

GROOM WEDDING SPEECHES

Saying the right words
at the right time!





TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION.....	3
B. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	4
CHANGING TIMES	4
C. CHOOSING THE GROOMSMEN.....	8
BEST MAN	8
D. SPEECH ORDER	10
RECEPTION.....	10
INFORMAL ORDER	12
FORMAL ORDER	13
E. PLANNING AND PREPARATION.....	14
TIMING	14
TOP TEN TIPS.....	15
WORKING ON THE SPEECH.....	16
F. STOPPING THE NERVES	18
G. QUOTES AND POETRY	20
QUOTES.....	20
POETRY.....	21
H. JOKES AND ONE-LINERS.....	33
JOKES	33
ONE-LINERS	34
I. GREAT GROOM SPEECHES.....	45
VALUABLE TIPS	45
SPECIAL DELIVERY.....	49
J. SAMPLE SPEECHES.....	50
SPEECH ONE	50
SPEECH TWO	53
SPEECH THREE	56
SPEECH FOUR	58
SPEECH FIVE.....	60
SPEECH SIX.....	62
SPEECH SEVEN	64
SPEECH EIGHT	66



SPEECH NINE.....	68
SPEECH TEN	71
SPEECH ELEVEN.....	73
SPEECH TWELVE	76
SPEECH THIRTEEN.....	78
SPEECH FOURTEEN.....	81
SPEECH FIFTEEN.....	83
SPEECH SIXTEEN.....	85
SPEECH SEVENTEEN.....	87
SPEECH EIGHTEEN.....	89
SPEECH NINETEEN.....	92
SPEECH TWENTY.....	94



All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2004-2005 by Libros Media, Dan Stevens and Jason Oxenham.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electrical or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without permission in writing from the author and publisher.



A. INTRODUCTION

At weddings, two people are the focus of attention - the bride and the groom. The bride and groom are already nervous about getting married but now you add in the fact that the groom will be giving a speech at the reception, and the situation becomes even more challenging.

If you are a soon-to-be groom and starting to feel a little bit of pressure regarding the speech, remember two things. First, every groom feels the same way. This type of nervousness and apprehension is perfectly normal and to be expected. Second, with the information provided in this book, you will know exactly what your responsibilities are from the wedding all the way through the reception and how to prepare for and give an excellent speech.

Weddings should be a joyous occasion, one that is as stress-free as possible. Therefore, we encourage you to use this book as a guide so that when it comes time to stand up in front of family and friends, you will feel confident and most importantly, at ease.



After all, your wedding is an exciting new start to life, one with the woman you love and cherish - what could get any better than that. Typically, the only reason people become nervous about the speech is because they are unprepared. However, getting ready with good planning is much easier than you might have expected, which you will see as you read this book.

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding. We wish you a lifetime of joy and happiness!



B. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For some reason, most people think of the bride as doing all the work when it comes to weddings, which is not necessarily accurate. Although the bride does tend to be more involved, simply because this is her fairytale day and something she has dreamed about as a child on, the groom also has many important roles and responsibilities, as you will discover in this chapter.

For your upcoming wedding, it is important to understand these roles and responsibilities so the process of planning the wedding is enjoyable and not something you dread. Therefore, we will provide you with some valuable information so you know what to expect and can therefore plan accordingly.

CHANGING TIMES

The one thing we know is that your relationship is built on love and the desire to have a lifelong relationship with your best friend. Obviously, marriage is a major commitment that is filled with challenges and moments of stress. However, if you and your bride work together and are determined to iron out differences while focusing on the positive aspects of each other, you can have a wonderful, sound marriage.

In the past decade, the structure along with the groom's roles and responsibilities for weddings has changed dramatically. It used to be that the groom did little to plan the wedding, leaving everything to the bride, her mother, and the groom's mother. However, today we see more and more grooms taking a different approach, actually eager to get involved in lending a hand. In addition to taking stress off the bride, it also makes him appreciate the ceremony and reception far more.



For one thing, we see people getting married later in life, which may be part of the pendulum swing. However, even in young couples, we are starting to see the groom-to-be interested in knowing what is going on and therefore, willing and eager to pitch in to help. The result is a more cohesive relationship between the bride and groom, which creates a relaxed wedding and reception.



Finances

Even the financial aspect of weddings has changed. At one time, it was up to the bride's parents to pay for the entire wedding, leaving only a small amount of the financial responsibility to the groom and/or his parents. However, today you see families splitting the bill 50/50, gladly sharing in the cost of the wedding.

Even though the groom is now getting involved more in the planning stages of the wedding, you still typically see the groom handling specific tasks associated with both finances and planning such as the following:

- Wedding Items - We now see the groom or his family providing financial assistance for the flower selection, photo album, and wedding photographer and/or videographer, etc.
- Financial Delegation - The groom is commonly chosen to handle the financial aspect of the entire wedding even if he is not paying for any or all of it. With this, he would create a list of everything that must be paid, the budget of each item, and then track when it was ordered and paid for. In addition to the price of the actual ceremony and reception, this would generally include other things such as wedding license, minister fee, insurance, and so on.

Planning

For the planning aspect, most often the bride prefers to handle certain things but some of the areas in which we see the groom stepping up to the plate to help are actually things once considered off limits. As an example, some of these things include:

- Music Choice - Choosing the music for both wedding ceremony and reception is becoming more common. With this, he and possibly some of the groomsmen would audition bands or DJs.





- ❑ Food Selection - Although the groom might not make the full or final decision, he could easily pre-screen caterers or cake designers to help make the rest of the decision far easier for the bride. In other words, he may spend time with a caterer, working up three or four sample menus that could then be reviewed by the bride for her stamp of approval.
- ❑ Wedding Attire - Choosing the wedding attire for the groom, groomsmen, ushers, and ring bearer is a responsibility we see the groom taking on for today's weddings. With a little direction from the bride, the groom would locate the wedding attire shop, gather up the men in the wedding party, and spearhead the process of choosing the tuxedos and getting fitted.
- ❑ Bridal Party Selection - Selecting the best man, groomsmen, and ushers is also a part of the groom's responsibility. For this, the groom would choose family and close friends, which is considered appropriate.
- ❑ Creating Attendee List - Today, the groom will sit down and at least begin an initial list of people he wants to attend the wedding and/or reception. Usually, the bride-to-be will go over the list as well as merge it with her own list but this gives her a great head-start that is very beneficial.
- ❑ Documentation Control - The groom can take on responsibility for retaining all documentation pertaining to the wedding, reception, and honeymoon. For example, this might include the marriage license, passports, contact names and phone numbers, receipts, and so on.
- ❑ Honeymoon - Traditionally, the groom has the responsibility for planning and paying for the honeymoon. That tradition is still going strong today although sometimes, the bride likes to get involved. The premise was that the groom would surprise his bride with a wonderful travel destination, kind of a big wedding day present. For this reason, many grooms still prefer to keep this aspect of the wedding planning to himself, having the opportunity to do something wonderful and surprising for his new bride.



- Thank You Notes - After the wedding, the groom can certainly help by addressing envelopes or at least buying the stamps, applying them, and then mailing the thank you notes addressed by the bride.
- After Wedding - Finally, the groom today is taking care of after wedding tasks that might include sending flowers to the bride and groom's parents as an expression of love and gratitude.

For your wedding, the best way to ensure the wedding goes off without a hitch is to work closely with your sweetheart, planning and communicating exactly what tasks you will perform and which ones she will take. This information is then passed on to the extending family to ensure there is no overlap! Although it takes a little upfront time, you will be so glad you made the decision to get organized before diving into anything.





C. CHOOSING THE GROOMSMEN

Just briefly, we will touch on the process of choosing the best man, groomsmen, and ushers for the wedding, along with choosing the appropriate type of gift for each. Then, in the following chapter, we will dive into the speeches, discussing the right order, preparation, delivery, important tips, quotes and poems, jokes and one-liners, sample toasts, and then sample speeches.

BEST MAN

The best man would be the person that you are closest to. Typically, this would be a family member first such as a brother, followed by a best friend, perhaps someone you attended college with. This person is someone important in your life since the position of best man is a prestigious one.



The best man has the responsibility of overseeing the activities of the groomsmen, ensuring they go for tuxedo fittings, that they help where required to get things done, help organize the bachelor party, ensure the groomsmen and ushers all arrive to rehearsal and more importantly, to the church on time for the wedding, making sure the tuxedos are returned on time, etc.

Additionally, the best man provides the first toast to the bride and groom. Many times, the best man will be the master of ceremonies at the rehearsal dinner, will hold onto the rings prior to the wedding ceremony, he signs the marriage certificate as one of the official witnesses, mentions the minister and other members of the wedding part in honor, and basically serves as your right-hand man from the time you propose to the time you leave for your honeymoon.

To show your appreciation for the best man's hard work and dedication, you would offer him a gift, as well as something for the groomsmen. Typically, the gift for the best man would be something of a little more value. Some ideas that you might consider include:



Personal Gifts

- Monogrammed wine glasses, cigar case, business card holder, key ring, money clip, pocket watch
- Expensive cologne

Impersonal Gifts

- Pewter beer stein
- Cuff links
- Leather covered flask
- Tickets to a sporting event
- Writing implements
- Golf balls, fishing lures, etc
- Subscription (wine or cigar of the month club)
- Shaving kit
- Gift certificate
- CD or Video
- Bottle of fine wine
- Golf, tennis, bowling, racket ball, lessons
- Travel kit
- Activity gear



D. SPEECH ORDER

When it comes to speeches at wedding receptions, there are actually two orders depending on the level of formality of the wedding. Below, we have provided both so you can choose according to your wedding.

By using the proper order for the groom speech, you will have more control over the flow of the reception, keeping things running smooth and on time. For this reason, you want to understand the order of the day so the entire event will transition from one phase to the next seamlessly.

RECEPTION

We will start from the reception, at the time when you and the love of your life are married and ready to start mingling with people and celebrating the new union of marriage.

Guests will walk through the receiving line. If the reception is at a reception hall separate from the church, then all the guests would make their way to the hall. If the reception is in the same building as the wedding, then they would make their way to the designated area to mingle with other guests until the couple makes their entrance.



From there, the master of ceremonies announces the arrival of the bride and groom. Next, the bride and groom enter the reception hall, leading a procession of the rest of the bridal party. Typically, there are designated tables or a bridal party table where everyone would go to sit down. If there is one designated table, it would include the bride, groom, maid of honor, best man, bridesmaids, groomsmen, and ushers.

Additionally, the bride and groom would be seated prior to the rest of the bridal party. At this time, the first course of the meal would be served. Next, the best man or master of ceremonies would read any telegrams, letters, or messages received from guests, typically those from out of state that were not able to attend the wedding in person. When the readings are done, the main course of the meal is served.



Once the meal is done, the bride and groom would cut the cake. For this, if you stick with tradition, the bride would hold the knife in her right hand while the groom places his right hand on top of hers. Then, the bride first shares a bite of cake with the groom, followed by the groom offering the bride a piece of cake. Once that is complete, the catering staff or a designated family member or friend would cut the remainder of the cut, serving guests, starting with the bridal party.

The bride and groom would walk out onto the dance floor, sharing their first dance. After dancing with her new husband, the bride will share a dance with her father, followed by the best man, her father-in-law, the ushers, and then again the groom. Once the bride has completed dancing her round of dances, she is free to dance with other people from the wedding.

Once the bride and groom have finished their dance, the groom would share a dance with his new mother-in-law, followed by the maid of honor, his mother, the bridesmaids, and then again with his lovely bride. Just as with the bride, after this is completed, the groom can dance with whomever he wants.

Then, the bride will take her “throw-away” bouquet (one that looks like the real bouquet but is usually made with less expensive or silk flowers), tossing it to the single women guests. Tradition says that whichever woman catches it will be the next woman to marry. When she is done, the groom will remove the garter from the bride’s leg, flinging it to the single men at the wedding. Again, tradition is that the man catching the garter is the next to get married.

After a wonderful time of dancing, mingling, and just enjoying the reception, the bride and groom would excuse themselves to change into clothes in preparation of leaving for the honeymoon. The couple will return to the reception hall to say their goodbyes prior to leaving for their long-awaited honeymoon.

Remember, each of the above are intended as good, general guidelines. Therefore, never be afraid to change things up if you want to personalize your wedding reception, taking into consideration you and your guests.



INFORMAL ORDER

Again, the following is a guideline of how the speech order should go for an informal reception but this is your special occasion, meaning you can change things up if you like.

- After the majority of guests have finished eating the main course or after the entire meal is done, the master of ceremonies would make an announcement for the first toast. Just prior, he or she would introduce the members of the wedding party, addressing each member by name.
- The first toast would be offered to the bride, usually from someone close to the groom such as the best man, brother, or friend.
- Next, the parents will address the guests, thanking them for coming and sharing in this joyous occasion. Typically, they would speak to individuals who have traveled to attend the wedding and reception, followed by any new family members, again addressing these people by name. Parents will then provide a general note of welcome.
- At this time, the best man will make a toast to the bride.
- The maid of honor or the bride's sister will then speak on behalf of the bride, offering a toast to both bride and groom.
- A toast is made by the groomsmen to the bridesmaids, thanking them for their love and devotion to making the wedding a beautiful occasion.
- The bride and groom would offer a speech, thanking the guests and parents. This speech is optional but something that has become quite common.
- The master of ceremonies then announces the dancing, which is followed by the cutting of the cake, tossing the bouquet and tossing the garter. After that, the master of ceremonies will offer a final toast prior to the last dance and departure of the couple for their honeymoon.



FORMAL ORDER

If you and your bride-to-be are planning a formal wedding and reception, then the order of the speech would be somewhat different, as you will see from the guidelines below. As mentioned for the informal order, this is your wedding and while this is the traditional process, you can make changes if you like.

