Groom

John, what words can I find that adequately tell you what I’m feeling? I love you with all my heart and am so honored to be standing beside you as your wife and life partner. You make my life complete...you close the circle that is you and me as one. I can’t imagine my life without out.....I can’t imagine a day with out.

There are many things that a girl looks for in someone that she wants to marry. And you have it all. The smile, the laugher, the intelligence, the zest for life, the ambition....and the looks that make me swoon every time that I look at you.

I’m looking forward to many years with you....to grow old with you.....to stand beside you no matter what happens in our lives and where we go. John, these following words say exactly what I’m feeling today:

Your words dispel all of the care in the world and make me happy.... They are as necessary to me now as sunlight and air....Your words are my food, your breath my wine.... you are everything to me.

Sarah Bernhardt

***********************************

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Sample Speech #2 - Bride to Parents

Mom and Dad……here we finally are! It seems like just yesterday that is was sitting in your lap, or being pushed on the swings. And now here we are at my wedding. The day that I have dreamed of for so long.

You have both been there for me through everything. I know I’ve put you through some tough times….times when you must have wondered if I would ever settle down and find someone…someone to start a home with. Well, now I guess you know that I could do it!

Mom….without you so much would have been wrong. You are the ideal mother….strong yet caring, loving yet firm….and you have pushed me to be all that I can be at all times.

Dad….you are my knight in shining armor. I admire your strength, your gentleness, your honesty. You are a man of integrity and I love you very much. I wouldn’t be up here now without you….without you and mom.

I’m so glad that you pulled John into your heart’s and lives when you knew that he was the one I wanted to spend my life with. Thank you for helping me plan this celebration for all of our family and friends. Once again, I couldn’t have done any of this without you…..nor would I have wanted to!

I look forward to sharing more of John with you….you are all such a big part of my life. I love you very much….thank you.

**************************************************************************

Sample Speech #3 - Bride to Guests

Need an amazing wedding gift?

I would like to deliver this toast to all the guests at our wedding:

To friendship: the only cement that will hold the world together.

I would like to thank you all for coming today to help John and I celebrate our wedding day. I know that some of you have come a great distance to be with us today....thank you for that, it means a lot to me.

I see so many people here who mean so much to me....people who have made a big impact on my life...people who I can’t do without. This day wouldn’t be the same without all of you.

For many of you this is the first time that you’ve really had a chance to sit down and meet John....and I know that you’ll all love him as much as I do.

To my Matron of Honor, and best friend, thank you for all your help in the planning of my wedding. We had great fun planning the ideal celebration. I’m glad that you’re a part of my life and I hope that you know how important you are to me and how much I love you.

I hope that you can all stay and help John and I celebrate with food, music, drinks, and dancing. Thank you again, everyone, for being here on my special day.

************************************************

Generic Speeches:

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Sample Speech #1

Hello everyone,
It’s always a great honor to attend a wedding. Especially the wedding of Cathy and John. When two people are married in front of their family and friends it is one of the deepest expressions of love. I’m very pleased to be here as Cathy and John begin a lifetime of adventures together as husband and wife.

Cathy and John both come from very strong and remarkable families. Cathy couldn’t look better tonight….but then she always looks lovely. And John is the prime example of a blushing Groom….he has eyes only for his Bride!

Marriage is something that needs to be created by two people in equal doses. In some ways, marriage is like a business: the union and bond of two people who have the same goals and ambitions. Both partners in the marriage need to be looking in the same direction….while at the same time looking towards each other in love and respect.

Would everyone please join me as I toast Cathy and John: May you have a long life together, plenty of wealth, excellent health, and an abundance of love.

*****************************************************

Sample Speech #2

Would everyone please stand and raise their glasses in a toast to Cathy and John, Bride and Groom of this celebration:

The only way of full knowledge lies in
the act of love; this act transcends
thought, it transcends words. It is the

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
daring plunge into the experience of union. To love somebody is not just a strong feeling - it is a decision, it is a judgment, it is a promise.

_Erich Fromm, The Art of Loving_

Cathy and John, it is with great honor that I attend your wedding.

I have known you, John, for many years. I have watched you grow from a boy to a man. And now I have the pleasure of being here to help you celebrate your marriage to this lovely lady, to Cathy.

Cathy, I look forward to getting to know you better, to spend time with you and John as a couple. Marriage is recipe that needs just the right spices. And you and John have the spice that it takes to make your marriage a shining example for others.

I’m sure that I’m not the only one here who congratulates you both on your marriage and wishes you many years of happiness and bliss.

