

A row of four wine glasses filled with red wine, set on a dark, textured surface. The glasses are arranged in a slightly receding line from left to right. The lighting is warm and focused on the glasses, creating highlights on the liquid and the stems. The background is dark and out of focus.

Writing & Presenting
a Wedding Speech...

A Survivor's
Guide

Writing & Presenting a Wedding Speech...A Survivor's Guide

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Forward

by Rick Pieczonka

Hi, Rick here, founder of InstantWeddingToasts.com.

I can't say I've always dreamed of creating a website for Wedding Toasts, in fact, the idea came to me quite unexpectedly. Last fall, I bore witness to what must have been the most awkward situation I can imagine. While at the wedding of a friend of mine, I was unlucky enough to hear the Best Man totally blow his wedding speech to the Bride and Groom.

It was then that I realized a lot of men take the job of Best Man lightly. Having known the Best Man personally, I know that he wasn't himself that night, but aided by a few drinks and having nothing prepared to say before-hand, he has now been captured on tape with video evidence of that all-too-embarrassing moment forever. I also know all he needed was a speech prepared before-hand and someone to warn him about the Do's and Don'ts of how to give a toast and he would have done the Groom right.

So here it is today, InstantWeddingToasts.com. And here it is today, the eBook, Writing & Presenting a Wedding Speech...A Survivor's Guide. But the toasts and speeches in this eBook are not just for the Best Man. This is a complete guide for Writing & Presenting any Wedding Speech, and that includes the Maid of Honor, Groom, Bride, and Fathers of the Bride and Groom, too.

I've teamed up with one of the best Speechwriters around, Jan Shepardson, to put this eBook together. Jan Shepardson is an accomplished and remarkable speechwriter with over 30 years of experience writing speeches for people all over the world. Her writing comes from the heart, and shows in her speeches and her ability to turn thoughts into words of beauty.

Jan is currently a freelance writer, working contracts for people all over the world. She is one of the most sought after speechwriters in Arizona. Having written for many major Arizona publications, her love of writing and very large heart has led her to contribute literary works of art to both churches and non-profit organizations. She also owns and operates her own website, where she offers her amazing talents to individuals looking for custom speeches.

Now, lets get started on your Wedding Speech...

History of the Toasting Tradition

Although no one knows for sure, toasts are believed to have originated from an old custom of poisoning one's enemy by slipping poison into their glass of wine. With an evil smile, such hosts would toast to the health and happiness of the guest, only to watch their demise. But honorable hosts began showing their good intentions by pouring from a common pitcher and sipping the wine first. Then a toast was offered to the health and happiness of his guest...with true intentions!

Eventually this evolved into today's wedding toasts that offer congratulations and best wishes to the Bride and Groom. Yet even that simple toast of congratulations and best wishes has become more like a 3 to 5 minute speech, including other things such as stories from the Groom's past and thanks to the wedding attendants, guests, and parents for helping to make the day a success.

What is the Difference Between a Toast and a Speech?

A toast is only about 2 lines and 30 seconds. A Wedding Speech is just that, a speech. It is a 3 to 5 minute speech about the Bride and Groom, and the marriage they have embarked on.

You might want to call these Speeches "Stories" because, in essence, that is what they are. You are going to tell a story to the newlyweds, wishing them wealth, health and happiness, but with a lot of personalization!

You should feel honored that you have been asked to give this Speech, and even though you might feel a little wet under the arms preparing for it, I guarantee that if you follow the steps in this Wedding Speech Survivor's Guide, your speech will stand out for years to come!

As a suggestion, you might want to write your Speech in a formal manner and run it off on the printer and present to the Bride and Groom as a gift. I guarantee that there will be no gift that will mean more than this personalized Wedding Speech you have taken the time to prepare, and present.

Sit down, get comfortable, and read how you will become a Wedding Speech expert in a very short time!

**What is expected? Who should give it, How long should it be,
What is the Order (each part of the world is different)**

Traditionally, toasts and speeches have been done in the following manner:

- Best Man: Toasts to the Bride and Groom
- Groom: Thanks the Bride's parents, Best Man and Bridesmaids, then Toasts to his Bride
- Bride: Thanks the Groom's parents, then Toasts her Groom
- Father of the Bride: Thanks everyone for attending, welcomes the Groom to the family and announces the festivities may begin

But don't feel obligated to follow the rules of tradition! The only one required to propose a Wedding Toast is the Best Man, but watch out for some competition, many weddings are now including a toast from the Maid of Honor as well, following the Best Man's toast. And of course, any guest who feels moved to say a few words may also offer a toast to the Bride and Groom.

Best Man

For the Best Man, a wedding speech should ultimately be a toast to the Bride and Groom and their new life together. But the audience is also looking to him to add a touching, and possibly humorous story about how the Bride and Groom met, or even an embarrassing story about his escapades with the Groom. But he should be sure to keep his stories PG!

Maid of Honor

It's becoming a new trend to hear the Maid of Honor speak at the wedding as well. Sure, she can tell the story of how the Bride and Groom met, but if she's following the Best Man, chances are he's covered this already. Her job is to offer words of inspiration and wisdom to the newlyweds, as well as her blessings.

Groom

While the Best Man may be the only person offering a toast, it is traditionally thought that the Groom should stand and at least thank the Best Man for his toast. This is also appropriate timing for the Groom to offer thanks to the Bride's parents (especially if they paid for the event) and thank the wedding attendants and the Bridesmaids for helping make the day special. And he shouldn't forget why he's here, to marry his beautiful Bride, so he should be sure to toast to her beauty and any other qualities he wants to add.

Bride

Now it's the Bride's turn to speak. But what could she possibly say that hasn't been said already? If any of the above thank-you's have been left out, she should add them now, as well as an additional thank you to the Groom's parents for

raising him to be the wonderful man he is today. And surely she won't forget to toast the love of her life, her new husband.

