

# Toasts and Poems

## FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES

How to be witty  
and well prepared!





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## PART I. TOASTS

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### *Etiquette*

A wedding toast - a moving, affectionate gesture proposed to the newly married couple - is a divine combination of wit and humor, sentiments and honesty.

The toasts have several key functions:

- They confer on you an opportunity to express your feelings in words.
- They are an excellent means of bringing in humor, an essential ingredient of a wedding speech.
- Finally yet most importantly, toasts and speeches are a mode of progression of wedding ceremony from a formal to an informal one. They offer the newlywed couple and their relatives and friends an opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves after weeks and months of hard work for the success of the day.

The tradition of toasting has been prevailing for centuries. It has its roots in one of the French customs in which a piece of bread was placed at the bottom of a glass to immerse the sediment. A good toaster would be one who drank down to the toast.

In due course, people started toasting to “To the health, happiness and good luck of the bride and groom.” Gradually, the toasting custom underwent a lot of advancement. Toasts used today are quite complicated ones and need preparation, practice and presentation. The audience looks for newness and uniqueness in a toast. This book is designed to give you several valuable tips on composing and proposing a toast. Additionally, you can find several sample toasts (both traditional and contemporary) to use in your speech.

### **Basic rule of toasting**

A good toast should be brief. Toasts aid you to contribute to the joyful and congratulatory mood of the affair. Nevertheless, you must always bear in mind that the celebrations are for the bride and groom and not for you to stand and deliver the speech. It is the day of the newly wed couple, so make your presentation as brief as possible. Furthermore, remember that the shorter the toast, more memorable it would be for the guests.



## *Composing the Toast*

A rightly composed wedding toast is persuasive, poignant and witty. It should sound natural as well.

If you are aware that you will be proposing a toast at the rehearsal dinner or wedding party, compose your toast far ahead of time. Decide on what you would be saying. A number of brides complain that they regretted unplanned and unrehearsed speeches and toasts done by their dear ones since there was not anything meaningful in what they said. Therefore, devote some time to prepare a good, relevant and appreciated toast. In case you think, you will feel nervous or tend to forget your toast, make a note of it on cue cards.

Begin your toast by introducing yourself. Mention your relationship to the bride and since how long you have known her. Thank the couple and then come to the body of toast.

Use personal anecdotes in your toast to spice it up. Tell a few interesting incidents of the bride's childhood or youth, or about her funny habits etc. If you do not know the bride well and are not aware of any interesting stories to share, consider doing some research. Talk to the bride's mother, sister or rest of her family and you will easily come up with a couple of hilarious stories.

If you think you are good at remembering and reciting poetry, you can even add some of it to your toast. Use of quotations also adds quality to your toast and reveals an effort and time you had put in preparing the toast. You can have a number of nice and suitable poems and quotes for your wedding from this book.

Points to consider while composing a toast:

- Your toast should possess affection, fondness and own-ness.
- Never use clichés.
- Although wedding ceremony can be pretty formal and you an enormously literate and learned person (!) avoid using snobbish words or phrases in your toast.
- Never say anything that is so embarrassing that it humiliates the bride.
- Also, when composing a toast, be careful not to say awkward thing with reference to the forthcoming honeymoon and the impending lovemaking thereof.
- Use anecdotes that are suitable for people of all age groups and sound interesting to all. There is no point in narrating stories or jokes that appeals to only 20 people out of the 100 strong audience. If you added enough humor to your toast, make sure you conclude it with a serious note.

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- ❑ In case this is the second marriage for the bride or groom or both, see to it that you do not mention the previous marriage. Also, make no mention of the ex-girlfriends or boyfriends on the wedding day. Let that happen during the stag/bachelor party. Calling the groom a "womanizer" (whether kidding or not) is not the right way to celebrate his wedding day.
- ❑ Wedding toasts are supposed to be positive and cheerful. Make no mention of death or depression that can bring tears to the newlywed or rest of the family.
- ❑ Never make any negative statements. Sometimes people unknowingly tend to end the toast with a negative statement, which may actually hurt the newlywed couple. Be careful not to finish your toast with a negative thing even unintentionally as, "I wish your marriage does not end in a divorce as mine." Finish your toast on a blessing, a wish, Congratulations! or Cheers! Alternatively you can use, "to the bride and groom", which always works.
- ❑ Be brief. Finish your toast within 2-3 minutes otherwise you may lose your audience!

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### *Sample Traditional Toasts*

"May you grow old on one pillow."