- The master of ceremonies would welcome friends and family to the wedding.
- The master of ceremonies would then introduce a close family member of the bride and groom, or may introduce additional speakers or toast-makers.
- Whether the master of ceremonies, family friend, or the newly married couple, the next step would be a speech that leads up to the wedding toast of the bride and groom.
- This toast is then followed by a speech by the groom, the bride, or both in response to the previous speech. During this time, the couple would thank everyone for attending the wedding and reception and for sharing in this important day of their lives. The end of this toast is offered to the bridesmaids, thanking each by name for their participation.
- Then, the best man offers a toast on behalf of the bridesmaids, followed by a brief speech and/or toast to the hosts of the wedding, which would typically be the mother and father of the bride, although it could also include the mother and father of the groom.
- The hosts would then offer a toast or speech in response to the speech given by the best man.



E. PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Now that you understand the order of the toasts and speeches, you will need to allow yourself adequate time to plan and prepare to deliver and organize these toasts and speeches. The best way to reduce nervousness and make you feel more in control of the reception is to start with strong planning. Although it might take you a little bit to get it all together, in the end when the reception is perfect, you will be glad you made the effort.



In this chapter, we will provide you with some information that will make this process easier. Remember, good planning and preparation does not have to be a painstaking process. In fact, it should be a fun time, as you become more and more excited about your impending marriage to the love of your life.

TIMING

For starters, remember that speeches can be offered any time during your wedding reception. However, for some reason, they are usually best received when offered prior to food being served but after mingling time and possibly a few drinks. Experts in the wedding planning business think it has something to do with getting the guests in a more relaxed state.



TOP TEN TIPS

Just as with anything important in your life, the following are some special tips that will make the toast and speech more successful.

1. Both the night before and the day of the wedding, drink lots of water. This will give you an over-all fresh, healthy appearance and make you feel better overall.
2. Additionally, make sure you get a full eight hours of sleep. Even though you will feel excitement and perhaps a little apprehension, you need to rest, allowing the body and mind to settle down so you can enjoy your day tomorrow.
3. Get all of the speech information organized and together the night before the wedding. That way, you will have everything in a folder and ready to go for the big day.
4. Before you get up to give your toast and/or speech, find a quiet place where you can relax and prepare your mind. Envision standing in front of the guests, going through your prepared speech. The result is that you will feel more confident as you get ready to speak.
5. Avoid drinking alcohol. If you want to have something alcoholic then wait until our speech is done. Although you might think just one drink will help calm your nerves, what happens far too often is that one drink will lead to two, three, and more. Before long, the groom feels a little tipsy, words are slurred, and a disaster is looming on the horizon.
6. Stay away from any type of spicy or rich foods known for causing heartburn. The last thing you want is to feel lousy at your wedding and reception.
7. Make sure every guest at the reception can hear. If the reception hall is large, you should consider renting a microphone.





8. Although the guests will be interested in what you have to say, keep the speech to a limit. Long-winded speeches are not only boring but if they go too long, they would actually be considered rude to your guests.
9. Make sure you articulate your words, speaking slowly and clearly so that everyone can understand the words.
10. When giving your speech, you should always stand. The only time you would remain seated is when receiving a toast.

WORKING ON THE SPEECH

Your speech should be heartfelt but do not feel like you have to follow what someone else has done. Put down in words what you think and feel in your heart.

Special Memories

You could talk about special memories you shared with your wife, providing guests with a few details about the first time you met, your first date, your first kiss, or perhaps the way in which you proposed. Of course, you should never go into anything that intimate but just think about the special times the two of you have shared leading up to the time you asked her to marry you.



References

Then, remember your speech will include reference to certain people. These individuals such as parents, sisters and brothers, your best man, the maid of honor, bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, the flower girl and ring bearer, reader, guestbook attendant, minister, and so on. When you write your speech, be sure you mention each one by name, making this more personal and something they will each cherish.



Add-On

If you want to use humor, poetry, or quotes, that too is perfectly fine but try to keep these short and sweet. No matter what goes into your speech, you want it to be sincere. People will know immediately if the speech had been written the night before. You want to honor people with your words.

Practice

The best thing you can do is start writing your speech months in advance. As the weeks progress, you can go back and reread what you wrote, making changes along the way. The last thing you want is to get yourself in such a hurry that you do not have time to make changes or practice reading your speech. In fact, we highly recommend you use a tape recorder to record yourself giving the speech, paying close attention to emphasis. That way, you will know exactly the areas that should be changed.

Although most grooms cannot give their full speech by memory, by familiarizing yourself with the content, you will find that a large part of it just rolls off the tongue from memory. When you do this, the speech actually comes across as more sincere and not as rehearsed. Practice can go a long way when it comes to wedding reception speeches.



F. STOPPING THE NERVES

Most grooms feel nervous when it comes to giving a toast or speech. Therefore, if you find yourself feeling more and more flustered as the wedding approaches, just know this is perfectly normal. However, you can do a few things to ease the problem of nerves so that even if you feel nervous on the inside, no one will be able to tell from the outside.

Perspective

Make sure you always keep the wedding reception in perspective. Although this is one of the most important days of your life, you will not die if you mess up on the speech. If you goof, your wife will not get up and walk away. Therefore, remember this is a time when you are with loving family and friends, all joining you in a great celebration. They know you are human and would never judge you if things did not go off exact.

Practice

The old saying, “practice makes perfect” is very true. The more time you can spend in preparation and rehearsing your toast and/or speech the easier it will be when you stand up in front of your guests.

Audience

When preparing the content of your speech, think about the people who will be attending. For example, these people have come to your reception for a time of celebration. Therefore, they want to hear happy, loving stories. In addition, while some reception guests might not be offended by an off-color joke, others may. Therefore, think about ALL the people at your reception, writing your speech around what they would and would not approve of.

On Time

No one wants to wait. People become very irritated and agitated if things do not start on time. For this reason, when it comes time to give your toast and/or speech, try to keep things moving along, which make for a happier room of guests.



Delivery

Then, when you stand up to delivery your speech, look for people that have big smiles on their face or for family and friends that you can connect with. Although you should move your eyes around the room to engage all the guests, having people you know and trust to give you speech to will make delivery much easier.

Final Notes

A few final notes on how to get ready for the perfect speech includes keeping it simple, avoiding negativity, not isolating your audience, looking the part, and closing it off. For example, you want to keep your speech simple. Again, interesting stories are great but you want to avoid being too dramatic. In addition, do not use words that are so big the general audience would not understand.

In regard to isolating your audience, that means not telling inside jokes. Remember, if you have a story or joke that just a few people would get, then you should just leave it alone. Next, you want to look like you are in control and have confidence. With that, stand up tall and raise your glass in your right hand as you address the guests with a toast.

Finally, say something that would let the guests know your toast and/or speech is coming to an end. Typically, this would include something such as "If you will all join me in raising your glass as we wish John and Mary..."





G. QUOTES AND POETRY

As you will discover in the rest of this book, you can enhance toasts and speeches with a number of things to include quotes and poems. In this chapter, we want to provide you with some things that you could use to create magic in your words - Quotes and Poems!

QUOTES

First, we will start with quotes. Remember, there are literally thousands from which you could choose. Since we could not list all of them here in this book, we have pulled together some of the favorites.

- What is the big deal? What excitement, commotion, and fuss - over an hour of one day of our life!
- With marriage, is it much to do about nothing or something much to do about everything?
- From the lost tribes of remote jungles to the concrete structures of large metropolitan cities, people all across the globe have yearned for love and marriage. Some people enjoy a large public commitment of marriage while other people have fought hard to avoid getting married. Even so, no society has ever been able to eliminate this public commitment from happening - why is that?
- Where did marriage come from but more importantly, where is it going?
- Marriage is an event that weaves two families together as one. It takes two soul, each with fates and destinies of time and eternity, blending them into one, which is the timeless mystery of the heart and soul.
- Marriage is love personified.
- Marriage is the perfection of what loved aimed for, yet ignorant of what it sought.
- When you make a sacrifice in marriage, you are not sacrificing to each other but to the unity of the relationship.
- When you meet someone who can cook and clean, do not hesitate, marry him/her.



- ❑ Marriage is like a book with the first chapter written in poetry and the remaining chapters in prose.
- ❑ Marriage is a time to celebrate a magnificent occasion with wine and sweet words.
- ❑ One should believe in marriage, as in the immortality of the soul.
- ❑ Not just a simple love affair, marriage is an ordeal. With that ordeal comes sacrifice of ego to a relationship in which two hearts have become one.
- ❑ Marriage is a partnership to inspire each other and bring fruition to both.
- ❑ If you want to grow up, get married.
- ❑ Married couples who are deeply in love are capable of saying a thousands things without ever saying a word.
- ❑ The sum of which two people owe each other defies calculation. Marriage is an infinite debt that can only be discharged through all eternity.
- ❑ No other relationship is more lovely, friendlier, or more charming than that of a good marriage.

POETRY

Next, we will provide you with some wonderful pieces of poetry that you might consider using for your own wedding.

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 grief, and with my childhood's faith
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints I love thee with the breath
Smiles, tears, of all my life and, If God choose
I shall love thee better after death

May these rich blessings be your due
A wealth of friendships, old and new
Quiet nights and busy days
Time for prayer and time for praise
Some service rendered, some solace given
And gentle peace with God and heaven.

If thou must love me, let it be for naught
Except for love's sake only, do not say
"I love her for her smile, her look, her way of speaking gently
For a trick of thought that falls in well with mine
And certes brought a sense of pleasant ease on such a day"
For these things in themselves, Beloved, may
Be changed, or change for thee and love, so wrought



May be unwrought so. Neither love me for
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry
A creature might forget to weep, who bore
Thy comfort long and love thy love thereby
But love me for love's sake that evermore
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity

The Fountains mingle with the River
The Rivers with the Ocean
The winds of Heaven mix forever with a sweet emotion
Nothing in the world is single
All things by a law divine in one spirit meet and mingle
Why not I with thine, see the mountains kiss high Heaven
And the waves clasp one another
No sister-flower would be forgiven if it disdained its brother
And the sunlight clasps the earth and the moonbeams kiss the sea
What is all this sweet work worth if thou kiss not me?

I give you my love, more precious than money
I give you myself before preaching or law
Will you give me yourself?
Will you come and travel with me?
Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?



True love is a sacred flame that burns eternally
And none can dim its special glow or change its destiny
True love speaks in tender tones and hears with gentle ear
True love gives with open heart and true love conquers fear
True love makes no harsh demands and it neither rules nor binds
And true love holds with gentle hands the hearts that it entwines

Love lives beyond the tomb, the earth, which fades like dew
I love the fond, the faithful, and the true

Love lives in sleep, the happiness of healthy dreams
Eve's dews may weep, but love delightful seems
'Tis heard in spring, when light and sunbeams, warm and kind
On angels' wing, bring love and music to the mind
And where is voice so young, so beautiful and sweet
As nature's choice, where spring and lovers meet?
Love lives beyond the tomb, the earth, the flowers, and dew
I love the fond, the faithful, young and true



Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May
And summer's lease hath all too short a date
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd
And every fair from fair sometime declines
By chance, or nature's changing course untrimm'd
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st
So long as man can breath, or eyes can see
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee

The red rose whispers of passion
And the white rose breathes of love
O the red rose is a falcon
And the white rose is a dove
But I send you a cream-white rosebud
With a flush on its petal tips
For the love that is purest and sweetest
Has a kiss of desire on the lips



I wanna be your vacuum cleaner, breathing in your dust
I wanna be your Ford Cortina, I will never rust
If you like your coffee hot, let me be your coffee pot
You call the shots, I wanna be yours
I wanna be your raincoat, for those frequent rainy days
I wanna be your dreamboat, when you want to sail away
Let me be your teddy bear, take me with you anywhere
I don't care, I wanna be yours
I wanna be your electric meter, I will not run out
I wanna be the electric heater, you'll get cold without
I wanna be your setting lotion, hold your hair in deep devotion
Deep as the deep Atlantic ocean, that's how deep is my devotion

Our love is something we have built from passions, hopes, and dreams
It's safe from any passing moods, secure from all extremes
It's something real and special, something solid, something pure
It's something we can always count on, ringing sound and sure
It's something grounded in the heart, emitting confidence
It lives in our emotions, it is something we can sense
Our love remains a binding force, resistant to all strife
Amidst the outer pressures, it's our anchor throughout life



My heart is like a singing bird
Whose nest is in a water'd shoot
My heart is like an apple-tree
Whose boughs are bent with thick-set fruit
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That paddles in a halcyon sea
My heart is gladder than all these
Because my love is come to me
Raise me a dais of silk and down
Hand it with vair and purple dyes
Carve it in doves and pomegranates
And peacocks with a hundred eyes
Work it in gold and silver grapes
In leaves and silver fleurs-de-lis
Because the birthday of my life is come
My love is come to me

Now what is love? I pray thee tell
It is that fountain and that well
Where pleasure and repentance dwell



I love thee, I love thee, 'tis all that I can say
It is my vision in the night, my dreaming in the day
The very echo of my heart, the blessing when I pray
I love thee, I love thee, is all that I can say
I love thee, I love thee, is ever on my tongue
In all my proudest poesy that chorus still is sung
It is the verdict of my eyes, amidst the gay and young
I love thee, I love thee, a thousand maids among
I love thee, I love thee, thy bright and hazel glance
The mellow lute upon those lips
Whose tender tones entrance
But most, dear heart of hearts
They proofs that still these words enhance
I love thee, I love thee, whatever be thy chance

Love rules the court
The camp, the grove
And men below and the saints above
For love is heaven
And heaven is love



She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies
One shade the more, one ray the less
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress
Or softly lightens o'er her face
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling place
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent
The smiles that win, the tints that glow
But tell of days in goodness spent
A mind at peace with all below
A heart whose love is innocent!



Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good
Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth
It bears every hardship as though it were nothing
And renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable
Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger
Nothing higher, nothing wider, and nothing more pleasant
Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God
Love flies, runs and leaps for joy, it is free and unrestrained
Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds
Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil
Attempts things beyond its strength
Love sees nothing as impossible for it feels able to achieve all things
It is strange and effective, while those who lack love faint and fail
Love is not fickle and sentimental, nor is it intent on vanities
Like a living flame and a burning torch
It surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle

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



How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank
Here we will sit and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears, soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony
Sit, Jessica. Look how the floor of heaven
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold
There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st
But in his motion like an angel sings
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubins
Such harmony is in immortal souls
But whilst this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand
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



May the road rise up to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home

May the hand of a friend always be near

May green be the grass you walk on

May blue be the skies above you

May pure be the joys that surround you

May true be the hearts that love you.



H. JOKES AND ONE-LINERS

Sometimes, a wedding reception toast and/or speech has room for a good joke or one-liner. Just remember as mentioned earlier, if you use jokes and one-liners, it is important you use only those that the entire audience will understand and those that would not be considered offensive.

JOKES

For jokes, you need to use a little bit of common sense and if ever in doubt, leave it out. However, to show you a few examples of things that would be considered acceptable for a wedding reception, we have put some together for you, starting with jokes.

- Stewardess - I'm sorry Mr. Smith but we left your wife behind in London
Mr. Smith - Thank goodness! I thought I was going deaf!
- Marriage is not a word but more like a sentence (a life sentence).
- Marriage is an institution in which a man loses his Bachelor's Degree and the woman gets her Master.
- Marriage is an event in life that puts a ring on a woman's finger and two under the man's eyes.
- Married life is full of excitement and frustration. In the first year, the man speaks and the woman listens. Then in the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. By the third year, they both speak and the neighbors listen.
- Sure, men are born free and equal but some of them get MARRIED!
- Dad, I heard that in ancient China, a man doesn't know who his wife will be until he gets married to her. Is that true? The father responded, "Son that happens everywhere!"
- Love is one long sweet dream, something from which you never want to awaken. Marriage is the alarm clock.
- When a newly married man looks happy, everyone knows why but when a ten-year married man looks happy, everyone begins to wonder why.



- ❑ They say when a man holds a woman's hand prior to being married, it is pure love but after marriage, complete self-defense.
- ❑ Man is incomplete until he gets married and then he is finished.
- ❑ A little boy asked his father, "Dad, how much does it cost to get married?" Pausing a moment to think, the father replied, "I don't know, son, I'm still paying for it."
- ❑ For a couple to be happily married they must have a give and take situation - the husband gives and the wife takes.
- ❑ It doesn't matter how often a married man changes his job since he still ends up with the same boss.
- ❑ When a man opens the car door for his wife, you can be sure of one thing - the car is new or the wife is new.
- ❑ A perfect wife is one who helps the husband with the dishes.
- ❑ A woman was telling her friend, "It is I who made my husband a millionaire." The friend asked, "And what was he before you married him?" The wife responded, "A billionaire."

ONE-LINERS

Just as with jokes, one-liners can add a little bit of spice to a wedding but they should always be used with good taste. The following are a few recommendations to consider.

- ❑ Speech writing is somewhat like panning for black gold. If you do not strike it rich in 10 minutes, give it up.
- ❑ I've been told that the best speech writers are those that follow three easy rules. Stand up, speak up, and then quickly shut up. I'm planning on sticking with that advice.
- ❑ The brain is a magnificent thing. From the time you're born until the moment you stand up to offer a speech, it never stops working. From then on, things seem a little muddled.
- ❑ Every man needs a wife because sometimes, things go wrong that can't be blamed on the government.

GROOM WEDDING SPEECHES



- ❑ By all means get married. If you get a good wife then you'll be happy. If you get a bad wife, you'll become a philosopher.
- ❑ Marriage is popular because it combined maximum temptation with maximum opportunity.
- ❑ All husbands are alike but they have different faces so you can tell them apart.
- ❑ Nothing makes a good wife like a good husband.
- ❑ The man who claims his wife can't take a joke forgot that she married him.
- ❑ The most dangerous food a man can eat is the wedding cake



100 PLUS SAMPLE TOASTS

Offering a toast is a very important part of the wedding reception. During this time, various members of the wedding party and some of the guests can share just a few words of congratulations, love, admiration, joy, and well wishing for the bride and groom.

Different from a speech, the toast is a brief statement that is often accompanied with the raising of the champagne glass, as everyone attending the wedding honors the newly wedded couple. In many cases, the toast would be in honor of love, joy, happiness, friendship, and health. For the groom, he would toast his bride, the wedding party, both sets of parents, and the guests.

The toast actually originated in the early 1600s when it was tradition to toss a piece of spiced toast into one's beverage to add flavor. Historians tell us that the word "toast" first occurred in 1709 in England.

The story tells us that a beautiful woman was seen bathing in public when an admirer took a cup of bath water and drank it just in her honor. However, he was repulsed by the water, offering to eat a piece of toast in her honor, thus the name.

No matter where the wedding toast originated, it is a great time during the reception for sentiment and laughter. Keep in mind that the key to giving a successful toast is to be prepared. Most people feel nervous about getting up in front of everyone so with practice, you will feel more confident and not run into any kind of embarrassing situation.

Most importantly, just as with the speech, keep it simple when offering your toast. Long toasts are simply put, boring. Therefore, say what you need to say, make it heartfelt, and the leave the guests wanting to hear more. Additionally, try to choose toasts that match your personality and the tone of the wedding.

For example, if you tend to be a funny person and the wedding was a lighthearted event, then use a light or funny toast. On the other hand, if you tend to be a little more loving and endearing, and the wedding was more on the formal side, then you want to choose a sweet, loving type of toast.



Stay away from toasts that are ultra corny, offensive, and sexual in nature. While you can create your own toast if you like, you can certainly borrow toasts from other weddings, online resources, or better yet, from those features in this book, simply customizing them to fit your need.

In fact, you can take an existing toast and reform it to meet your specific needs. Remember, there are some things you can do to make the toast at your wedding successful. For example, if you want to offer a toast that includes a personal story about your bride, just be sure it is a story that everyone in the room would understand and appreciate.

Just remember, what you want to avoid is telling a story that would leave them out. Then, for the content, whether humorous or serious, never say anything that would be embarrassing or offensive. Your wedding toast is not a roast but a time of honor and love. When giving your toast and for all the people that will be toasting, remember to make sure there is a microphone if needed. If the room is small or there are not too many people present, each person would still need to speak up so everyone can hear.

Then, bring notes with you. Although the toast is not long, you would likely feel a little nervous and distracted. By keeping a cue card, you will feel more confident standing in front of everyone, even if you never use it.

1. May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future
2. This toast is to the prettiest and the wittiest. Here's to the truest of all who are true, to the neatest one and sweetest one, here's to them all in one - here's to you.
3. It doesn't matter where you get your appetite as long as you eat at home
4. Here's a toast to the groom, a man who keeps his head but lost his heart
5. Marriage is a community consisting of a master, a mistress, and two slaves
6. May the roof above your head never fall in and may you both never fall out



7. Here's a toast to the lamp of love. May it burn the brightest during the darkest hours and never flicker during the winds of trial.
8. We've been through better and worse and not always the better prevailed. We've seen the richer and poorer with the latter is most often sailed. The sickness has outrun the health, which often has caused much ado. Therefore, I now pledge to you my heart until death do us part and pray all our dreams come true.
9. Me got him. He got me. We got us. You got that?
10. Water makes you wise, wine makes you glad so drink them both in order to be both
11. May the "for better or worse" be far better than worse
12. She knows all about me and yet loves me just the same
13. The man or woman you love will never grow old to you. Although there will be wrinkles and a bowed frame over time, you will always see the dear face and feel the warm heart that is the union of our eternal love.
14. It is written that when children find true love, the parents know pure joy
15. Here's a toast to health, love, happiness, and a lifetime of friendship
16. Look down you Gods and on this marriage drop a blessed crown
17. There are two secrets to a long, lasting marriage - a great sense of humor and a very short memory
18. May we never forget what is worth remembering or remember what is best forgotten
19. Because I love you with all of my heart and because you love me too, my very greatest happiness is sharing life with you
20. I have known many, liked not a few, loved just one, so I toast to you



21. Always remember that if you ever put your marital problems on the back burner, they will surely boil over
22. Happy marriages begin when we marry the one we love and they blossom when we love the one we married
23. May our children be blessed with rich parents
24. Here's to our joy from this day forward
25. It is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all
26. Love is a fire but whether it is going to warm your heart or burn down your house, only you can decide
27. If you judge people then you have no time to love them
28. Love is like two minds without a single thought
29. Love is the irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired
30. Let us raise our glasses and then imbibe to this new life together
31. May our wedding days be few and your anniversaries many
32. To keep a marriage brimming with love in the loving cup, when you are wrong, admit it and when you're right, shut up
33. My greatest wish is that through the years, our love for each other will grow so deep and strong that one day, we will look back on our wedding day and see this as the day we loved each other least
34. Here's to my new wife, a creature of beauty and a joy forever
35. I admire you for your beauty, respect you for your intelligence, adore you for your virtues, and love you because I simply cannot help myself
36. A thing of beauty, here's to my beautiful bride
37. To my wife, my pride and joy
38. Never above you - never below you - always by your side



39. This is a toast to the woman that is good and sweet, to the woman who is true. Here's to the woman that rules my heart, here's my toast to you
40. Every day, you look lovelier and lovelier and today, you look like tomorrow
41. Let us toast to love, which is nothing unless it's divided by two
42. Here's to my bride, her kisses so sweet
43. Here's my toast to the moment in time when I heard your sweet response, when you looked deep into my eyes and said that one magical word, "YES!"
44. Love, life, and happiness for our life together
45. Here's a toast to all the guests here tonight. You are all invited to our Golden Wedding Anniversary.
46. Here's to the termination of isolation
47. To my bride, may she share everything with me, except the housework
48. May our love be modern enough to survive the times and old-fashioned enough to last forever
49. Here's to love, laughter, and happily ever after as we begin our new life together
50. I would like to propose a toast to our friends who know the most about us yet refused to believe it
51. Down the hatch to a stunning match
52. Here's to my beautiful bride, may we grow old together on one pillow
53. May our joys be as vast as the sky and our troubles as light as the clouds



54. Our marriage is a happy estate that resembles a pair of scissors. We are so joined that they cannot come apart. We often move in opposite directions yet we punish anyone that tries to come between us.
55. Love doesn't make the world go round but it is what makes the ride worthwhile
56. The difference between successful, happy marriage and one that is just so-so is often leaving three to four things unsaid a day
57. Marriage is a lottery in which men stake their liberty and women their happiness
58. Love doesn't consist of gazing into each other's eyes but in looking outward together and in the same direction
59. My most brilliant achievement was my ability to persuade my lovely wife to marry me
60. May there always be work for my hands to do, may your purse always hold a coin or two, may the sunshine warm down on our home, and may our hands of friendship always be joined.
61. Here's to our friends and family who have taken time out of their lives to join us in ours today
62. Here's to the wonderful wedding party. Thank you for your love and commitment to us as we move forward in building a future
63. But rich or poor, quick or slow, may it be known nothing but happiness from this day forward
64. May we always feel the overwhelming love and support of family and friends as we do here today
65. As we slide down the banisters of life may the splinters always be pointing the right way
66. A successful marriage requires falling in love over and over again but with the same person
67. Happiness is not having what you want but wanting what you have



68. I think men who have pierced ears are far more prepared for marriage than men without pierced ears. They have already experienced pain and purchased jewelry.
69. A great marriage is at least 80% good luck in finding the right person at the right time while the remaining 20% is trust
70. While love is blind, marriage is a real eye-opener
71. To love is to suffer. To avoid suffering, one must not love but that means no one suffers from not loving. For this reason, to love is to suffer, not to love is to suffer, to suffer is to suffer. To be happy is to love. To be happy then is to suffer but suffering makes one unhappy. Therefore, for us to be happy, we must love or love to suffer or suffer from too much happiness.
72. Remember that laughter is the shortest distance between two people
73. My secret is a simple secret - it is only with the heart that one can see rightly because what is essential is invisible to the eye
74. A successful marriage comes not only by finding the right mate but also by being the right mate
75. A great marriage is like a casserole. Only those who make it really know what goes in it.
76. Marriage should be like a duet - when one sings, the other one applauds
77. Marriage is the gold ring in a chain whose beginning is a glance and whose ending is eternity
78. The greatest secret to a successful marriage is to treat all disasters as incidents and none of the incidents as disasters
79. Here's to our new marriage, may we remain friends and lovers for life
80. May our voyage through life be as happy and free as the dancing wolves and bumble bees



81. Remember this moment and cherish it because this will be the last time you get the upper hand (groom placing bride's hand over his)
82. For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way. Here's to good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day.
83. Here's to my sweetheart, the sunlight of my morning, the breath of fresh air at noon, and the shining moon during the night
84. To us, our health, prosperity, love, and laughter - to the most beautiful bride in the world
85. Here's a toast to the most amazing parents in the world. Thank you for raising us in loving homes and standing beside us, showing us the true meaning of love as we start our new life together.
86. To the beautiful bridesmaids and handsome groomsmen, we couldn't have done it without you. You have shown us the true meaning of friendship and for that, we are thankful.
87. May God bless each one of you here today for standing with us on this all-important day
88. May the light shining down on you today always make you look so radiant and bright
89. May our hearts always hold true love and our arms hold babies yet to come. Here's to our future of happiness together!
90. May your life be flooded with contentment and laughter
91. May we always have our friendship to guide our paths together, laughter to grace the halls of our home, joy for living, love for embracing, acceptance for forgiveness, and may you always have that twinkle in your eye.
92. May the love we expressed here today carry us through into our future
93. May we be best friends to each other as only lovers can and may you love me as I love you as only best friends can



94. Whether poor in misfortune or rich in blessings, let us always be slow to anger and quick to forgive
95. Here's to all our wishes yet to come true
96. Here's to warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a downhill road through our journey in life
97. To us, let us live each day as though it were our last and live each night as if it were our first
98. Here's to seeing each other through dark days, making life a little bit brighter
99. To our family and friends, may your hearts always be as warm as your hearthstone
100. To each one here tonight, we wish for you to have hearts as light as a song and days bright and happy just as ours is
101. Remember the love we feel today. As we look back on it daily, we can measure it to marvel in how much we have grown.
102. May God pour out His rich blessings on each one of you as He has for us
103. I would like to offer a toast to my new bride's parents. Thank you for contributing over the years to making her the person she is today. She is everything I have ever dreamed of, which is a direct link to how she was raised by her loving parents.