Father of the Bride

Last, but surely not least, is the Father of the Bride. Among his well wishes for his daughter's happiness with her new husband, the Father of the Bride will want to welcome the Groom to his family, thank the guests for attending and celebrating with his family, then announce that the festivities may now begin. The Father of the Groom may wish to speak as well, in which case announcing the beginning of festivities will fall to him.

Before you begin....

Sit down and get comfortable. You are about to write words that will be remembered for a very long time.

It might be best to begin with an outline of what you are going to write.

A suitable outline might be:

1. Introduction or Opening: Welcome the guests, advise them who you are and what your relevancy to the wedding party is. You will find sample openings later on in the book. Look for them to begin your toast on the right note.
2. You will now begin your story...Are you going to begin with humor? Will you have a serious tone? This is where you set the tone of the speech.
3. After your introduction and beginning, your speech will flow into the middle. This is probably the "meat" of the wedding speech. This may be

where you want to define what you want for the happy couple. This could be a story about why they are perfect for each other. Grasp your concept and work with it.

4. You now have your ending. This is where you will tie up your thoughts with a thoughtful “closing”. We have listed a number of closings in the book and we think you’ll be pleased with them as well.

If your speech doesn’t have this flow, but you are happy with it, then it’s probably going to be okay. However, a wedding speech that is worth doing is worth doing well, so try to stick with the basic rules of order for the speech.

Different styles of writing fit different people. What style is right for you?

The best way to start your wedding speech outline, often, is to start “hot penning”. What is “hot penning”? Hot penning is the ability to sit with a pad of paper (or computer if you are more comfortable with that method) and just write your thoughts as they come. Write, write, write. It doesn’t matter what you are writing at this point, what does matter is that you are writing.

Laugh. Draw blanks. Feel glee. Giggle. All these emotions, and many more, will be felt when you are hot penning. One thought will bring another. Before you know it, you will have pages written that recap what you want to say about the Bride and Groom. Now that you have hot penned your ideas, it’s time to write your wedding speech.

What idea is it that you want to convey to your audience? Is the sense of humor that the Groom has portrayed? Have they had triumphs in life? What makes this couple unique? Write down the ideas that you want to convey.

Are there personal moments that you want to share? Have there been private moments spent together that are worth telling about? Are there personal things that you feel comfortable sharing?

How about their age? Is it integral to the wedding? How about their sense of humor, or lack of! Where were they born? Did they live anywhere unusual? Define their role in your life.

What is their role to you in life? Mother, Father? Sister, Brother? Life Partner? Child? Friend, employer or employee? Tell about the inspiration they had on your life.

What inspired you the most about this person? Or, were you able to inspire them? Remember, sometimes, just making it day to day is an inspiration itself!

What guarantees that this couple will have a successful marriage? What about the Bride or Groom has made them stand above the rest in your opinion?

Are these people who are “into each other” or do they have outside friends/interests as well? Do they belong to the same church? Are they involved? Do they volunteer? Where? (i.e., Habitat for Humanity)

If using structure is the best method for you, then you will find a list of potential questions that you can fill out that may help you organize your thoughts before writing your wedding speech. These are not inclusive, and by no means should you fill all this information into your speech, unless it fits for you. However, again, this will be good outline information.

Once you have done an outline, you should be able to see that you have the beginnings of a great wedding speech. You should have an opening, a middle

statement, and an ending at the very least. You will notice that it all flows together and from this, you can create your final speech. If you want me to look over your wedding speech before you present it, send it to speechwriters@instantweddingtoasts.com and I'll get back to you in a short time.

If Structure is Best For You...

If structure is your best method, here is a list of sample questions I suggest you try to fill out. From these, you will write your wedding speech in about one hour!

Name of the Groom and/or his nickname:

Name of the Bride and/or her nickname:

How long have you known the Groom and how did you meet?

How long have you known the Bride and how did you meet?

Did you, or anyone else attending, come a distance to be in the wedding?

How did the Bride and Groom meet? Were you involved?

How did the Groom propose to the Bride?

And what was her immediate reaction?

How has the Groom changed for the better since meeting the Bride?

How has the Bride changed for the better since meeting the Groom?

What 5 words best describe the Groom?

What 5 words best describe the Bride?

Are you related to the Groom? If so, what is the relationship?

Is there any message or funny story that you would specifically like to include in this speech?

What would you like the future to be for the Bride and Groom?

How did the Bride and Groom meet?

How long have the Bride and Groom been a couple?

Do they have children?

What are the Bride and Groom's mutual interests?

What were the biggest hassles of the wedding planning?

How did the Bride and Groom decide on the locale of the wedding?

What is the funniest thing that happened to the Groom while Bride was present?
And vice-versa?

Now, just make sure the wedding speech is rated PG, and you're all set. If you are still unsure about the content, ask someone you know for his or her feedback. You'll be grateful for the pre-wedding audience.

Quotes and Poems

When you are writing your Wedding Speech, you may feel that you need a little something extra. Perhaps that would be in the form of a quote or poem. In this section, we have included quotes and poems that discuss love and marriage, and we have also gleaned character quotes that may be beneficial in describing traits of the Bride or Groom.

Love and Marriage

"You don't marry someone you can live with - you marry the person who you cannot live without."

-Unknown

"Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction."

-*Saint-Exupery*

"Tell me whom you love and I will tell you who you are."

-*Houssaye*

"Love is but the discovery of ourselves in others, and the delight in the recognition."

-*Alexander Smith*

"Some love lasts a lifetime. True love lasts forever."

-*Unknown*

"Nunc scio quit sit amor."

Lat., "Now I know what love is."

-*Virgil*

"We come to love not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."

-Anonymous

"Love one another and you will be happy. It's as simple and as difficult as that."

-Michael Leunig

"A kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop speech when words become superfluous."

