

## Wedding Speeches

These speeches are listed in the usual order of occurrence.

### The Father of the Bride's speech

Main points:

- You are pleased to see so many friends and relatives.
- You are proud of your daughter and her choice of husband.
- You welcome your new son-in-law as part of the family.
- Some stories about your daughter during her childhood and teenage years.

It is not appropriate that you should cause any embarrassment to your daughter or your new son in law. You will finish by asking the assembled guests to stand and to raise their glasses for a toast to "The Bride and Bridegroom".

### The Bridegroom's speech

You as Bridegroom not expected to give a long speech, nor to be particularly amusing. The Bridegroom may get off lightly because it is expected that you may be more than a little emotional.

Main points:

Thanks to -

- Your Bride's father, for his toast to you and your new wife.
- Your Bride's father, for welcoming you into the family.

A good term to use that should get a warm response from all of the guests is "My wife and I", followed by - something along the lines of, "Would like to thank you all for being with us on this special day".

- Any special mentions regarding the distance travelled from far and wide by certain of your guests.
- Your new Bride's parents (if appropriate) for the wonderful reception they have provided and their generosity.
- Your own parents, for the love and support that they have shown you over all the years.

At this point you (and your wife) may present a gift or bouquet of flowers to your own and your Bride's mother. There may be other gifts to give out.

- Your Best Man, for his help and support.
- Your wife for marrying you and for making you the happiest man in the world and for looking so stunning and beautiful.

You may propose a toast for 'absent friends', reminding the guests that not everyone will have been able to attend and that the absentees are in your thoughts.

- You will thank the ushers for the part that they have played during the day.
- Finally, you will thank the Bridesmaids for the part that they have played during the day and asking everyone to stand, propose a final toast to "the Bridesmaids".

## The Best Man's speech

Main points:

You may portray the Bridegroom in an amusing light. Not all best men are experienced or gifted speakers and many dread the thought of being the centre of attention at such an occasion. The main thing to remember is that the speech should be sincere and that is more important than the words that are to be used. It is always best not to be rude or offensive.

- The first duty to be performed by the Best Man, is to thank the Bridegroom, on behalf of the Bridesmaids for the kind words and toast to them on their behalf.
- The Best Man may read out any messages and cards, which may have arrived from absent friends. This may help the Best Man to settle his nerves.

From here on the speech is a matter of personal choice. The Best Man may say how long he has known the Bridegroom and advise the guests about some of the Bridegroom's strong points.

The Best Man may recount amusing stories about the Bridegroom, which may be close to the mark, but not over the top.

The Best Man may talk about the Bride and how she has made a favourable impression on the Bridegroom, and how very appropriate the couple are together, and the positive impact the Bride has had, on the Bridegroom.

- The Best Man, in summing up should ask everyone to stand and make a final toast to the "Bride and Bridegroom - Mr & Mrs.....".

## General

Wedding speeches should always be kept reasonably short and to the point. Longer speeches may become boring and lose impact unless the speaker is extremely talented.

The sight of a Bride and Bridegroom and a room full of guests looking bored or embarrassed by someone's inappropriate remarks during a speech, is a very sad one.

Although I have tried to give brief ideas about the content of the wedding speeches, only you will know what is fitting for the occasion.

If you have any questions, I will do my very best to help you. I do have some example speeches that you can use to give you some ideas, and I am happy to supply these free of charge after you have made your booking with me. So for questions and/or example speeches, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding, and have a wonderful day.

*Mike Wabe - Toastmaster*

Member of the Executive Guild of Toastmasters and Town Criers