I. GREAT GROOM SPEECHES

Finally, the speech is a very important factor of the reception, the time when you can share special thoughts and stories, a time of connecting with the guests and family, and a genuine time of sharing.

To ensure your speech is not a daunting task but one that you actually enjoy, we have put together some tips to help you through the process. Then, you will find 30 great speeches that could be used as is or customized for your specific wedding day.

VALUABLE TIPS



First, try to keep your speech between one and three minutes in length. If you need to, you can bring a timer or wear a watch, even making that a part of the humor as you make it a point to show that you have those items.

Since you will not be the only person offering a speech and the fact that the wedding reception will probably include a meal, dancing, pictures, and lots of mingling, you do not want the entire reception time to be just for the speeches. You would have a much better response giving a heartfelt speech that is short than one that just rambles on and on without any real content.

Then, depending on the nature of your speech, you could begin with a quick anecdote or personal reflection of the time you met, the first date, first kiss, meeting the family, and so on. This is a great time for a little bit of humor, as long as it is always in good taste as not to offend any of your guests. Remember, you will have a varied audience so choose content that will mean something to the majority.

Remind yourself that you are not the first nor the last groom to give a speech so a little nervousness is normal. To give the best speech possible, one that reaches out and touches the heart of your new bride, family members, and friends, start researching and writing your speech several months in advance. Once you have the material, then you want to spend several weeks practicing, practicing, practicing.



Additionally, spend some quality time practicing your speech in front of a mirror. Sure, you may feel a little awkward doing this but you can be guaranteed it will pay off in the end. Another great method for perfecting your speech is to sit down with a friend or relative, going through the speech so they can offer you some honest feedback and suggestions for improvement.

The result will be that on the wedding day, you will have the speech down to a fine art, saying all the right things and in the right way. You want to take charge and write a speech that will create a wonderful memory for every person sharing in your special wedding day. Even so, your speech should contain certain things such as the following:

- Thanking guests
- Thanking family and friends
- Thanking the bridal party, as well as other people that played an important role in your successful wedding
- Sharing stories about how you met, why you became friends, how you knew she was “the one”, how well you got along with her family, places you went, and so on.
- Talking about your happy future together

While giving the speech, you want to keep the tone upbeat and sincere. To overcome any fears, you have a few options for that as well. For example, stop by the reception hall so you can get a good feel for its setup. That way, on the day of your wedding, rather than guessing where to stand, where to place your cue cards, and so on, you will know ahead of time.

As mentioned earlier, always have a good idea of the type of guests that will be at your reception. With this, you can gear your speech accordingly. For instance, if the guests are primarily older, then you should adjust your speech to that age group and be sure to speak loud enough to be heard. It might be that a large number of guests are from your church. In that case, you would not want to say anything that might be construed as offensive.



The number one reason people feel nervous about giving a speech is that they have not taken the proper time to get to know the material. Read and reread your speech until you feel absolutely comfortable with it. Although you might get tired of reading the same thing over and over, it works.

Then, use visualization techniques, which are very beneficial. Prior to standing up to give your speech, envision yourself giving the speech. You will find that you relax more and you almost envision the future, being the success of your speech. If you are overly nervous, use it to your advantage. Make light of the fact that you are nervous, actually making fun of yourself. The audience will relax and laugh along with you, calming the situation down.

Be sure you focus on what you have to do. In other words, do not allow the mind to wander. Keep to the task, and you will feel much more confident as well as deliver a far better speech. Just remember this is your special day and people know you are nervous.

Good grief, you have spent the past six months running around and going crazy to get everything done and probably getting very little sleep for the past week. Therefore, having a little bit of concern over the speech is completely understandable. Other tips include:

- When thanking someone in particular, look directly at him or her and use his or her name
- Although you will need to stick with a time limit for the speech, when you stand up, give yourself a few seconds to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak
- Always make good eye contact with the audience, spanning the room as if talking to each one
- If you feel yourself starting to rush whereby you are talking fast and fidgeting, slow yourself down, becoming conscientious of your actions
- You also do not want to rush the guests in their response. If you say something funny, give them a few seconds to “get it.” If you told a loving, reminiscing story, allow them a minute to think back to when they first started dating or got married.



- If a guests should shout out or say something in agreement to something you said, use that also to your advantage. Rather than be offended, you could say something such as, “See...I do know what I’m talking about.” With this, you will get a good response from the guests, putting them and you at ease.
- Always support statements made about your lovely bride’s character. For example, if you were to say that she loves adventure, tell them how by saying, “My life with my new bride is going to be a constant thrill. Just last week, she was bungee jumping off a bridge. I think I’m in for real trouble here.”
- Do not be afraid to walk around the room a bit. If you do this, be sure everyone could still here you from each position and move about slowly so people can follow you. This is another excellent way to draw the audience into your speech.



Although you could memorize your speech as discussed earlier, only you can be the judge if that is a good idea or not. Typically, we recommend you use cue cards and not “memorize” the speech per se. This allows for a more natural flow and fewer chances of making mistakes. Then, try to avoid fumbling with your cue cards or waving your arms around, which can be distracting.

Finally and most importantly, have fun. Your wedding day is a wonderful opportunity to just relax with the people you love most. Do not make it complicated but a joyous occasion that will provide you with a lifetime memory. Therefore, just be you, having fun with the entire wedding reception process.



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Standing up in front of your new in-laws...boy, the last thing you want is to mess up. This section will cover some basic things you should do when getting ready to deliver your speech. First, it is important that you get everyone's attention by tapping on a plate, glass, or using the microphone.

As soon as you stand up, check how you are standing. For instance, rather than resting your weight on one foot, place both feet firmly on the ground so you are standing tall and proud. Then, always introduce yourself, even though it is quite obvious since everyone just saw you get married. Regardless, this is common courtesy and something that should be done.

When speaking, talk as though you are having a normal conversation with a friend. That speech-friendly method will get people to pay attention better. Just as with the toasts, speak clearly and slowly. If needed, take a nice, deep breath to help slow down.

Once the speech is finished, top it off with some type of blessing or cheer for everyone's participation and hard work. With that, raise your glass, asking the guests to raise their glasses too as you make the final toast. Always remember, these people are your friends and they will love you whether you make a mistake or not.



J. SAMPLE SPEECHES

SPEECH ONE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I only plan to speak for a few minutes because of my throat. No, I don't have a sore throat but my new wife advised me if I rambled on too long, she would slit it. As the new groom, it is my distinct honor to say how excited we are to see each of you here this evening as we celebrate our marriage. Look at my wife, isn't she gorgeous?



First, I want to apologize for being a little late. Just remember, it took me 10 years to get here so what's a few minutes. Our romance has been an amazing journey. In fact, it reminds me of the couple that was engaged for 20 years. For that couple, the wife-to-be eventually made her sweetheart a beautiful dinner, with candles and fine wine, the works. Then, she sweetly and romantically whispered in his ear, "Don't you think it's time we thought about getting married?" He responded, "Good heavens, who would have us now?"

Of course, I wasn't quite that bad. In fact, I can tell you a true story about the first time Becky ever laid eyes on me, probably about a year before we actually started dating, or was it after. Unfortunately, I had been playing baseball with some buddies and had a few too many beers. I saw her, she saw me, and immediately, I calmed down. However, the contents of my stomach didn't and well, that was the first impression I made on her as I ran to the nearest tree to lose breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Yet, she agreed to marry me anyway. I love you honey!



I remember thinking "I hope if I ever have daughters, they won't marry someone like me." To be honest, I think her mother and father were hoping she would marry somebody with a little more class. Well luckily for me, her father and mother looked past the rough edges and saw that I truly loved their daughter. Today, we're all very close and for that, I'm very grateful.

Most of you remember that I was just 18 when I first asked Becky out (yes I know, I was underage with the beer). Through the past 10 years, we have had an amazing journey, lots of laughter, adventure, and a strong, loving relationship. I have every confidence that my marriage to Becky will continue to teach me loyalty, self-restraint, and control. She has helped me develop a sense of fair play and many other qualities that I wouldn't need if I had stayed single.

Just six months ago, my best man and I were talking about all the wedding preparations and he asked me how much this was going to cost. I told him I didn't know so I asked her dad. His response, "Son, I'm not sure because I'm still paying for mine." What a guy. Then, my best man asked what I expected to get out of the marriage. For that, I had the answer - love, happiness and eventually a family. So, I asked him the same question but his answer was, "A blender for weekend margaritas."

I remember her father sitting down with me to talk. He said it was exciting to watch his daughter grow into a beautiful woman but scary at the same time. Then he reminded me of a beautiful poem - "If you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it was, and always will be, yours. If it never returns, it was never yours to begin with. And if all it does is, sit in your house, mess up your stuff, spend your money, eat your food, use the telephone all night, and monopolize your television, then you either married it or gave birth to it!"

I want to offer a toast to my loving wife, the love of my life and my best friend. I would also like to toast Becky's mother and father for raising such a wonderful daughter and for welcoming me freely into their home and life. First, I want to leave you with a few words of wisdom:

"Marriage is the difference between painting the town and painting the porch"

"Marriage is like a steaming hot bath. Once in it, it's not so hot."



Interesting word, isn't it, marriage? "Would you say it's an 'institution' or just a word?" I think she must have misheard because her instant reply was "I would say it was more of a sentence."

I remember asking her if she'd ever thought of divorce. "No" she said "only murder!"

Funny thing marriage, did you know they carried out a survey recently to establish whether married men live longer than bachelors. Apparently, there's absolutely no difference - it just seems longer when you're married!

Seriously though, I can honestly say that Becky and I look forward to a long, exciting life together. For me, I know I've found my soul mate, the person who was created especially just for me. I was telling my own father the other day that I was worried about choking up during my speech, concerned that I wouldn't be able to what I felt. The one thing I know is that we love each other and we're happy. Here's to life, happiness, friendship, and all good things. I love you baby.

Then, to the beautiful bridesmaids who have worked so hard and looked so wonderful today. To my parents, you have been so loving and caring my entire life. Thank you for always being there for me growing up and now for Becky and I as we move to the next chapter of our life.



SPEECH TWO

Ladies and gentlemen, we would like to wish you a good evening. First, I would like to apologize to my family and all those who have come from across the globe, expecting to hear my speech in French. I had hoped my best man Mike would translate live tonight as French was his best subject in school but I had to concede that after a more in-depth conversation with him about his French-speaking abilities, I was afraid that some of my guests would leave. Therefore, I'll simply give the speech in English, a far better choice.

In addition, I had spent months and months preparing the perfect speech but of course, now that I'm married, my wife told me what I had to say. In all honesty, both my wife and I would like to thank you for coming here today to share in our very special occasion, especially those who have traveled some distance to be here including my parents, brothers and sister, my godmother and her husband, and finally, my "French-speaking" best man, Mike.

A special thank goes to Becky's brother who came here all the way from England. I first met David 10 years ago and ever since then, he's been more like a brother to me. No matter where we are in the world, he's been there for me. David - I'm happy and proud to know you and call you my friend and my brother.

Unfortunately, there are some people that were not able to be here to include my wife's grandmother and grandfather and a few other close family members but we know they are here in heart and soul. Today is a very special day for Becky and me and just one year ago, we decided to get married, the day of our daughter's birth. We have been in love for six years and knew that we needed take that final step of commitment to marriage. I feel very blessed to have Becky and Rachel, our daughter and now, in my life, making it complete.

We would also like to thank both our parents. Without their help and support, none of this would ever have happened. Thank you mom for all the time, energy, and efforts that you have dedicated to all your children, often taking second place to ensure us kids had everything we needed and then some.



Thank you for working so closely with Becky over the past year, organizing the wedding and reception plans, which have turned out beautiful. Dad, thank you for your strength, support, and wisdom that has made me the man I am today. I know because of you, not only will I succeed in my marriage but in anything I put my mind to.

To Becky's parents, mom, dad, you have been a solid foundation for us, showing us about love through your genuine example. We have laughed and cried, and shared some wonderful memories, with many more to come. When we've needed your help with Rachel and you pitched in without hesitation. You are two precious people and we love you very much.

The one person in this room that I owe the most thanks to is Becky, my wife, my bride, and pure joy. She has done so much towards making this day a success and today, she shines like a princess. In fact, I'm a little bowled over by her beauty. Becky and I first met at a hotel that we were both working at in California. It was 8:30 a.m. and unfortunately, I was late to work. Rushing quickly to my office, I literally ran into Becky in one of the corridors. She was coming one way and I the other. When I turned the corner, BAM, we both went down flatter than a pancake.

At first, we just stared at each other not quite sure what to say but in a few seconds, we both started laughing hysterically. Her laugh first captured my heart and then her warm, loving eyes. Now as my wife, I get all of her! Even so, we first became friends, started going to lunch, having coffee in the morning, and then we both just kind of realized that we couldn't wait to come to work just to see each other.

From then on, the love story blossomed into a beautiful union of two people. Although we didn't expect Rachel to come along, at least not yet, she is the love of our lives, our angel. Even now as I look at my beautiful wife, I still feel that flutter in my stomach that I felt lying there in the corridor with her six years earlier.

If I've heard it once, I've heard it 1,000 times how fortunate I am to have Becky as my wife. In fact, I often ask myself why me, she could have anyone but she chose me and I'm so glad she did. In addition to being a great wife and friend, she is also an amazing mother. As a family, my life is joined by love!