-Ingrid Bergman

"I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love."

-Henry Ward Beecher

"Woe to the man whose heart has not learned while young to hope, to love - and to put its trust in life."

-Joseph Conrad

"True love is like ghosts, which everybody talks about and few have seen."

-La Rochefoucauld

"Who ever loved that loved not at first sight?"

-Christopher Marlowe

"Better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all."

-St. Augustine

"To love another person is to see the face of God."

-Les Miserables

"When we are in love we often doubt that which we most believe."

-La Rochefoucauld

"Friendship often ends in love; but love in friendship - never."

-Charles Caleb Colton

"The richest love is that which submits to the arbitration of time."

-Lawrence Durrell

"A very small degree of hope is sufficient to cause the birth of love."

-Stendhal

"Blushing is the color of virtue."

-Diogenes

"Love cures people - both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it."

-Dr. Karl Menninger

"To love and win is the best thing. To love and lose, the next best."

-William M. Thackeray

"If you love someone, let them go. If they return to you, it was meant to be. If they don't, their love was never yours to begin with..."

-Unknown

"Love is hard work; and hard work sometimes hurts!"

-Unknown

"True love never dies for it is lust that fades away. Love bonds for a lifetime but lust just pushes away."

-Alicia Barnhart

"You call it madness, but I call it love."

-Don Byas

"Who says love never lives? Maybe we've never lived."

-Unknown

"Love is not blind - It sees more and not less, but because it sees more it is willing to see less."

-Will Moss

"If love is great, and there are no greater things, then what I feel for you must be the greatest."

-Unknown

"Love is like playing the piano. First you must learn to play by the rules, then you must forget the rules and play from your heart."

-Unknown

"If I could reach up and hold a star for every time you've made me smile, the entire evening sky would be in the palm of my hand."

-Unknown

"Truly loving another means letting go of all expectations. It means full acceptance, even celebration of another's personhood."

-Karen Casey

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

-Mother Theresa

"Relationships--of all kinds--are like sand held in your hand. Held loosely, with an open hand, the sand remains where it is. The minute you close your hand and squeeze tightly to hold on, the sand trickles through your fingers. You may hold onto some of it, but most will be spilled. A relationship is like that. Held loosely, with respect and freedom for the other person, it is likely to remain intact. But hold too tightly, too possessively, and the relationship slips away and is lost."

-Kaleel Jamison

"If you would be loved, love and be lovable."

-Benjamin Franklin

"Love begins with a smile, grows with a kiss, and ends with a teardrop."

-Anonymous

"We always believe our first love is our last, and our last love our first."

-Anonymous

"The way to love anything is to realize that it might be lost."

-G. K. Chesterton

"Love is shown in your deeds, not in your words."

-Fr. Jerome Cummings

"Where there is love there is life."

-Gandhi

"To love someone deeply gives you strength. Being loved by someone deeply gives you courage."

-Lao Tzu

"Absence diminishes small loves and increases great ones, as the wind blows out the candle and blows up the bonfire."

-François de La Rochefoucauld

"The supreme happiness in life is the conviction that we are loved."

-Victor Hugo

"The heart has reasons that reason cannot know."

-Pascal

"We cannot really love anybody with whom we never laugh."

-Agnes Repplier

"Love without reason lasts the longest."

-Unknown

"This was love at first sight, love everlasting: a feeling unknown, un hoped for, unexpected--in so far as it could be a matter of conscious awareness; it took entire possession of him, and he understood, with joyous amazement, that this was for life. "

-Thomas Mann

"Love is a driver, bitter and fierce if you fight and resist him, Easy-going enough once you acknowledge his power. "

-Ovid

"There is always some madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness. "

-Friedrich Nietzsche

"A man reserves his true and deepest love not for the species of woman in whose company he finds himself electrified and enkindled, but for that one in whose company he may feel tenderly drowsy. "

-George Jean Nathan

"Love sought is good, but given unsought, is better. "

-William Shakespeare

"The course of true love never did run smooth. "

-William Shakespeare

"There is no remedy for love but to love more."

-Henry David Thoreau

"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, it's what you are expected to give -- which is everything."

-Anon.

"Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within."

-James Baldwin

"Love is the immortal flow of energy that nourishes, extends and preserves. Its eternal goal is life."

-Smiley Blanton

"The best proof of love is trust."

-Joyce Brothers

"Sometimes the heart sees what is invisible to the eye."

-H. Jackson Brown Jr.

"Perfect love is rare indeed - for to be a lover will require that you continually have the subtlety of the very wise, the flexibility of the child, the sensitivity of the artist, the understanding of the philosopher, the acceptance of the saint, the tolerance of the scholar and the fortitude of the certain."

-Leo Buscaglia

"Love builds bridges where there are none."

-R. H. Delaney

"We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence, and its only end."

-Benjamin Disraeli

"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."

-Henry Drummond

"Life without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruit."

-Kahlil Gibran

"There is only one terminal dignity -- love."

-Helen Hayes

"The supreme happiness in life is the conviction that we are loved -- loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves."

-Victor Hugo

"The moment you have in your heart this extraordinary thing called love and feel the depth, the delight, the ecstasy of it, you will discover that for you the world is transformed."

-J. Krishnamurti

"Treasure the love you receive above all. It will survive long after your good health has vanished."

-Og Mandino

"Love means never having to say you're sorry."

-Erich Segal

Friendship

"A friend is one who knows all about you and likes you anyway."

-Christi Mary Warner

"Love is blind, but friendship closes its eyes."

-Unknown

"But friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life; and thanks to a benevolent arrangement of things, the greater part of life is sunshine."

-Thomas Jefferson

"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow ~ Don't walk behind me, I may not lead ~ Just walk beside me and be my friend."

-Unknown

We know our friends by their defects rather than by their merits.