- Armenian toast

----X----

"Love, be true to her;

Life, be dear to her;

Health, stay close to her;

Joy, draw near to her;

Fortune, find what you can do for her,

Search your treasure-house through and through for her,

Follow her footsteps the wide world over

And keep her husband always her lover."

- Anna Lewis, "To the bride"

----X----

## FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES



Lack nothing: be merry.

- Shakespeare, from Henry IV

----X----

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.

- Ambrose Bierce

----X----

Look down you gods and on this couple drop a blessed crown.

- Shakespeare, from the Tempest

----X----

Always remember what is worth remembering or never forget what is best forgotten

----X----

There is nothing nobler or more admirable than when two people who see eye to eye keep house as man and wife, confounding their enemies and delighting their friends.

- Homer, Odyssey

----X----

It's still the same old story,  
A fight for love and glory, A case of do or die!  
The world will always welcome lovers as time goes by.  
- From the song "As Time Goes By" by Herman Hupfeld.

----X----

I wish your marriage is beautiful and joyful forever,  
And you, always look as beautiful as you look today (bride).  
May the charm of your marriage increase every year.

----X----

Seek a happy marriage with wholeness of heart, but do not expect to reach the promised land without going through some wilderness together.

- Charlie W. Shedd

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----X----

"The man or woman you really love will never grow old to you,  
Through the wrinkles of time,  
Through the bowed frame of years,  
The warm heart union of your eternal love.

- Alfred A. Montapert

----X----

The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances; if there is any reaction, both are transformed.

Carl Jung

----X----

Here's to the bride and the bridegroom, we will pray for their success and happiness, all through life's ups and downs may good luck be always be theirs.

----X----

May you have many children and may they grow mature in taste and healthy in color and as sought after as the contents of the glass.

-Irish toast

----X----

Coming together is a beginning,  
Keeping together is progress,  
Working together is success.

- Henry Ford

----X----

May you be in heaven for hundreds of years before the devil becomes familiar to your death.

----X----

Here's to marriage, that happy estate that resembles a pair of scissors:  
So joined that they cannot be separated, often moving in opposite directions,  
yet punishing anyone who comes between them.

-Sydney Smith

----X----

Marriage: A community consisting of a master, a mistress, and two slaves -  
making in all, two.

-Ambrose Bierce

## FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES



----X----

Heaven give you many, many merry days!

-Shakespeare, from the Merry Wives of Windsor

----X----

Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking outward in the same direction.

-Antoine de Saint-Exupery

----X----

May your future be filled with wine and roses.

----X----

Nothing is more splendid or nobler than two people living together as husband and wife are thereby baffling their foes and pleasuring their friends.

----X----

A happy marriage is still the greatest treasure within the gift of fortune.

-Eden Phillpotts

----X----

May your coffins be prepared of 100-year-old oak tree, which was planted just yesterday.

----X----

Marriage is our last, best chance to grow up.

-Joseph Barth

----X----

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be ever at your back,  
May 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 Toast

----X----

May each day of yours be happier than the last.

----X----



## FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES



May thy life be long and happy,  
Thy cares and sorrows few,  
And the many friends around thee,  
Prove faithful, fond and true.

----X----

Two such as you with such a master speed,  
Cannot be parted nor be swept away,  
From one another once you are agreed,  
That life is only life forevermore,  
Together wing to wing and oar to oar.

-Robert Frost

----X----

Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward in the same direction.

-Antoine de Saint-Exupery

----X----

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other wings.

- Hodding Carter

----X----

May God be with you and bless you,  
May you see your children's children,  
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.

-Irish Toast

----X----

Happy marriages begin when we marry the one we love, and they blossom when we love the one we married.

-Sam Levenson

----X----

A happy marriage is still the greatest treasure within the gift of fortune.-Eden Phillpotts

----X----

## FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES



May all your fights be as long-standing as my New Year's Resolutions.

----X----

May a flock of blessings light upon thy back.

-Shakespeare in Romeo and Juliet,

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### *Sample Contemporary Toasts*

Here's to the new wife

And here's to the new husband

May they be lovers all their life.

----X----

To destiny, which made you one, and to Love, which will keep you happy forever.

----X----

A successful marriage is 90% fortune in finding the correct person at the right time. The rest is faith.

----X----

May you both see one other through many dark days, and turn the remaining a bit brighter.

----X----

May your remaining lives be akin to a bed of roses...without any thorns

----X----

To our finest pal, who knows us the most, but declines to accept it.

----X----

May your honeymoon bring a lot of love & laughter, and may you be blissfully married ever after.

----X----

May all of your ups and downs be under the covers.