All I know is that when the angels looked down on me, they must have known that I wanted to meet the perfect woman and they sent me you. My sweetheart, you are one of a kind, a woman with a strong mind and gentle heart. You are generous to a fault and one of the most compassionate people I have ever had the honor of knowing.

Because I love you, I pledge to you my faithfulness for I will love you today and tomorrow, forever and a day. Finally we would like to thank the bridesmaids and groomsmen for their commitment to making our wedding so incredibly wonderful.



SPEECH THREE

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming to celebrate our marriage. Please bear with me, as I'm sure I'll have to look at my notes often. Between my nerves and the wine, without them I'm not sure what you would get. I'm actually much calmer now that I'm married - should I be? My wife and I are so happy that you are all here - wow that's a new one, "my wife and I".

In all honesty, you coming here has touched our hearts and oh my goodness, the pile of presents. I feel like a kid in a candy store - can't wait to tear the wrapping off to see what's inside. I would like to be a little serious for a moment. I realize that's not normally my style, but please bear with me.

My first thank you is from me to my wife, Becky. I think you look beautiful every day but on this day, you are stunning. Without doubt, I am the luckiest man alive. You agreed to marry me and spend the rest of your life with me. You have accepted me for the man I just can't help being (even though I try), and for that I am truly grateful. You have a natural way of making everyone around you important and special, especially me. I give you my word that I will do everything humanly possible to keep you safe and happy forever.

When thinking about what to put in my speech I looked around at variety of sources but I always ended up at the big man - the true light, my guiding spirit, and the one who has a following of millions. In the past few weeks, I've had several people ask me what marriage is to me. My response, "Marriage is like being married to your best friend." To me, a good marriage must be created. We are never too old to hold hands, I will tell you I love you at least once a day, and I promise never to go to sleep angry.

For Becky and me, we have a mutual sense of value and common objectives, we stand together as one, facing the world, and our love forms a circle that includes the entire family. For us, it is about speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful and sometimes surprising ways. Our love has the capacity to forgive and forget, it means to give each other an atmosphere in which each can grow, finding room for the things of God, and always looking for the good and the beautiful. With us, it is not just about marrying the right partner but being the right partner.



To my two sisters and Becky's sister and brother, thank you so much for all you have done in helping us plan this wedding. The four of you have gone above and beyond, working hard and long to take care of the little things often overlooked. We love you so much!

We would also like to thank both sets of parents. Both Becky and I have been so blessed to have been raised in good, Christian homes love, discipline, and laughter. From what we learned from you, as our parents, we will take with us in our marriage, passing on those same wonderful qualities to our children. To Becky's parents, you have welcomed me into your home and lives with open arms and for that, I thank you.

I remember when I first asked my wife to marry me. She told me to leave my name and number and he would call me. Seriously, our families all have such a great sense of humor, making laughter an important part of life. To each of the beautiful bridesmaids and groomsmen, we thank you. You too have worked hard and tolerated a few nervous moments, keeping us calm. You carried out your duties with pride and we are so honored to call you our friends.

You know they say that history has a habit of repeating itself. Becky's parents told me they put her to bed with a stuffed dummy and just look where we are today! I do promise that I will do everything I can to bring joy and happiness to Becky's life. I have to laugh at her father who told me he had a receipt he wanted me to sign. This receipt reads:

Today, I received one daughter in perfect condition, fully guaranteed, and fully warranted. She comes complete with extras. To maintain life and quality, she must be topped off with expensive jewelry and lubricated with fine wine. She should be serviced regularly...with lavish trips to Greece and Rome. Warning - she has a tendency to become irritable if she doesn't have the final say on everything! She gets bored easily and must therefore be kept busy with household chores. Okay, so I added that last sentence but I kind of like it!

In all seriousness, we love you and so appreciate your support. To you Becky, I vow to cherish you every day. We will have challenges, that I know but we are a team, committed to working through whatever life has to offer.



SPEECH FOUR

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are about to witness an extremely unique event in history. The very first and very last time that the “wife” is going to let me speak on behalf of both of us! Many people thought this day would never come, that I would be standing here making the speech of a newly married man, myself included. In fact, many people have also told me how lucky I am to be marrying Becky and believe me, she reminds me of that every day! I’m just getting honey - I love you!

Now it is, apparently, my job to do all the thank you's, which is fine. Well the first and biggest thank-you is to all of YOU for choosing to take time from your important May to share with us. We are delighted and touched to see so many of you here. It means so much to Becky and me so thank you for coming and of course, for all the wonderful gifts.



To my best man, Mike, thank you for your wonderful speech. You did a good job man - I’m impressed. Becky and I would also like to thank all of the bridesmaids, each of you looking beautiful. Thank you for helping over the past several months and for organizing so much of the things for today. To the groomsmen, you have stood by my side through some nervous days, thanks for being true friends and for giving both Becky and I your blessing.

I would personally like to thank all of Becky’s family for making me feel so welcome. From the first time we met, I was taken in with open arms. I feel so incredibly fortunate to have married into such an amazing family. To each of you, I want to offer my sincere appreciation and I give you my word that Becky and I will follow in your footsteps of building a warm, loving home so that one day, we too can set a foundation of love and friendship for our son or daughter-in-law.



Mom and dad, thanks for everything that you have given me during my life and especially for all of your help today. You are not just my parents but my friend and without you, we would never have made it. Thank you for bringing me up the way you have, for all of your encouragement and support, and your unconditional love. Most of all, I want to thank you for raising a son that Becky loves. Just as I am proud of you and my new wife, you should be proud of the incredible job you did in raising us kids.

Becky and I would also like to thank the ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, caterers, photographer, florist, and everyone who together has made this the most memorable day of our lives. I actually overheard one of the bridesmaids talking to Becky outside the church, asking her why we had waited so long to get married. Her reply was, "Men are like a fine wine. They all start out as grapes but it's our job to stomp on them, keeping them in the dark until they mature into something you would like to have dinner with." I'm just glad Becky likes wine!

I can see by the number of people nodding their head that I'm boring them. Look, even the wedding cake is in tiers! As far as my best man, some people were surprised because Mike does not have a very good reputation for being organized or being the best planner. However, I had absolute confidence in him and he has done me proud. Mike, here's to you for rising to the occasion - I appreciate you standing by me, being my right-hand man! I wouldn't have made it without you man.

To each of you who came here today, thank you all again for being here today, for the wonderful gifts, for your well wishes, and most of all for your friendship now and in the future. I know some of you came from great distances to be here and probably had other things to do but you decided to spend this special day with us for that, we're grateful.

Baby, have I told you how much I love you today? You are the light of my life, the rock I stand on, the air I breathe, and the love of my heart. Thank you for marrying me and making me the happiest man alive. So, let's all celebrate with the cutting of the cake and sipping on champagne.

***SPEECH FIVE***

Ladies and gentlemen, to some people, public speaking is a waste of valuable drinking time. For those, I know the bars are open and you are not paying so I'll try to keep the speech brief. Firstly I would like to thank my beautiful the bride's parents for having such a beautiful and wonderful daughter, and for bringing her up to know right from wrong, which is more often than not, meaning Becky is usually right and I'm wrong!

Seriously, it seems odd to be saying this as Becky and I have been together now for three years. To Becky's mom and dad, even though Becky and I have a fairly new relationship, I genuinely feel like a member of your family already. Not being someone who gets too emotional, I have never actually taken the time to offer you proper thanks. Therefore, I would like to take this time to thank you for accepting me into your family and most of all, for all of your help in making today happen. As a token of our appreciation please accept these flowers from both Becky and I.

To my mother and father, I also want to say thank you to you for all of your incredible help and support. In the past 23 years of my life...okay, I wondered how long it would take for someone to comment since I'm actually 29. In truth though, you have sacrificed much and always been there for me. Most people think I am just naturally a charming guy but the truth now comes out that I am who I am because of my parents. Please accept our appreciation with this bouquet of flowers. We love you all.

To our precious friends and families, it is true what they say about not knowing just how popular you are until you sit down and compile a list of how many people come to your wedding. As we look at all of you here, we know just how blessed we are to have such amazing friends. Most of you here have come locally but there are a few that have traveled great distances. Our hearts are touched by your unselfishness.



Thanks to the best man, my brother, for an excellent night together and for making me look so handsome in a tuxedo. Remember during his speech that he writes fantasy and fiction books for a living so any stories he tells will of course be completely fiction. You can ask Becky, I'm just not that interesting. However, because I love you and want to show my appreciation for being my best man, I have purchased you a small gift, which I would like you to accept not just for being my best man but for being my best brother.

Now it may come as a surprise to Becky's parents but I knew from the very first date with their daughter that I would one-day marry her. I can say this without any reservation or fear, that when we were alone in the fan, there were fireworks. Of course, our first date was on the Fourth of July! Most people have asked just one question, why it took us so long to actually tie the knot. We'll, I'll let you in on a little secret - maturity.

For all the men out there, remember that women are like fine wine, they all start out as grapes. It's a man's job to stomp on them, keeping them in the dark until they mature. I guess Becky helped me reach maturity, something for which I'm grateful. Speaking of wine, all I can say is that it is rich, full-bodied, and fruity so I guess that matches me too.

Look at my princess. Becky, you look absolutely beautiful. Despite me constantly telling you that you are such a lucky girl, the truth is that I'm a very lucky man. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for marrying me. I will endeavor to make you as happy for the rest of your life as you made me feel when you agreed to marry me. In a time-honored tradition, I would like to propose a toast to the three lovely bridesmaids. If you will all join me in saying that you two ladies look amazingly beautiful today. Thank you for your help and for supporting Becky as she prepared for the most important day of her life.

Finally, I couldn't let it pass without highlighting all the great sacrifices that one person has made in coming here today. Here's to my precious grandmother who has traveled all the way from Germany by herself. In addition, this is grandma's birthday - Happy Birthday and we love you! Again, we want to thank each of you for sharing in our special day.

***SPEECH SIX***

Thank you Robert for your kind words, I'm so glad you decided to honor me with such wonderful words. I hope that as Becky's husband, I can live up to the image you painted of me, or failing that, at least continue to keep pulling the wool over her eyes. I'm only going to speak for a couple of minutes as not to bore everyone.

On behalf of me and MY WIFE, we would like to start by thanking you all for sharing with us in our special day. It would not be the same without our friends and family to mark this occasion. As you can imagine, Becky and I have been quite nervous about today. Just last week, we were both feeling a bit apprehensive so I gave her a huge hug and then looked romantically into her eyes and said, "It's all going to be worth it." To that, she replied, "I know, did you see the pile of presents?" We would be lying to say we are not excited to get our hands on the packages but most importantly, we are grateful you are here with us.

To Becky's parents, thank you for making this day run so smoothly. Without their help and support and Teresa's excellent organization, this wedding and reception would probably not even be happening. That is not to say other people did not work hard because they did but Becky's parents went above and beyond the call of in-laws, adding their magical touch to every aspect of this special day. I also want to thank them both for bringing up such a beautiful and intelligent daughter. Thank you for making me just another member of the family and I hope that I can be everything you want from a son-in-law.

Our gratitude for this day is also extended to my parents as well, who should really receive a medal for endurance, particularly during my "teenage" years, which Becky says haven't ended yet. Thank you mom and dad for your undying love and devotion to me and my brother, you are truly wonderful parents. To my wife, what I love about her most is that she has never pressured me to change, loving me just as I am. For that reason, I want to do all I can to be the man she wants, the man she is proud to call husband.

However, Becky did make one request for you dad. She asked that your text messages to her following a Dallas Cowboy defeat be a little more supportive and not quite so in your face. Also dad, I just say that it's not a good idea to say to the bride four days before the wedding "Have you done something to your eyebrows?" In all seriousness, my parents love Becky and have also welcomed her into the family with love and support.



For both sets of parents, Becky and I have purchased something a special to show our appreciation for all you have done.

Of course, we could never forget about all the wonderful people working behind the scenes. For example, Becky's aunt for making our beautiful wedding cake, my cousin for taking care of the guests at the guestbook table, for Becky's friend for her amazing photography services. We also want to thank the vendors who have all done such an incredible job in making our wedding day an event of a lifetime.

We would also like to say how lovely Becky's sister and bridesmaids look. You're beautiful and we appreciate all your hard work. Then for the groomsmen, you have done so much for me and I cannot thank you enough for your friendship. Our entire bridal party has been an excellent source of reassurance and humor over the past months, organizing great parties!

Finally, to the one person in the room to which I owe the most thanks to - my wife, Becky, I want to say that you are my true love. I still can't believe that such a wonderful woman chose to marry me, knowing everything you do and you still love me. You are the most beautiful, intelligent, supportive, kind, funny, and caring person I have ever met...sorry honey, I can't read your handwriting what does that word say?

I asked Becky's mother in the church how she looked in her wedding dress and she said, wonderful but that simply didn't prepare me for what I would see when she walked down the aisle. I was overwhelmed to the say the least by how beautiful you look. I always knew you were special but today, seeing you and knowing that you are mine for the rest of my life fills my heart to the brim. Thank you for marrying me. I promise to love you forever and to always treasure everything about you.

Before I shut up and hand the microphone to Joe, who by the way has never been one to let the truth get in the way of a good story, would everyone please be stand with me to raise your glasses to the most beautiful and amazing person - my bride, Becky! Thank you all very much and I hope you enjoy the rest of the day. Eat, drink, and be merry!



SPEECH SEVEN

Thank you Kevin, Becky's dad, I hope that as Becky's husband, I can live up to all the wonderful things you just said about me. (whispering) I'll pay you later! Before I start my speech, I want to point out an amazing coincidence, and it's not booking our wedding during a major golf tournament that only happens every four years! Instead, 10 years ago today, Mike, my best man, was in exactly the same position that I'm in right now since he was getting married himself. Therefore, before I get started, I want to wish him and his wife and very happy anniversary.