-W. Somerset Maugham

"Love demands infinitely less than friendship. "

-George Jean Nathan

"However rare true love may be, it is less so than true friendship."

-François Duc de La Rochefoucauld

"Friends are born, not made."

-Henry Adams

"A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"My father always used to say that when you die, if you've got five real friends, then you've had a great life."

-Lee Iacocca

"Hold a true friend with both your hands."

-Nigerian Proverb

"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light."

-Albert Schweitzer

"There comes that mysterious meeting in life when someone acknowledges who we are and what we can be, igniting the circuits of our highest potential."

-Rusty Berkus

"You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

-Dale Carnegie

"A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."

-Unknown

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same."

-Unknown

"A friend is a gift you give yourself."

-Robert Louis Stevenson

"There are no such things as strangers, only friends we haven't met yet."

-Anonymous

"It is the friends that you can call at 4 A.M. that matter."

-Marlene Dietrich

"My best friend is the one that brings out the best in me."

-Henry Ford

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born."

-Anais Nin

"Life without a friend is death without a witness."

-Spanish Proverb

"The most I can do for my friend is simply to be his friend."

-Henry David Thoreau

"Friends are God's way of apologizing to us for our families."

-Unknown

“Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies.”

-Aristotle

“Don't believe your friends when they ask you to be honest with them. All they really want is to be maintained in the good opinion they have of themselves. “

-Albert Camus

“How can sincerity be a condition of friendship? A taste for truth at any cost is a passion which spares nothing. “

-Albert Camus

“It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them. “

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The only way to have a friend is to be one. “

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

“A true friend is the greatest of all blessings, and that which we take the least care of all to acquire. “

-François Duc de La Rochefoucauld

“To me, fair friend, you never can be old
For as you were when first your eye I eyed,
Such seems your beauty still. “

-William Shakespeare

“The proper office of a friend is to side with you when you are in the wrong.
Nearly anybody will side with you when you are in the right. “

-Mark Twain

"The road to a friend's house is never long."

-Danish proverb

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

-Muhammad Ali

"Friends are treasures."

-Horace Bruns

Happiness

"Happiness is a choice that requires effort at times."

-Anon

"Be happy while you're living, for you're a long time dead."

-Scottish Proverb

"Most people would rather be certain they're miserable, than risk being happy."

-Robert Anthony

"...happiness is the highest good, being a realization and perfect practice of virtue, which some can attain, while others have little or none of it..."

-Aristotle

"The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."

-Allan K. Chalmers

"Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action."

-Benjamin Disraeli

"He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home."

-Johann von Goethe

"Happiness is not a destination. It is a method of life."

-Burton Hills

"I have no money, no resources, no hopes. I am the happiest man alive."

-Henry Miller

"Good humor is one of the best articles of dress one can wear in society."

-William Makepeace Thackeray

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go."

-Oscar Wilde

Character Quotes

"Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking."

-Jackson Brown, Jr.

"To measure the man, measure his heart."

-Malcolm Stevenson Forbes

"The true test of character is not how much we know how to do, but how we behave when we don't know what to do."

-John Holt

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

-Helen Keller

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

-Abraham Lincoln

"Bluntness is a virtue."

-Allison Ling

Loyalty

"Loyalty is still the same,
Whether it win or lose the game;
True as a dial to the sun,
Although it be not shined upon."

-Samuel Butler

Ambition

"A person who aims at nothing is sure to hit it."

-Anon

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

-Les Brown

"We are told never to cross a bridge until we come to it, but this world is owned by men who have 'crossed bridges' in their imagination far ahead of the crowd."

-Anon

"You can't build a reputation on what you're going to do."

-Henry Ford

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."

-Anatole France

"Don't be afraid to take a big step. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps"

-David Lloyd George

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly"

-Langston Hughes

"If you can imagine it,

You can achieve it.

If you can dream it,

You can become it."

-William Arthur Ward

Effort

"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."

-Anon

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself."

-Harry Firestone

"You are never given a wish without also being given the power to make it come true. You may have to work for it, however."

-Richard Bach

"It's the constant and determined effort that breaks down resistance, sweeps away all obstacles."

-Claude M. Bristol

"It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."

-Sir Winston Churchill

"One that would have the fruit must climb the tree."

-Thomas Fuller

"The harder you work, the luckier you get."

-McAlexander

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

-Will Rogers

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

-Theodore Roosevelt

Laughter

"Men show their character in nothing more clearly than by what they find laughable."

-Anon.

"Nobody ever died of laughter."

-Max Beerbohm

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

-Victor Borge

"The most wasted day of all is that during which we have not laughed."

-Sebastian R. N. Chamfort

"If you don't learn to laugh at troubles, you won't have anything to laugh at when you grow old."

-Edward W. Howe

Love Poems

"Within you I lose myself
Without you I find myself
Wanting to be lost again."

-Unknown

"Love, free as air at sight of human ties,
Spreads his light wings, and in a moment flies."

-Alexander Pope

"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind."

-William Shakespeare

"All the love that history knows,
is said to be in every rose.
Yet all that could be found in two,
is less than what I feel for you."

-Unknown

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death."

-Elizabeth Barrett Browning

"O my Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune."

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luv am I;
And I will luv thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry:
Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
I will luv thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run."

-Robert Burns

"DRINK to me only with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine;
Or leave a kiss but in the cup
And I'll not look for wine.
The thirst that from the soul doth rise
Doth ask a drink divine;
But might I of Jove's nectar sup,
I would not change for thine.
I sent thee late a rosy wreath,
Not so much honouring thee
As giving it a hope that there
It could not wither'd be.
But thou thereon didst only breathe
And sent'st it back to me;
Since when it grows, and smells, I swear,
Not of itself but thee!"