----X----

May your honeymoon bring you the joy, which gets deeper, an amity, which gets closer and a marriage, which gets richer through the years to come.

----X----

May you always sink into each other's arms as you did the night you first met.

----X----

## FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES



May your married life has happiness as deep as the ocean, and troubles as light as its foam.

----X----

May you both be happy together,  
With the rhythm of loud laughter,  
Each day in each way,  
And forever and ever after.

----X----

May your Love be recent enough to stay alive to long times, and old enough to last ever after.

----X----

May the happiness in your married life grow like a rose and bloom

----X----

Here's to the bride,  
Here's to the groom she'll wed,  
May the troubles in their married life be light as the feathers,  
Which make up their bed!

----X----

To the groom who conquered the bride's heart, and her mother's.

----X----

A promise should be kept forever,  
And life be happy forever,  
But when times are difficult and the way is tough,  
Never forget what you spoke today,  
And never forget what you felt today,  
Forgive, most of the times that is all we need to give.

----X----

May the worst be their past and the best be their future.

----X----

May the happiest day of your bachelor life be the saddest day of your married life.

----X----

Here's to the bride, a woman who keeps her head though she loses her heart.

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----X----

Health to you, wealth to you.

----X----

Here's to wives and boyfriends -- may they never meet!

----X----

May you be rich in fortune,  
Poor in misfortune,  
Quick to make friends,  
And slow to make foes.

----X----

May your marriage be like a game of poker: start as a pair and end with a full house!

----X----

The rings have been exchanged,  
The cake has been cut,  
Let's hope that (bride's name),  
Don't grow a large butt!

----X----

May your heart be light and happy,  
May your mind be contented and relaxed,  
And may your pockets always have a coin or two inside.

----X----

Here is a toast to stealing, deceiving, and drinking:  
If you steal, steal your lover's heart.  
If you deceive, may you deceive death.  
If you drink, drink deeply of the bliss of your married life together.

----X----

Here's to the Groom, Here's to the Bride  
May their Love always be their Pride.

----X----

May you both live a long and happy life together,  
And may you never hear my voice ever after."

----X----

## FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES



May your wedding day be one and your anniversaries many.

----X----

To keep your marriage filled with love and last eternally,  
Whenever you are wrong, admit it,  
Whenever you are right, shut up.

----X----

May your good times be plenty and your sad times be scanty

----X----

May you have love, vigor & wealth; above all, may you have the time to enjoy them all.

----X----

To the bride - May you share everything with your husband, together with your household work.

----X----

To the Groom: "By no means forget who's boss, and NEVER answer her back!"

----X----

A happy and successful marriage needs falling in love several times, always with one person.

----X----

May fortune always favor you and misfortune stay away and nothing but joy come through your door.

----X----

Marriage is just like the Army, each one complains, but you would be amazed at the big numbers that re-enlist.

----X----

Live for your future and learn from your past,  
It is the knowledge that you acquire, which will make your love last.

----X----

May the journey you now begin together be full of love and success.

----X----

May good luck in your married life be larger the depth of an Ocean,  
And misfortune be lighter than its foam.

----X----

# FATHER OF THE BRIDE WEDDING SPEECHES



May all your kids have prosperous parents!

----X----

We wish you best of luck but know that you don't entail it, for Everything is love and you already hail it

----X----

Women have numerous faults. Men have only a couple of them: all they say, and all they do.

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## PART II. POEMS

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### *Poems*

#### **Wish**

Today is a dream realized from years past  
The white dress, the wedding cake, the promise of a love that lasts  
Today is the beginning of a journey the two of you now share  
The vow to love, honor, and cherish now seen in the rings you wear  
But tomorrow, tomorrow you will wake as husband and wife  
Where the person next to you is yours for life  
And so my wish to you both is that when you wake each day  
You will turn to each other with the same look you share today  
By Jeanne Marie Casey

#### **The Kissing Game**

Clinking your glasses will be a futile endeavor.  
If you want these lovers to lock their lips together,  
Instead of rhyme, poem, or song,  
This newly minted couple needs to see how its done.  
So stand up, kiss your wife, your lover, your friend,  
Plant one on a stranger - it's all good in the end!  
For with this game of lovers-see, lovers-do,  
Dave and Julie will be just as amorous as you!  
By: Chris Pollock

#### **For the Bride**

As you enter this wonderful new time in your life,  
When you make Kevin lucky by becoming his wife,  
I wish you all the happiness that the world can provide,  
May good luck and fortune be always at your side.  
May your marriage be happy, healthy and blessed,  
Today and forever, I wish you nothing but the best.  
By Megan