Ladies and gentleman, you are now about to witness quite a unique event. This is probably the first, and last time that Becky is going to let me speak on behalf of both of us in public. Therefore, it is a real privilege and honor to do so. Additionally, it's my job to say "thank you" to everyone so the biggest and first on my list is to each of you here today. We are touched to see so many family and friends here. In addition to being here, we also thank you for buying us such wonderful gifts, which we can't wait to open.

Unfortunately, it was not possible for everyone to be here that we wanted to be, especially Becky's late grandfather. The two of them were very close and in missing him and his quick wit, he will be in our thoughts today. With him in mind, would you all please join me in raising your glass as we toast loved ones, cherishing every moment of every day.

My second BIG thank you is to Becky, my beautiful bride. Becky simply can't help but look stunning. In fact, she is the only woman I know who wakes up looking as if she just stepped out of a beauty salon. Wow, I'm so fortunate because I guarantee I don't look like that - poor Becky. I also want to point out how fantastic she looks in her wedding dress. She always dresses to kill and sometimes, she cooks like that too!





Some people say you should never marry someone you can live with. Instead, you marry the person that you cannot live without. Becky is that person to me. I cannot live without her. She is my life and my love. In truth, without her, this wedding would quite literally not be taking place. Although she has had incredible help, Becky has almost single-handedly organized everything. Therefore, I would like to say thanks again Becky. You have made me the happiest man today, but, most of all, I'm just so proud to be able to call you Mrs. Jones. I can't wait to start introducing her to people like that.

Now onto the bit that all those involved in our wedding preparations have been looking forward to, the time when Becky and I offer thanks. I do need to recognize some individual people and then hand out some presents. First, I want to personally thank my brother and best man, Mike. You have been my rock, keeping me sane through this entire process. I know I probably don't tell you often enough, but I love you and I'm proud that you're my brother.

I also want to thank Becky's parents, two of the most wonderful people I've had the honor of meeting. While some people make you feel nervous, they both welcomed me into the family, even when I had long hair and wore fringe. Thank you for allowing me to bring Becky to Paris so I could ask for her hand in marriage and for loving me and my family as your own.

To my parents, you have done so much for me growing up and as an adult. When Becky and I needed advice, you offered it. When we needed an errand run, you offered. Most of all, you put up with me while I was trying to find myself and then when I did, you never said, "I told you so."

For all the people who have participated in this wedding, we owe you a HUGE thank you. From the beautiful bridesmaids, wonderful groomsmen, ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, florist, photographer, caterer, cake decorator, guestbook attendant, and reader, we could never have done this without you. You are all such a vital part of our successful day so we want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you will all raise your glass of champagne with me - Here's to a magnificent fairytale and the beginning of a beautiful life together.



SPEECH EIGHT

Good evening everyone and thank you for being here. I'll do my very best to keep this as brief because Becky threatened she would kick me under the table if I start waffling. Before I start with saying thank you to everyone who has made this evening so incredible, I want to point out that there are fun cameras located on each of the tables. Please feel free to take pictures of the wedding reception for us. Even though we have a professional photographer here, the candid shots are just as special so have fun!

To get started, on behalf of my wife and I, we would like to thank you all for coming here to share in this joyous occasion. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your kind wishes, cards, and presents...yes, lots and lots of presents. We hope each of you is having a great time, as we certainly are.

When Becky and I became engaged, I was really surprised at the number of married men advising me not to get married. Don't worry, those people will remain nameless today but of course, I'm open to bribes. I can think of a million reasons why I want to get married but I think the thing that really clinched the decision for me was the fact that Becky's father has season tickets to the Kansas Jayhawks. I'm just kidding honey.

I would like to thank Becky's mom and dad for bringing up such a beautiful, intelligent daughter. I'll leave the two of you to argue over which trait comes from whom. Seriously, thank you for all your help with the wedding and with our house. I think that the only way I can repay you is by making your daughter as happy as I can and I promise to do everything humanly possible to make that happen. I would also like to thank her mom for the beautiful cake, which she made - isn't it magnificent?

Many of you may have been wondering why we had such a long engagement. The main reason is that it has taken Becky this long to persuade me that pink is a good color. I never thought I would see all my old football buddies wearing pink and believe me I've taken lots of pictures because they may come in handy some day.



To my mom and dad, you are both terrific people who have also done so much for us and for that, we're grateful. The flowers are gorgeous and the time you dedicated to this wedding, let alone raising me, is something I will forever cherish. You have both provided great support to both Becky and I. We have been so blessed to have two amazing sets of parents that have led by example. We love you and appreciate you. As a token of our appreciation we have some flowers for you.

As I'm sure Becky will tell you, I am often wrong. I know that's something hard to imagine but it's true. However, in marrying Becky, I have 100% confidence that I made the right decision. Honey, I want to say thank you. You are my little princess, the most beautiful woman in the world, and the love of my life. Most importantly, you are my best friend and I want you to be as happy as I am.

Thank you to Mike for being my best man, well the best that I could get at short notice anyway. I know he's been really nervous about making his speech today but I've seen you make a fool of yourself in front of a crowd every Saturday night for 10 years so when you get up here, just close your eyes and imagine you're at the local pub. I have a gift for you as well, which I suggest you open now - liquid courage. It's your turn next man and it's a tough audience tonight!

To the bridesmaids, you look stunning. Thank you for helping Becky prepare for this day. You are all treasures. The groomsmen, you did so much to help both me and Mike and I thank you for standing up with me today as my brothers and my friends. The ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, musicians and vocalist, reader, guestbook attendant, and everyone else who had a hand in making this day possible, Becky and I extend a warm thank you.

Finally I would like you all to stand and join me in a toast to my wife. You look drop-dead gorgeous and I LOVE YOU!

***SPEECH NINE***

I was really nervous beforehand so I prepared a few lines. As Henry VIII said to each one of his wives, "I shall not keep you long". Ladies and gentlemen, this day is an historic day. In fact, on this very day in 1871, the Great Fire of Chicago raged, and it had nothing to do with Becky's cooking. Then, on this day in the year 2005, you attended a wedding reception, having been honored to hear the finest wedding speech of your entire lifetime and my best man Mike will be making it. Okay Mike...no pressure.

I did have a great speech worked out for you today, but now being married, Becky changed what I would say. Seriously, on behalf on my wife and me, we would like thank each of you for coming here today and sharing our special day, especially those who have traveled some distance to be here. For instance, Susan, Becky's maid of honor and her husband flew more than 2,000 miles. That's what I call dedication and true friendship.

We would also like to thank you for the beautiful and thoughtful cards and gifts. I was afraid that putting a dinner service on the wedding list was not such a good idea. I even discussed it with Becky and asked her if adding a dishwasher to the list was too over the top but she told me to leave that one off the list because she would be getting one when we got married - ME.

We had considered getting married overseas since that's where Becky was raised but then decided to share our day with you and I'm so glad we did. You are true friends who have stuck by us over the years and we love you all. Here's to all of our special friends and a lifetime of laughter, love, and fun.

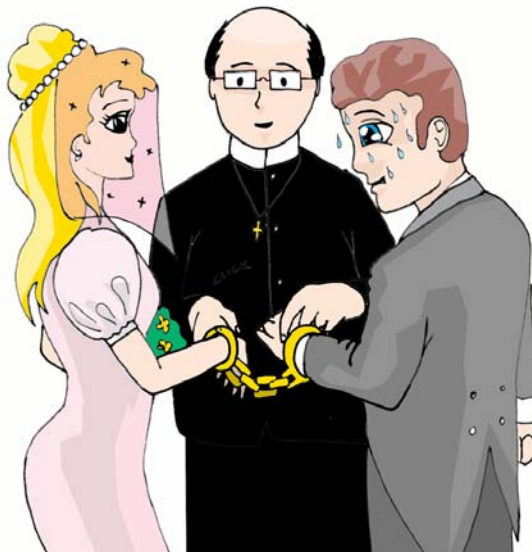
To Becky's dad, thank you for your kind words. I certainly hope I don't let you down and can live up to your expectations. However, having been a part of the family four years now, I think I'm doing okay. Becky and I love you very much and just as you have always opened your home to us our home is always a place where you are welcome. You have been our strength and encourager over the years and we want you to know we appreciate everything you do.



To my parents, we wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for you. You too have provided so much love and support over the years, guiding us through the dating process and showing us how to communicate. We appreciate all the work you have done for today's preparations, the favors, the flowers, and money. To both parents, we have a small gift to show our sincere love.

Finally, to my wife, my bride, and my joy, I want to say thank you for everything you have done for me and for us. You know everything about me and love me just the same. Even with all my faults, you still agreed to marry me. I am so lucky today to be the one to marry you and I know hope this is the start of many happy years together.

We have been planning this wedding for over a year now, although it seems like a lifetime. It has been slightly more difficult over the past few months as I have been working away from home, but thanks to everyone, everything has come together perfectly. For this reason, I want to thank all of those who have stepped up to the plate for me when I was away on business, helping Becky get things done.



For Becky, she wasn't too happy with me working away from home, mainly because of the timing but she eventually came around to the idea. The only thin is that she said why she didn't mind as long as I don't enjoy it! I can safely tell her I don't! Of course, after we've been married for a year, she may be counting her blessings for the times I'm gone.



I would also like to thank you Mike for standing up with me as my best man, although the trouble with being the best man at a wedding is that you never get to prove it. Mike was a little reluctant at first, saying that he was an old married man and that I should get someone younger. Well judging from our bachelor party, I would say he's definitely not too old. In fact, if that's what old is, then I'm heading that way. In all seriousness, I appreciate you as my friend and want to offer you with this gift as a token of our friendship and your hard work for this wedding.

Of course, some of you don't know that Mike is also my elder brother. I know we look anything alike - I'm just glad I got the good looks in the family although Becky probably wishes I got the brains. To all the groomsmen and ushers, I know that you extended a hand in helping Mike with all the things that had to be done for my wedding and I thank you for that.

A final and big thank you goes to our bridesmaids. We would like to say how lovely each of you looks and you did such an amazing job in helping Becky. I've heard over the past six months how much time and effort each has given to our wedding, especially Susan who came here from Canada just to stand up and support her friend. We have a small gift as a token of our thanks and as a memento of this lovely day for each of you as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, please stand with me as I propose a toast to the bridesmaids. Now, instead of standing here, giving you a load of stale old jokes, I'm going to leave you in the capable hands of my best man.



SPEECH TEN

I've put a bit of a speech together today, but after Kevin's speech put all of us to sleep I'll try to make mine a little more interesting and entertaining. "Sorry Kevin, I'm only joking". However, before I start with saying thank you to everyone, have you all seen the "fun cameras" on your tables? Please feel free to take photos throughout the day. However, I would highly suggest you either start early in the evening or have a designated picture-taker. You know what happens when the beer and wine starts flowing, the focus gets a little blurry and soon heads are cut off.

On behalf of my beautiful wife and me, we would like thank you all for coming here this evening to share in this very special day and for all the gifts, a big thank you. I would like everybody here, especially Becky, to know how lucky and proud I am to be standing here speaking to you as her husband. Becky, my wife "Mrs. Jones" - wow that sounds so strange yet so wonderful, is the most giving, compassionate, loving, and beautiful woman in the world and she's mine.

I am overwhelmed at how beautiful she looks, and can't believe how privileged I am that she has become my wife. I'm also amazed to see her smiling and enjoying herself since she has been so stressed out with all the organization to make this day the perfect day. I think if you all look around, you will see that she did an amazing job! While she did have some assistance, Becky was involved with every aspect of the planning and I'm so proud of her.

I would like to propose a toast to the ushers for their fine work and for bridesmaids who I think you will agree look almost as beautiful as Becky, the bridesmaids that is, not the ushers, they just look like... ushers. Seriously, for the wonderful job they have done today, Becky and I would like to offer a small gift as a token of our appreciation.

Then, we want to thank Becky's parents for the help they have given us both emotionally and financially. You have brought up such a beautiful and intelligent daughter. I can honestly say that she has fine parents and I'm excited that they are now my in-laws, something you don't hear too often. I love you both so much and all that you've done for me and for us.



I would also like to thank Steve, one of my groomsmen for arranging the mini bus at short notice when the limo didn't show up, making it possible for all of us to get home last night after the bachelor party. We had a great evening and since I hadn't spent time with each of you for awhile, this was something I will carry with me always.

I hope you all appreciate the lovely cake before us, as I woke up last Sunday morning thinking I was going to town to pick up the cake but it turned out the cake was about an hour's drive. So, I want to thank Steve again for traveling to get the cake. You're a pretty handy guy there Steve. Any single women here take note - Steve is single and already trained.

On a final note - who said, "Thank God?" I want to say that Becky and I have been looking forward to this day for months but more importantly, just as we are enjoying ourselves immensely, we want everyone to enjoy the day just as much. I must say that I find it interesting how history repeats itself. On this day in 1901, President William McKinley was making a speech when some fellow shot him dead, now I'm not much of a one for believing in signs and omens, but there no point in tempting fate, so I think I'll sit down.

However, before I do, I really want you to know that each of you here are special to Becky and I. I know you hear this all the time during speeches, but I mean it. As you know, we've had some special challenges over the past year and our family and friends have been there anytime and every time we needed them. We love you more than you'll ever know and this day would never have been the same without you sitting here right now. We wish you all good health and happy homes!



SPEECH ELEVEN

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I'm sorry about the bits of paper but as most of you can see I am wee bit nervous about my speech today. Suffice to say this is not first time today I've risen from a warm seat with a piece of paper in my hand. My speech today will be like a mini skirt, just long enough to cover the essentials but short enough to get your attention. Therefore, I know most of you are keen to getting to the bar, especially me so I'll get on with it!!

This morning as I arrived at the hotel, I was walking down the hotel corridor when I passed this elderly man who said "It's a rare morning". I thought to myself, "You have no idea!" First, on behalf of my wife and I, want to start by thanking everyone for coming and sharing this special day with us. I would also like to thank everyone here for all your kind wishes, cards, and presents, not to mention my best man for getting out of bed before lunchtime on a Sunday and with the final playoffs on television. Man, I proud of you Mike.