-Ben Jonson

If in the morning when you wake,
If the sun does not appear,
I will be here.
If in the dark we lose sight of love,
Hold my hand and have no fear,
I will be here.
I will be here,
When you feel like being quiet,
When you need to speak your mind I will listen.
Through the winning, losing, and trying we'll be together,
And I will be here.
If in the morning when you wake,
If the future is unclear,
I will be here.
As sure as seasons were made for change,
Our lifetimes were made for years,
I will be here.
-Steven Curtis Chapman

When we're not together
my thoughts drift alongside
memories of you
Things we've done
the way you smile so brightly
that helps me forget my worries
and celebrate our wonders.
When we're not together
my moods come into play more often
and make me yearn for the strength
I feel in you
the security I find in your eyes

When we're not together
I sometimes feel so very alone,
for myself and you ...
imagining you being without
my loving feelings
as I am without yours.
When we're not together ...
my best wishes still go with you always,
wishing to share in your exitements
wanting to comfort your hurts
needing to be reassured that
you're keeping warm and well
When we're not together...
I seem to spend my time
wishing that we were.

-Sumod

Jokes

Perhaps the something extra you were looking for involves humor. In this section, we have included jokes suitable for, well, a wedding.

"I would like to offer this advice to the Groom:

Never go to bed angry.....always stay up and argue.

Always remember the three little words....."You're right dear".

The best way to remember your anniversary is to forget it once."

"Nick, well, he's Nick. What do you want me to say? Is he perfect? Well not to us, he leaves the toilet lid up, he leaves his dirty clothes around and he doesn't know what a dishwasher is!"

"First, the MEN'S GUIDE TO FEMALE ENGLISH

We need = I want

We need to talk = I need to complain

You're certainly attentive tonight = Is sex all you ever think about?

Do you love me? = I'm going to ask for something expensive

I'll be ready in a minute = Kick off your shoes and relax

Is my butt fat? = Tell me I'm beautiful

I'm not yelling! = Yes I am yelling because I think this is important "

"Second, the WOMEN'S GUIDE TO MALE ENGLISH

"I'm hungry" = I'm hungry

"I'm sleepy" = I'm sleepy

"I'm tired" = I'm tired

"Do you want to go to a movie?" = looking for some nookie

"Can I take you out to dinner?" = looking for some nookie

"Nice dress!" = looking for some nookie

"You look tense, let me give you a massage." = looking for some nookie "

“Some weeks ago [Bride] jokingly told me that men think wedding arrangements just take care of themselves. But I read on the Internet that men are always excluded from getting involved in the wedding arrangements because they ask stupid questions all the time... like, ‘how much?’ “

“For those that don't know me, my name is [your first name] Wouldyoulikeadrink. Please feel free to say hello and call me by my full name later on.”

“I promise to keep the speech short, since [Bride] has threatened to cut my throat if I go on too long!”

“[Bride] is a lovely woman, she deserves a good husband. Good thing you married her before she found one!”

“I'm so happy to preside over the only 5 minutes that [Bride] didn't plan.”

(from Groom) “I had a few words prepared to say ahead of time, but now that I am married, my wife has told me what to say instead. “

“It is said that a great speech has a good beginning and a good ending, and the two are as close together as possible! [pause] Well, tough luck!”

Openers and Closing Toasts

The opening and closing of your speech are just as important as the main message in the middle, and you should try to take the time to find a good opening and closing that says just what you want to say. So we've put together an assortment of openings and closing toasts that may help you do just that.

Speech Openings

“I would like to propose a toast to the Bride and Groom... “

“If I could have everyone's attention, I promise not to take too long, I know there are many others who wish to toast as well... “

“It is my great pleasure to be here with you all on this happy occasion and to help [Bride] and [Groom] celebrate their marriage. I'd like to thank [Bride and Groom and parents (if appropriate)] for inviting everyone to be a part of this special day.“
“Ladies and Gentlemen, friends and family...”

“Hi, I'm [your name], for those of you who don't know me, I'm [your relation to Bride or Groom] and it's my honor to share a few moments with all of you today. “

“When [Groom] asked me to be his Best Man, the first thing that came to mind was ...Why? What had I done wrong? But after careful consideration, and much bribing, I decided to do it anyway.”

“I'm so happy to preside over the only 5 minutes that [Bride] didn't plan.“

“Some weeks ago [Bride] jokingly told me that men think wedding arrangements just take care of themselves. But I read on the Internet that men are always

excluded from getting involved in the wedding arrangements because they ask stupid questions all the time... like, 'how much?' ”

“I want to give some advice to the newly married couple, but [never being married/not being sure what to say] I searched around for advice from someone who could say it better than I could. [Add quote or appropriate message] “

“It gives me special pleasure to be here today at the wedding of my good friends [insert Bride's name] and [insert Groom's name] because I introduced them at [insert where they met] and have known them for many years.“

“Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, for those that don't know me, my name is [your first name] Wouldyoulikeadrink. Please feel free to say hello and call me by my full name later on.“

“I would like to start by thanking everyone on behalf of the Bride and Groom for being here and sharing their special day. [pause] Personally, I wish you'd all stayed at home and made my day less nerve wracking! “

“[Bride], it's an absolute honor for me to be your Maid of Honor today. You are a great sister, a great daughter and a great friend. On behalf of the Bridesmaids and myself I just want to say how beautiful and radiant you look.”

Closing Toasts

“May you both live as long as you want,
And never want as long as you live. “

“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! “

“I have known many,
Liked not a few,
Loved only one
I toast to you “

“Let's drink to love, which is nothing -- unless it's divided by two. “

"Drink to me only with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine;
Or leave a kiss within the cup,
And I'll not look for wine."
- Ben Jonson

“May the most you wish for be the least you get. “

“Here's to the Bride.
May your hours of joy be as numerous
as the petals of your bridal bouquet. “

“To my Bride: She knows all about me and loves me just the same”

“To my Groom: He knows all about me and loves me just the same “

“Here's to the husband
And here's to the wife
May they be lovers
The rest of their life.”

