

A guide to Speeches

Introduction

Not many people are experts in the art of public speaking so the thought of getting up in front of the Bride & Grooms wedding reception guests is pretty intimidating. Don't worry, I have all the advice you need to prepare for making your speech and sounding an expert.

Who Speaks and When

traditionally the toastmaster or MC (master of ceremonies) will introduce the speeches at the end of the wedding breakfast. The formal order of speakers is:

- Father of the Bride
- The Groom
- The Best Man

If the bride, chief bridesmaid or guests want to speak then that's fine

Most speeches are performed after the wedding breakfast, however sometimes it's a good idea to perform the speeches before the meal. This method is mainly to ensure that the nervous speakers can get their speech over with and enjoy their meal. Also it reduces the amount of alcohol consumed, especially by the Best man!

Important steps

- Don't panic. A little careful planning will help you deliver the perfect speech.
- If possible, visit the venue to get an idea of where you will be standing and the size of the room.
- You will need to speak loud and CLEAR so practice speaking out loud.
- Is the reception going to have a theme that you could refer to or even incorporate into your speech?
- Are you responsible for presenting gifts to members of the Bridal party?
- Find out a little about the guests and if there are any subjects you should mention or avoid.
- How many guests are there? As a general rule, the more people present, the more formal the speech.

Who Says What

Here is a brief outline of who says what.

Father of the Bride

- Thanks the guests for coming and sharing in the wedding day.
- Compliments his daughter and welcomes her new husband into the family.
- Proposes a toast to the Bride and Groom.

Bridegroom

- Thanks the Father of the bride for his toast.
- Thanks the guests for attending and for their gifts.
- Thanks both sets of parents and (usually) presents a gift.
- Compliments his Bride.
- Thanks his Best man.
- Thanks and proposes a toast to the Bridesmaids and (usually) presents a gift.

Best Man

- Thanks the groom for his toast to the Bridesmaids.
- Comments on the Bride and rips into the Groom.
- Reads messages from cards especially the absent friends/family.
- Proposes a toast to the Bride and Groom.

Bride **Optional**

- Thanks the guests for coming.
- Thanks her parents and bridesmaids
- Compliments the Groom.
- Proposes a toast.

Chief Bridesmaid **Optional**

- Thanks the bride
- Compliments the ushers
- Proposes a toast