Seriously, I hope you're all enjoying yourselves on this special day. It's so wonderful to see you and I can honestly say it wouldn't have been the same without you although it would also have been a lot cheaper without you, but that's beside the point. Just as we are having an amazing time with the people we love most, we both hope you are all having a great time too.

To my beautiful bride, Becky, right where I am, I would like to say to Becky just how gorgeous you look today. I knew you would look beautiful because you are but my breath was taken away as I watched you walk down the aisle. I think everyone will agree that Becky looks like a stunning princess. I want everybody here, especially my new bride, to know how lucky and proud I am to be standing here speaking to you as her husband. Even when Becky lounges around at home in her nightgown, hair in curlers, and her big, fluffy slippers, she is a sight to behold! You see, Becky always dresses to kill, although it's a pity she sometimes cooks the same way! I'm only kidding babe!

We have been planning this wedding for about a year now, although it seems like a lifetime. Well, I say "we" when in reality, Becky and her maid of honor did most of the work, our fathers were left to foot the bill, and I agreed to sort out the weather. I might say that I did a good job, it wasn't easy but nonetheless, you have a beautiful, sunny day.



Which now leads me on to the in-laws, and I'm not even sure where to begin. My mother and father-in-law are nothing like the horror stories you hear about in-laws. When I first met them, I'm not sure what they expected but I think I had them fooled. I remember the night I was going to propose to Becky.

It began on a rainy Friday night, sometime around 7:00. I went to her parent's house about seven o' clock to ask her father's permission to ask for his daughter's hand in marriage. Now, traditionally it's normally man-to-man but with her mother sitting right next to him on the couch, I thought it would be a bit cheeky if I told her to leave so I did what I had to do with a good result might I add, leaving full of pride. You see, this was the first time that I had ever made a grown man cry!

Needless to say, Becky accepted my proposal and before I had time to blink, her mother was already getting the wedding organized. That just shows her excitement and how much she would do for the love of her daughter. I'm sure you will all agree that today has been a great success. This kind of wedding does not just happen. It took the support and generosity of her parents and mind, which we will be forever grateful. To her mom and dad, thank you for making me feel so welcomed into your family.

To my mom and dad, thanks you for being the most amazing parents. In addition to pretending to forget about all the little things that sons do, and usually best forgotten, my parents have always given me the best opportunities in life and been incredibly generous. After having our photographs taken, my dad handed Becky a note that read, "Delivered, one son as promised - sold as seen - no refunds under any circumstances. We've redecorated the room and changed the locks, so now, you're stuck with him. Remember, he dehydrates easily so top off with beer as needed." Thanks for that Dad!!!

I would like to give a big thank you to the bridesmaids for performing their role so gracefully and for looking fantastic throughout the day. To Becky's maid of honor, you have done so much for our wedding and I'm sure everyone here will agree that you look absolutely gorgeous and fulfilled her role perfectly. Thank you for keeping Becky calm over the past 24 hours. I know from personal experience that couldn't have been easy! Becky asked me to thank you for all the effort that went in to making her bachelorette weekend a great success and although the memories may be blurred they will last a lifetime.



For my best man, I find it to be quite ironic that I am supposed to speak highly of him and our friendship, knowing that just minutes from now he will be doing his up most to embarrass me! When I told people who I had picked there were a few raised eyebrows.

Although Mike is not known for his organization and timekeeping skills, he is confidence and well-spoken. Many people don't know that Mike suffers from a disability, which causes him to invent fanciful stories. Unfortunately, he believes these stories to be true so if you would all just humor him, that would be great and save him from embarrassment.

We also want to thank the ushers for your wonderful job and support. Now, if you will all stand with me, I would like to propose a toast to the lovely ladies in the bridal party. I would like to close with a quote that is the foundation of our marriage and what it means. "It is from the big man, the true light, my guiding spirit, the one who has a following of millions."



SPEECH TWELVE

Good afternoon, the last time I was at a wedding reception I was a best man. I feel as though I've moved from the witness box to the dock - I wonder if Becky will bring that remark up for the next 50 years. Well on behalf of my wife and I, we really would like to thank you for coming today, not least Jennifer due to the distance she had to travel to stand up as Becky's maid of honor - thank you everyone.

Many people have told me how lucky I am to be marrying Becky, including Karen her twin sister. It's puzzling because they never explained why. What does everybody know that I don't? Seriously, fortune smiled on me the day we met. I'll always remember because I had just won \$10 on the lottery. Little was I to know that about three years later, Becky would approach me and ask if I had any ideas about someone who she could go out with and little did she know...here we are today, a happy, married couple.

Most couples on their wedding day describe it as the happiest day of their lives. That worries me because it implies that from tomorrow forward, life will start to decline so I'm going to make the most of today that I can. However, I must say that today I'm so happy that even days less happy could still be blissful. Now Becky, you thought you knew all the "thank yous" that would be in my speech but there's one you didn't know about. I want to thank you from the depths of my heart for becoming my lovely bride. You can't help being lovely but you could have helped becoming my bride. I'm just glad you didn't.



In my preliminary notes, I left a pause after that for anybody who wanted to go "Oh isn't that sweet". For those of you who didn't have that reaction, you probably think it's an odd thing for a groom to say something like that in public. Well, it's because thanking in public not only adds weight to it, but by drawing everybody's attention to where thanks are due, it is hoped that my bride will better appreciate its sincerity.



Now, that brings me to our families. To Becky's parents, we thank you with everything we are for providing this lovely day. This excellent reception, the cake, the photographer, and everything you've so graciously helped with. To my mom and dad, we extend the same gratitude. We love you both very much and appreciate your help with this evening's festivities. I think it would be fair to say that both Becky and I are over the moon with excitement, which reminds me of a story I know that has no links with weddings but this is the only amusing one I can remember and, it's true.

My best man, Mike, is a successful medical representative. In fact, he's so successful that last year, he won the "Representative of the Year". Now, Mike's company is one of the largest where he lives and so when they presented him with the award, they had arranged a special surprise for everyone in that they had a guest speaker who would be in keeping with the company's image of being great pioneers in their field. This was no less than Neil Armstrong.

After the award ceremony, Mike had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Neil Armstrong, which is when he heard a fascinating story. When the Apollo 11 had landed on the moon in 1969, NASA had televised the images to the world. It was at that time that Neil Armstrong said those immortal words, "That's one small step for man - one giant leap for mankind".

However, Armstrong went on to tell Mike that NASA had actually edited out some of what he had said and that what nobody else in the world heard was this - "Good luck to you Mr. Sharovsky!" Of course, Mike asked what he meant. Armstrong went on to explain that when he was a little boy growing up in Ohio, he lived with his parents in a modest terraced house.

He always remembered when in bed hearing his next door neighbor, Mrs. Sharovsky, saying to her husband, "Go to sleep Boris, you've got as much chance of intimacy tonight as the little boy next door walking on the moon." Well, Becky has said a similar thing revolving around England winning the World Cup, and so I'll be watching that game tonight with great interest.

Well as there are no bridesmaids to thank it only remains for me to say how delighted Becky and I are to receive all the generous gifts from you all. This is a time when you feel grateful to have so many family members and friends. We love you all and thank you all.



SPEECH THIRTEEN

I was really nervous before coming here so I prepared a few lines - and having

snorted them I'm feeling pretty good right now...just kidding. Ladies and gentlemen, until today, April 21st has not been a very historic day. I had hoped to give you all a short list of fascinating events that had occurred on this day in history but unfortunately, not much happened. However, I was watching the History Channel earlier and discovered that in 1918 on this day, the Red Baron was killed in action over France, in 1926 Queen Elizabeth II was born, and on this day in the year 2005, you attended this wedding reception, having the honor of hearing one of the finest speeches of your lifetime - not from me but from my best man, Mike.

Anyway, thank you John for those kind words. I am proud to be your son-in-law and just hope I can live up to your expectations. I would sincerely like to thank yourself and your beautiful wife Susan, my new mother-in-law, for always making me feel very welcome in your home, and for giving Becky and I this wonderful wedding and reception. Most of all, thank you for your blessing to marry your lovely daughter Becky, whom I love and cherish.

We would like to thank both sets of parents, as we wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for them. Thank you for all of your love and support over the years and especially over the past several months during some challenges in planning. We also thank you for all the advice you have given us and helping to guide us in the right direction.

Thank you for your assistance with today's preparations, the flowers, the favors, the limos, and the finances - the list just keeps on going. I must also thank John and Susan for bringing up such a lovely daughter. Due to the number of phone calls between Becky and her mother, the phone company would also like to thank you.

Today also represents a great occasion for both my parents, being the culmination of many years of planning of a different sort. They have prepared me well, supported me through school and college, and took the time to teach me the difference between right and wrong, but only so that I know which I am enjoying at any given time! As for the rest of you, on our behalf, we would like thank each of you for coming here today and sharing in our special day.



I would like to thank you all for your presence in both senses of the word - it's been like Christmas every day for about a month now. Seriously, Becky and I have had something new arriving constantly and when checking with the online gift registry, we are shocked to see that so many of you have taken the time to buy us things for our new home. With all the wonderful things you have purchased for us, it will seem strange to come home only to find usual bills and junk mail so THANK YOU so much for your kind thoughts. Most of all, thank you for all the smiling faces I see in front of me.

I want everyone here, especially Becky, to know how lucky I feel to be here right now. My wife is beautiful, intelligent, and hard working. In fact, the list of her good qualities is extremely long but, unfortunately I can't read her handwriting to see what else I was supposed to say. It must be something to do with her being a doctor. Seriously, to my wife, the love of my life, I want to thank you for everything you have done. You have loved me unconditionally and I'm so excited to know I get to share the rest of my life with you!

We have been planning this wedding for over a year now, although it seems like a lifetime. Well actually, Becky has done most of the planning and hard work, I just agreed to show up! Even so, I hope she's impressed by how well I scrubbed up for the occasion. For those of you who truly know me, then you know how I usually look, something like what you would expect if someone dressed in front of an airplane propeller. I have to thank Mike, my best man for making sure I looked great today.

I want to offer a special thank you to Tim, my roommate in College who could not be here today, but who is responsible for introducing Becky and I. In fact, it was Time who set us up on a blind date! I would also like to personally thank Mike for agreeing to be my best man. He has been a tower of strength throughout the process, at least for the bachelor party and picking out the tuxedos. Other than that, I haven't seen much of him. Of course, the trouble with being the best man at a wedding is that you never get to prove it. I'm just kidding buddy...you have done a great job and I appreciate it.



Becky and I would also like to thank our wonderful ushers. In fact, one of them asked one woman if she was a “friend of the grooms”, to which she replied, “Certainly not, I’m the bride’s mother”. However, considering the horrible job I did as an usher at Eric’s wedding, I’m so thrilled (and relieved) that he did a much better job. Thank you both with all sincerity.

A final and big thank you goes to our bridesmaids. Becky originally had four but one of them, Janice, was not able to be here since she just gave birth last week to a 9-pound baby boy. I guess some people will use any excuse not to be in a wedding. We should raise a glass to these women, along with the maid of honor for their undying love and devotion to Becky. You all look beautiful and have worked very hard over the past several months. We appreciate you very much!

Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please stand with me, I would like to propose a toast to the bridesmaids and even more importantly, to my precious bride - my WIFE!

***SPEECH FOURTEEN***

I must admit I've been a tad emotional today. Although not something men are terribly good at, as I was walking down the aisle, I had a huge lump in my throat. However, after going after Mike, my best man to give my speech, I feel better. I do want to thank you Mike for your help with my speech. I wasn't going to admit it because I should have had this done weeks ago, I didn't finish it until around midnight last night. Had I not called Mike in a frantic state, it probably would have been more like 10 minutes ago. Therefore, if you think this speech is not up to par, just blame Mike.

I had prepared a cracking speech for you all, but now that I'm married to Becky, she slipped me a new speech just a minute ago for me to read instead. Gee, I wish I would have know this would happen at midnight last night. In truth, on behalf of Becky and I, we would like to thank everyone for coming, particularly those who traveled a fair distance like my brother Steve. Mind you, he's been known for going to great lengths to get a free meal but this was a little overboard. Even so, I'm so glad you're here to share in this special day. In addition, we want to offer a huge thank you to everyone for all the cards and presents.

To Becky's maid of honor, Jill, you have really provided tremendous support to Becky over the past several months. While on the subject of Jill, this reminds me of a night that Jill and Becky shared just before Becky and I met. They had been out on the town, dancing and having a great time when they met up with some college graduate football players. I guess Becky was somewhat taken up with one in particular. He gave her his phone number, asking her to call the next day, which she did. Unfortunately, his wife answered the phone, none too pleased that Becky had called.

I think at that point, she was disgusted with men and sure that she would never meet "Mr. Right." It was just one week from that night when I was out dancing and having a few beers with my buddies. Jill and Becky showed up at the same place and I noticed her immediately when she walked in. She was like an angel and I just had to meet her. Well, to make a long story short, we danced, talked, and laughed until time for the club to close and the rest is history.



I also want to say thanks to my mom and dad, especially when I was a teenager. I had some physical challenges that required several surgeries and my parents stuck by me every step of the way. I know I said thank you many times but on this special day, I realize that without your love and support, I would never had made it to marry my beautiful bride. Therefore, from the bottom of my heart, mom, dad, I love you and thank you.

I wan to offer a special thank you to my gorgeous bride. I'm sure you will all agree how lovely she is today. Honey thank you for deciding to put up with me for many years to come, you silly girl. Thank you for being someone very special who is caring, witty, supportive, and loving. In fact, without all the work you put into this wedding, none of this would have happened.