“Never above you. Never below you. Always beside you “

“May all your troubles be less
And all your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door.”

“Here's to the Groom, a man who keeps his head though he loses his heart. “

“May your home always be too small
to hold all of your friends “

“May your Love be modern enough to survive the times
and old fashioned enough to last forever.”

“It is said when a child finds true love
the parents find true joy.
Here's to your joy and ours, from this day forward.’

“May your wedding days be few and your anniversaries many.”

“Here's to lying, cheating, and stealing and drinking;
May you lie only to your enemies,
Cheat only death,
Steal only each other's hearts,
And drink deeply of each other's love.”

“A toast to love and laughter and happily ever after!”

“May your love be as endless as your wedding rings.”

“Here's to the Groom with a Bride so fair, Here's to the Bride with a Groom so rare! “

“Let us toast the health of the Bride
Let us toast the health of the Groom,
Let us toast the person that tied,
Let us toast every guest in the room.”

“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 your business, and your country to banish depression,
Enough wealth to meet your needs,
Enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday.”

“Love does not consist of gazing at each other,
But in looking outward together in the same direction.”

“To the man who has conquered the Bride's heart, and her mother's. “

“Down the hatch, to a striking match! “

“May your hands be forever clasped in friendship
And your hearts joined forever in love. “

“To my wife, my Bride and joy. “

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

“To our guests: May the friends of our youth be the
Companions of our old age. “

“To our guests: May our home always be too small
to hold all our friends.”

“Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be.”

“May the two of you grow old on one pillow.”

“Here's to the Bride and Groom:
May their joys be as bright as the morning,
And their sorrows but shadows that fade in the sunlight of love”

“Here's to my mother-in-law's daughter,
Here's to her father-in-law's son,
And here's to the vows we've just taken,
And the life we've just begun.”

“Here's to you both,
A beautiful pair,
On the birthday of your love affair. “

“Here's a toast to marriage, the greatest educational establishment in the world. “

“Love is blind, but marriage restores its sight. “

“A health to you,
A wealth to you,
And the best that life can give to you.
May fortune still be kind to you.
And happiness be true to you,
And life be long and good to you,
Is the toast of all your friends to you.”

“May we all meet on many more happy occasions”

Sample Speeches

Best Man

We've come together on this beautiful June day to witness the marriage celebration of my big brother, Andreas (known to most of you as Andy) and his lovely Bride, Sarah. It is a joyful occasion and it's wonderful to see the smiling faces of our parents who seem to be beaming today at this international affair known as your wedding. Many people have come today to help start your marriage in style, and we are pleased that so many relatives were able to join us from Cyprus for this celebration.

Sarah, you have no idea how happy this family is to have you join us. We always wondered who would become the Bride of our Andy, and you fit the bill perfectly. Yours has been a good relationship for Andy, and we welcome you into our family.

It's funny to see the changes that each Andy and Sarah have gone through since they met each other. In the beginning, these two were quite a lively couple. They enjoyed clubbing out until the early hours on a regular occasion, and joined Natalie and myself for many outings that lasted until dawn. Now, it seems, that a lively evening for the two of them has turned into going to the pubs for a short time followed by one big game of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire". The fact that they aren't clubbing with their old vigor, however, has not stopped their sleeping patterns, and they are still known to sleep until at least noon Saturdays and Sunday.

Sarah and Andy have dated for almost three years. When Andy asked Sarah to marry him, it was under ideal circumstances. They went on a two-week holiday to the Green Island of Crete in Greece. Somewhere in the midst of the fun under the sun and in the sand of the beaches (and between visiting family) Andy found

the perfect time to propose to his Sarah. We understand that Sarah first cried when she was proposed to, and Sarah, we hope those were tears of happiness, not entrapment! This lovely couple will be honeymooning in the Caribbean and we hope that the trip to Antigua compares to their vacation in Greece!

Andy is so much more to me than just a brother. He is my best friend and gym partner. Although we don't consider him perfect, we accept his flaws. After all, who better than Andy is known to disappear when you need help. Whenever Dad needs help with his garden, Andy's always managed to "just" leave the house. Andy's main interest (other than Sarah) is getting his stationary supply business up and running. Andy is absolutely useless at DIY, however, and we love to laugh about him as he seems to get things done wrong with this continuously!

Andy is still quite a mischievous guy. Although he seems to have that very innocent look about him, you never really know what's going on in his mind. He loves to get people wound up for nothing, and he still thinks that as my big brother, he can beat me up.

Although Sarah isn't my sister by birth, she will become my sister in marriage. I've found Sarah to be very confident and good for Andy. She is a very chatty woman and is very easy to talk to. She's very ambitious and I admire that about her. She loves to make a house a home, and I believe that the home she and Andy will have will be a house filled with love.

To Andy, his family is his world, and he loves them very much. There is not one thing he wouldn't do for any of his family members. Andy and I were always inseparable when we were young. He was always the typical older brother. He was always looking out for me and whenever I was picked on, he was there to defend me. He was my protector. He's also always been very protective of our little sister, Maria, as well.

I've been researching speeches while I prepared to give this speech. I found one interesting fact about why people stand where they do at the altar. It seems that the tradition of the Bride standing to the left of the Groom was done so that the Groom would have his right hand free for his sword if he needed it in defense. I love the irony of that, because I can envision my protector brother being now very protective of his Bride and I know that he and Sarah will always be there for each other through thick and thin, for the good times and the bad. I'm proud of my brother for picking such a wonderful woman to come into our family.

My wishes for Sarah and Andy are simple as they begin their married life. I hope that they become wealthy, and that they stay healthy. But most importantly, I want nieces and nephews! So, Andy and Sarah, as you head off to your honeymoon night, remember that the fun you have tonight could result in one more person being in the house by this time next year!