******************************

**Sample Speech #3**

John and Cathy, thank you for inviting me to your wedding celebration. It’s a great honor to be here with your family and friends as we all congratulate you on your marriage.

Over the years I have attended many weddings....and they are all a reminder of what life is all about: to find someone who you love, someone that you share

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
dreams with, someone who you want to achieve great things with.....this is the person who is your partner for life.

May you have enough happiness to keep you sweet;
enough trials to keep you strong;
enough sorrow to keep you human;
enough hope to keep you happy;
enough failure to keep you humble;
enough success to keep you eager;
enough friends to give you comfort;
enough faith and courage in yourself,
enough wealth to meet your needs;
and enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday.

traditional blessing

Cathy and John, it is truly an honor to be here with you both today.

********************************************************************************

Sample Speech #4

Would everyone please raise their glasses and join me in toast as we honor Cathy and John on their wedding day:

You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have truly lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
Henry Drummond

I’ve known Cathy for many years. She has been an inspiration for many who she has touched in her life. Her positive outlook and happy disposition have always carried her far…..and now they have brought her here to the side of John, her husband.

John is a very lucky many. Though of us who know Cathy can guarantee John a lifetime of love, smiles, and sunshine….but then, I’m sure that John already knows this or he wouldn’t be sitting up there next to Cathy.

Cathy and John….may you both be smiling every day of your lives as you are smiling today. Your love, your personal strengths, and your unfailing trust in God will see you through the good times and the bad times.

Cheers and congratulations to a most Cathy and John, a most incredible couple!

Toasts:

A toast from the parents:

"The man or woman you really love will never grow old to you. Through the wrinkles of time, through the bowed frame of years, you will always see the dear face and feel the warm heart union of your eternal love." -- Alfred A. Montapert

May our children be blessed with rich parents!

"It is written: when children find true love, parents find true joy. Here's to your joy and ours, from this day forward."

Need an amazing wedding gift?

Copyright 2006 by Choice-1-Marketing. All rights reserved.
"Happy marriages begin when we marry the one we love, and they blossom when we love the one we married."

To the grandparents:

Let us raise our glasses
   And then imbibe
To the splendid couple
Who founded this tribe.

General toasts:

Here’s to that moment of sweet repose
When it’s cheek to cheek and nose to nose
For after that moment of sublime delight
It’s fanny to fanny for the rest of the night

To the bride and groom - may we all be invited to your golden wedding celebration

To the newlyweds: May "for better or worse' be far better than worse

May your love be modern enough to survive the times and old-fashioned enough to last forever

Here’s to the bride. May your hours of joy be as numerous as the petals of your bridal bouquet

Here's to love, laughter and happily ever after.
As (Groom) and (Bride) start their new life,
Let's toast the new husband and wife!

Need an amazing wedding gift?
"Here's to the bride that is to be, Here's to the groom she'll wed,  
May all their troubles be light as bubbles  
Or the feathers that make up their bed!"

**Conclusion**

The wedding speech, either alone or as lead into the wedding toast is a lovely way to add personal touches to the wedding reception. By following just a few basic guidelines, your wedding speech can go from an awkward obligation to a delightful honor. In this guide you have learned the basics of writing a great and memorable wedding speech.

To review, you have learned that when getting ready to give a wedding speech you should:

- Write what you feel. Use personal memories and details, being sure not to embarrass anyone or get too intimate.
- Make references to particular people, but identify them, so that the speech will be more meaningful to all of the guests.
- Quotes, poems and humor are fine, even if the humor is not your own, but short is always sweet; especially for a toast.
- Write the speech by mind mapping, being sure to give giving yourself rewrite and practice time. 
- Try running your speech by a friend or two for practice.
- Be sincere when delivering your speech. Nothing is worse than sentiments that are not meant.
- Make sure you sound like you’re talking and not just reading your speech.
- Deliver your speech from memory, or from note cards. The more you prepare, the more confident you'll be.
You have also learned how to keep from being nervous by:

- Keeping the event in perspective. This is only a wedding of close friends and family, not life or death situation.
- Bearing in mind that the more you practice, the more comfortable you’ll be.
- Getting in touch with your audience. They just want to have fun, at a happy event, not looking to be judgmental or critical.
- Relaxing and remember how much fun it is to tell a story that is interesting and not offensive.
- Don’t use alcohol to make yourself less nervous.
- When you are delivering your speech, focus on friendly faces in the room and speak directly to them.

Wedding speeches are meant to bring back pleasant memories of the past and create new memories for the future. When you are approached to give a speech and it is delivered in the right spirit, speeches can become the best part of a wedding.