Salut!

Maid of Honor

Hi. I'm Aileen, and I have the distinction of being the Maid of Honor at the wedding ceremony of Angie and Christopher.

I feel so honored to stand here as a witness to the unity of Angie and Christopher, and know that their family, consisting of themselves and their two beautiful sons, Tyler and Tony, is a family that is strong and filled with love.

I've known Angie since we were younger than Tony is now. I consider Angie my sister, by best friend, and my partner in crime! This is a woman with whom I have snuck out of a window to be with on more than one occasion to attend a party that we "just had to attend". While we enjoyed the parties, it was a bit

difficult to keep our stories straight and since our parents were friends, we always had to work hard at that!

I've known Christopher since high school, about Freshman year, and I consider him just plain lucky to be marrying Angie!

I felt like I was the luckiest girl in the world having a friend like Angie when I was growing up. I always knew that I had a friend who understood me as much as I understood her and was there for me. Growing up, we were inseparable! We wore the same clothes, we were in Brownies, soccer cheerleading together. We taught Sunday School and coached the cheerleaders at our old grade school together. Our families would have dinner together every Saturday, and we loved every minute of it! When it was time to "grow up" and go away to college, I dreaded the natural separation that our lives would make as I went away. As time went on, it was so refreshing to know that although distance in miles might be between us, there was no distance in our friendship. Our bond is our history, we are family, and I consider her my sister.

It's hard to tell you when I first realized that Chris was interested in Angie. I think maybe when we were in the 10th grade and Chris would run by my locker just to look at a picture I had there of Angie. I think Angie has been in love with Chris from the first moment she saw him.

While this wedding ceremony today may not be the typical ceremony of a young man or woman in their twenties, this unity ceremony has more substance than any wedding I've been to. As we know, Chris and Angie has been a couple for a number of years. Seven years ago their lives were blessed with their son, Tony, and last year we all welcomed Tyler into their lives as well. I imagine that the honeymoon period for these two will not be the typical carriage rides down moonlit streets or dinner for two over candlelight. No, I imagine that their honeymoon evenings will be spent with teething children, homework, and soccer

practice. These are two people who have come to marriage with love in their heart, and a family in their home. They know each other well, their have a friendship that is in full bloom and theirs is a marriage that will have long standing.

I think that Chris is a proud, protective, sensitive, heartfelt and social kind of a guy. He was man enough to know that it wasn't time to marry years ago, but he knew that when the time was right, he and Angie would marry. He has made a 180 since his youth, and he has grown so much being with Angie and her family.

Angie is a woman of boundless energy. I don't know where she finds her strength, but I admire her will and tenacity. She is a loving, caring, stubborn, a bit strong-willed, beautiful woman. She is the perfect mother, and she will now be the perfect wife.

My wishes for Angie and Chris (and Tony and Tyler) are that they live their life fully with each other. My hope is that they continue to remain the individuals they are today, but at the same time, form a union of one that is unbreakable. I wish them wealth, health, happiness, and maybe a little sister for the boys, too!

Congratulations!

Father of the Bride

I want to thank you all for attending the wedding celebration of my daughter Angel, to her love, Chris.

Angel and Chris have known each other since they met at work, four years ago. Chris appears to be hardworking, devoted, caring, and warm, while my daughter is beautiful, sweet, perky and caring.

Angel is our only daughter and I've always wondered how I would hand her over to some young man one day. I'm surprised that the feelings are bittersweet. While I remember her first tooth, her first words, and her first date, I now wonder about her first child, their first home and what the future will bring to them. I know that as a couple, they will overcome any obstacles that are presented to them, and that they will grow together and will grow in love over the years.

Since meeting Chris at a family function years ago, I've had my eye on him. I've tried to make sure that he would measure up to what Angel's mother and I always had in mind for her, and we've not been disappointed. He's been a loving influence on Angel and we feel fortunate to welcome him into our family.

The way he proposed to my daughter set tears in my eyes. I understand that they hiked Superstition Mountain and when they reached the pinnacle and could oversee the entire valley, he popped the question. I appreciate the fact that he took the time to make the proposal special for my daughter. This indicates his love for her, and for this, I am thankful.

Angel and Chris, life will take many turns. You'll have your glory days and you'll have your sad days. However, if you have each other, you will have all you need. Cling to each other, communicate with each other, and make each other number one in your lives. With these tools, you will have a successful marriage.

We love you, we cherish you and we wish you well!

Groom

We are here today to celebrate my marriage to the most beautiful woman in the world, Kelly.

Kelly and I met in college, and have dated for the past two years. I think that I knew she would be my Bride from early on. She's the woman I've been searching for all my life. She is beautiful, considerate and sweet. And, she's got one stubborn side too!

We are celebrating this wedding together surrounded by people that we love. We have my parents Tom and Shelly, and Kelly's parents, Dean and Susan. We are fortunate to have our Groomsmen, Jason and Eddie, who look great decked out in their tuxes. And we have Linda and Jennifer as the Bride's attendants. Thank you everyone for participating in our wedding!

Since Kelly and I have been together, she has taught me so much. One of the things she's really proud of is teaching me how to balance a checkbook. I found out that you're actually supposed to write in it, not just take out money, look at the receipt, and call it balanced.

I love the fact, too, that I got to guide her through one of our most romantic experiences. I thought that it would be a great idea to ask Kelly to be my Bride at Christmas-time. I hung a clear ornament on the Christmas tree with a pink ring box inside. The ornament, with the ring inside, hung on the tree for three days before I finally led her to the ornament. Her immediate yes was the reaction I was looking for, so it was well worth it.

Kelly, thank you for agreeing to be my Bride. I know that our life will be a happy one and that when we work together we will achieve all of our goals. I'll always be here for you, in the good times, and the bad, in sickness and in health, and

when I took my vows, I meant they were for 'til death do us part. I love you. Thank you for marrying me.

Bride

Thank you for coming to attend the wedding ceremony for Brian and myself today.

It seems that Brian and I have known each other all of our lives. Our friendship was an extension of our mother's friendship. They have been lifelong best friends, and now we are tying them together as relatives.

When Brian asked me to marry him, I imagine that I was the most shocked woman on earth as he always made it clear that marriage was always the farthest thing from his mind.

I have learned so much from Brian, but one of the major things I've done is to achieve new understanding of the male mind. I appreciate Brian for who he is, not for what I wanted him to be. Brian is carefree, understanding and hardworking. He is also a loving father.

This wedding is a family event. Our two-year-old daughter, Kayla, has been the most beautiful flower girl in the world. Our parents have done all the catering, we paid for the hall, Uncle Tom is the Groomsman, and Aunt Mary made the wedding cake. Heather and Gracie, the Bridesmaids, have chipped in their help continuously as well.

When my Dad passed away eight years ago, I always wondered what my wedding would be like without him. Today, I realize that while we don't see him, I know he's here because he's in the hearts of so many of us.

Brian and I have been friends most of our lives, and our wedding demonstrates that the embers of friendship can grow into the flames of love. Thomas Mann once said "But friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life; and thanks to a benevolent arrangement of things, the greater part of life is sunshine." It's wonderful to know that the greater part of our life will be devoted to not only our love, but our friendship as well.

Brian, you have my love. Thank you for coming into my life and for marrying me and for making me look forward to all the days to come. I will always be here for you.

Presenting a Wedding Speech – Practice Makes Perfect!

Dos and Don'ts of Writing and Delivering a Wedding Speech

Everybody gets nervous before speaking in public, even the Pros! The difference is how you handle all that nervous energy. Conquering your nerves requires you to be prepared...and this means rehearsing your speech! Practice will:

- Relieve Fear
- Boost Your Confidence
- Get You Organized
- Get You Speaking Clearly

So what's the secret?

- Practice speaking into a microphone and holding your glass. Sound silly? It's not. The closer you can get to the situation you'll be speaking in, the better prepared and less nervous you'll be. So go ahead, grab a kitchen spoon and start practicing.
- Practice standing up from your chair. Do you need to walk to the microphone? Practice that, too. Being smooth means you've got all angles covered.
- Speak out loud just like you will be doing at the wedding.
- Will you be wearing something out of the ordinary? Being uncomfortable can be distracting, so ladies, if you will be wearing new high-heels, practice speaking in them. Gentlemen, suit jackets can limit arm movements and slippery dress shoes...well, let's not find out!

- Rehearse without the apologies. You never want to apologize for being a bad speaker or making mistakes, so don't get into the habit while rehearsing.
- Work at it until it sounds right then keep working on it until it sounds even better.
- Never say "I don't know if I should tell this one..." If it's questionable, leave it out! Remember, Grandma, Grandpa and possibly even children will be present at the wedding. Make sure your stories are appropriate for the audience.
- The best place to rehearse is wherever you will be left uninterrupted. Check for a clock so you can time your speech, too.
- The best time to rehearse is NOT whenever you have time. Do it when you can be uninterrupted and refreshed, even set aside time to practice.
- Don't overdo it. Better to make a mistake than sound like a robot. You'll know you're ready when you're so comfortable that you're looking forward to giving the speech!

The Time has Arrived, so Heed These Toasting Tips

1. Plan to speak from 1 to 4 minutes. No one wants to be bored with an extraordinarily long toast covering the entirety of your friendship. With wedding toasts, even a short toast will do if delivered with feeling and sincerity.
2. Make sure all other glasses are full before beginning. You may want to announce to the guests, or have the MC announce to the guests, to fill their glasses because toasting will commence shortly. Then give guests 3 to 5 minutes to fill their glasses.
3. Stand to give a toast (sit to receive one) and hold your glass with your right hand as you toast. After the toast, it is tradition to then clink the glasses together before sipping.
4. Start with something personal. How the Bride and Groom met is always a favorite. You can also use humor or quotes to get started.
5. Never apologize for being a bad speaker, and don't say you really didn't want to speak. It's a rule for all speeches and all occasions, not just weddings.
6. Don't mention previous girlfriends, past marriages, or past relationships. Not only could it be potentially embarrassing, but it's inappropriate at a wedding. Leave this for the stag party.
7. Make sure stories about the Bride and Groom are rated PG.
8. Don't swear or lie.
9. Always use humor in good taste. While poking fun at the Bride and Groom can add the touch of humor you're looking for, poking too much fun will only gain you a disapproving audience.

10. Speak in your normal voice, and avoid unnatural hand gestures or fake accents. Wedding audiences want to hear what you have to say, not watch a drama unfold. Just remember you were chosen to be you, not someone else.
11. Practice your toast. Unless you are an accomplished public speaker, just 'winging it' for the wedding toast is always a bad idea.
12. Don't have more than one drink to calm nerves beforehand. It may seem like a good idea, but besides calming your nerves, too much alcohol will also keep you from speaking clearly and hinder your good judgment of appropriate speech material.
13. Look around the room at the audience and to the Bride and Groom as you toast. Eye contact is an important characteristic of a good speaker.
14. Speak clearly and don't rush. Take your time and take a deep breath, because if you speak too fast, no one is going to understand you.
15. And finally, finish your toast with a wish, blessing, congratulations, or cheers.

**Well, you are now a Wedding Speech Writing Expert...
Congratulations!**

Since you have taken the time to purchase this eBook, we recognize that you care about your standing in the wedding party. We applaud your efforts and want to tell you that we know that your speech will be great!

Have confidence in yourself for a job well done. You have taken time out of your busy schedule to please your friends, and for that, we commend you.

When all else fails, pick up the champagne glass and yell "Salut!"...everyone else will too!