I know some of you probably think saying all that stuff about Becky is a bit sickly, maybe it wasn't such a good idea considering that we just ate. However, to my defense, that was the part of the speech that Becky wrote. Baby, did I say it right? Why are you giving me that look, you know, the one when I've done something wrong?

I do want to thank my best man. What a great friend he's been for a long time. Without doubt, Mike has been my rock during the planning process and I appreciate you so much man. Next the groomsmen also worked hard and did an amazing job, as did the ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, and readers. Like a football team, you were all part of making this day happen.

For the bridesmaids, Becky and I want to let you know we think you look lovely and you carried out your wedding duties with grace. I know that two of you drove quite a way to be here and for that, we thank you. Family and friends, if you would all stand with me and raise your glass, let us propose a toast to the bridesmaids.

Finally, there is a little something I want to leave each of you with. A man from China had lost his keys. Worried, he began to fret when his wife said, "Don't worry, I have another set in the vase on the mantle piece." The moral of the story, I can't live without Becky. She's what keeps me grounded, always covering my back. I love you baby and never forget it.



SPEECH FIFTEEN

Good afternoon to you all. I'm going to start this speech by offering a big thank you for turning up on behalf of my wife and me. Although this is our day, it wouldn't have been very special without all of our wonderful family members and friends. Since Becky made sure my speech said what she wanted, I won't stand here, telling you one stale joke after another. Instead, I'll leave that to Mike, my best man.

Thank you for agreeing to be my best man. I've known Mike for about 15 years now and he is and will continue to be a great friend. Knowing him so well, I imagine he's extremely nervous about his speech right about now. Don't worry mate, I've seen you make a fool of yourself before so this should be nothing new.

Unfortunately, as the groom, it is not my job to assassinate the character of one of my friends, but as the time approaches for Mike to get married, I hope he asks me to be his best man. Then, I can tell everybody what he was up to on my bachelor night. All joking aside, I have to say that I couldn't ask more of a best man. Over the years, he has been a stronghold, offered me a place to stay on more than one occasion, is a great golfing buddy, and most importantly, my best friend.

Mike, as a way of saying thank you for what you've done for both Becky and me for so many years, we have a special gift we want to present you with but in all honesty, I'm a little tempted to wait to give it to you until after I hear your speech. Okay honey, I'm giving him his gift. Please, everyone give Mike a big round of applause.

While I'm on the line of my friends, my next thanks goes to my two great ushers. Both are close friends who have brought happiness and fun to my life. It has been an honor to be your friend and to have you here with me today. With Becky opting to go for a near world record when it came to the number of bridesmaids, I asked her if I could have three best men, but alas she wasn't impressed.

Just as a husband and wife should do, we found a compromise. Of course, we can't miss thanking our beautiful bridesmaids and maid of honor. You all carried out your duty with elegant and grace, bringing new dimension to the wedding. We also have a special gift that we want to give you in our heartfelt appreciation.



Then, we want to thank both sets of parents. I'm not sure dad how you tolerated me all these years but you did and you never complained. I have learned so much from you and I'm proud to call you my friend. Mom, you're a lady of dignity. You've done so much for this wedding that I don't even know where to begin. For Becky's parents, you are both a joy to know and there are no words to thank you for all you've done. We love all of you and cherish you as our parents.

We're getting there now! At the top of my list is my wife. You are an angel sent from heaven, a breath of fresh air, and the light of my life. She is the one person in the room to which I owe the most thanks. In addition to looking gorgeous on the outside, you have a beautiful heart on the inside. I know our future together will be a happy one because every day, I get to wake up next to you, finding that I love you twice as much as I did the day before.

Thank you for everything you have done. You know everything about me and love me just the same. I have my faults, yet you still agreed to marry me. I am extremely lucky today to be the one to marry you - and I hope this is the start of many happy years together. To finish off, I must say - isn't it funny how history repeats itself? Thirty years ago, Becky's mom and dad were standing before a minister exchanging I Do's just like Becky and I.

Speaking of history, this day marks yet another significant anniversary. On this day back in 1901, President William McKinley was making a speech when someone shot him dead. In saying that, I think I better sit down and not tempt fate. We love you!

***SPEECH SIXTEEN***

On behalf of myself and my wife I would like to thank you Mike for your kind words. It's at milestone events in one's life when you tend to take stock of things. In particular, we often look at the contribution our own parents in our upbringing, along with the sacrifices, which are never fully appreciated at the time. With my parents, I can well appreciate this firsthand and I would like to acknowledge and thank you for giving me the start in life needed to go on to be successful in my career and more importantly, in love.

I would also like to thank Becky's parents for welcoming me into their family and on so many occasions into their home. In particular, thank you both for making our wedding and reception possible. Best of all, thank you for raising such a gorgeous, educated, and wonderful woman, although ironing my shirts it the one aspect of her education she failed.

To all of our guests, Becky and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many cards and gifts received. I trust that many of you will have the opportunity to eat off tableware in the years ahead when visiting our home. Next, I want to propose a toast to the bridesmaids, ushers, flower girl, and ring bearer. You each had a very important role today and you did such a fine job. As a small token of our appreciation, we have a small gift for you.

Today has been a long time in coming as Becky and I have been "going steady" for eight years! During that time, we have acquired a mortgage and her two beautiful children. I am not just blessed with a magnificent wife but also two children whom I proud to call my own. Being a parent is hard going at times but the joy we've shared in raising the boys has been an adventure I wouldn't change for anything.

I know Mike wants to say a few words in a moment and I confess I am somewhat worried as to what dark secrets he may reveal so I have purchased him a gift in recognition of his hard work being my best man but I think using it as a bribe might be a better option. Better yet, I think I'll just hold off giving it to him until after I've heard his speech.



Now, that brings me to my wife, Becky. For the first time in my life, I'm almost at a loss for words...I said almost. Her beauty takes my breath away and I feel like the luckiest man alive. For those of you who don't know, Becky is actually an extremely talented woman. She is an excellent artist, has a beautiful voice, she's an excellent skier, and now, if I can just do something about her cooking, that would make her perfect. In all seriousness, I'm just kidding baby. Ouch, by the look I'm getting, I think I'll be fixing dinner tonight.

With Becky, you never know what's going to happen. She's like a magnet, always attracting excitement. As you know, wedding tradition dictates that I tell a story or two about her but unfortunately, Becky dictates that I do no such thing, which is a real shame since the amount of material is so vast. Those closest to Becky understand her problem with being accident prone.

I actually thought of recounting the tale of when Becky first met my mom and dad. Somehow, she managed to get her bottom stuck in the door of my dad's Jeep. Then, I thought about the story she mistook super-glue for eyewash and managed to glue her eyelid shut while standing in just her underwear o the local gym.

However, my personal favorite was when we were traveling during the holiday. She had gone to wash her hair and after a short time, I head disgruntled noises coming from the bathroom, followed by shouting, "This shampoo of your is rubbish. I knew I should have brought my own. This stuff has made my hair dry and sticky."

Becky had actually picked up my bottle of shaving gel so after washing her hair we tried about 10 bottles of conditioner to find something that would take all the stickiness out. If I were to tell you about her shopping trip in Germany, I would really be digressing and since I'm not allowed to tell you any stories, I'll just stop there.

I love you honey forever and a day.



SPEECH SEVENTEEN

First, I want to thank every person here for coming. We're especially grateful to those people who had a further distance to travel. Of course, I have a great speech worked out for you today although I didn't have time to run it past Becky so I'll simply use the one she wrote for me instead.

I suppose some of you are wondering why we got married on a Friday and not on a Saturday like most people do. Well, today is six years to the first day we got together and I can tell you that six years took a long time coming yet passed so quickly. Since we are both basketball fanatics and the playoffs are on tomorrow, we agreed that Friday would be a better day.

Changing the subject slightly, I would like to thank Becky's maid of honor for planning so many things for this wedding. She has worked long hours and worked through some very difficult challenges so all of you could enjoy a beautiful wedding. Thank you so much for your amazing service.

For my best man, I understand that he's responsible for making payments to vendors that the groom forgets. He told me that he didn't realize he was sponsoring the wedding. Of course, I've paid him back! I've known Mike for a long time and while he knows me well, he does have a bad habit of "enhancing" the truth so when he gets up to speak you simply can't trust much of what he says. If you have any questions about his stories, ask me first and I'll sort out the truth for you.



Time to wrap up as I can see some of you are nodding off. I also want to thank my dad and Becky's dad for the help they've given us, both emotional and financial. Many times during the planning of this wedding, we called upon them to run errands and they did every time without hesitation. For our mothers, although they didn't know each other until a few months ago, they are very much alike - loving, caring mothers who would do anything possible for their children.



For our bridesmaids, let me say that you look amazing. Thank you for supporting Becky and I, helping wherever asked. Before I hand you over to my best man Mike, I would like to offer one final thank you to Becky - honey, thank you for accepting my proposal to marriage, which you could have just as easily declined. Together, we've been through thick and thin and we've had our ups and downs but our love has only grown stronger every day.

Now I move reluctantly to the best man. As my best friend, I'm now regretting my performance at his wedding - perhaps I should have been a bit gentler. Mike is actually my older brother with me getting all the looks of course. We have always been exceptionally close. In fact, in school we often fought over the same girl but when I met Becky, Mike must have seen something different in my eyes because one day, he pulled me aside and I'll never forget his words.

"David", he said, "This is the one. If you let her go, then you've lost the best thing that's ever happened to you." Mike had never said anything like that to me before and I knew in my heart that he was right. I listened and I didn't let her go and I never will. I know I found that once in a lifetime opportunity when I met Beck and she will always be the one love of my life. Besides, if I ever did anything to mess this up, Mike would be all over me and he's bigger than me.

If everyone would please stand with me and raise your glasses, let's offer two important toasts. First, I would like to propose a toast to the maid of honor and bridesmaids for doing far more than they were required to do for our wedding. I can think of several incidences when things didn't go as planned and somehow, they were able to come out on top each time.

Finally, I want to propose a toast to my beautiful wife. This toast is to a life filled with laughter and happiness, a marriage to my wife and best friend. When I look at the experience I've had so far with Becky and what we have in the future together, I just can't help but smile and feel warm inside.

***SPEECH EIGHTEEN***

Someone once said that a good speech has both a good beginning and a good ending. A great speech however keeps both of these very close together so tonight, I'm going to try to deliver a GREAT speech. Bear in mind, those of you who are familiar with my line of work will be aware that any other time I am asked to speak in front of a lot of people I go on for about 30 minutes. Therefore, as long as you're all aware of where you're emergency exits and escape routes are, then I'm ready to get on with it. Just kidding, I promise to keep it brief!

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, on behalf of Becky and me, welcome to you all. I was going to tell you all about all the historical things that have happened today over the past years, but today, I'm afraid not a lot happened, unless you want to count the birth of Sir Christopher Wren in 1632. However, remember that today, you will hear a GREAT speech, something that will surely go down in history. After me, my best man, Mike will be giving another GREAT speech. What a night!

Thanks to everyone who so kindly offered their advice when I told them I was getting married. It was actually quite interesting in that I heard things from well done, to you stupid fool, to about time, to you've been happy for long enough! In all seriousness, thank you to all those who cared enough to join us on this special day. Your presence has made this an event we will cherish or life.

To Becky's son Brian, I have I have some good news and some bad news for you. The good news is that you have managed to do what most 16 year olds dream about - giving your mom away and what a good job you did. Now for the bad news, I feel justified in asking you for half the cost of today! Better yet, we can take it out in trade. I figure that is about 10 years of washing cars, cleaning house, and keeping your room clean - what do you think? I do want to thank you Brian for taking such good care of your mom while she was single. You're a fine young man and I'm proud to call you my son and my friend.



I'll take this opportunity to say than you to my mom and dad. Really, if anyone should receive a medal for endurance, it would be them. They have loved and supported me through every stage of my life, including my "teenager" year's that seemed to extend well into my 30's! Now, if you were to talk to Becky, chances are she would tell you they haven't stopped yet.

Dad, you used to tell me that one day, I would grow up and the shock would kill me! However, I'm sure you both agree that this is the most sensible and grown up thing I've ever done, here I am, grown up, and married to my best friend. For all you've done, thank you for your help, advice, support, and the finances to make today happen. I'm forever grateful.

Mom, thank you for loving me unconditionally and for being the best sounding board in the world. Becky and I would also like to thank you for the beautiful cake. It's amazing and beautiful just like you. Thank you both for loving me and for loving Becky. I hope you are as proud of me as I am of you.

I also want to thank Becky's mom and dad for bringing up such a wonderful daughter and accepting me to be the one to marry her, after turning away a string of other boyfriends! You have made me like a part of the family and I'm very excited to be your son-in-law. You have done so much for us and we both appreciate you immensely. To show both sets of parents how much we appreciate you, we have brought you gift as a token of our love and gratitude.

To my best man, what can I say? Thanks for being by my side today. You know what they say is the only problem with being the best man at a wedding? You never get the chance to prove it! After the way I sabotaged your wedding video, I must say you've done a great job and I truly appreciate it. However, I'm keeping your thank you gift until after I hear the speech!

There are so many other people to thank - the photographer, caterer, florist, musicians, and vocalist. Each of you worked hard to create this beautiful wedding and reception and Becky and I are so grateful. To the ushers, you guys looked great and were so wonderful with the guests, although the "You'll sit where you're told" wasn't the sort of comment I had in mind when I asked you to do it! I'm just kidding, you both did an amazing job and we appreciate you too.



Becky and I have been planning this wedding for the past eight months, working on it every day. Becky ended up with the brunt of the work due to my work and it taking me away from home so often. I know she wasn't very happy about this, but she came around to the idea, as long as I didn't enjoy it too much! Honey, you look stunning. Pure and simple, I'm so in love with you and I know our love will withstand the test of time. Thank you for being my wife!

I certainly do not want to overlook the maid of honor and bridesmaids. To the maid of honor, Becky told me just how much work you did and you deserve a HUGE thank you. You look beautiful and have been a gem. For the bridesmaids, you too are beautiful and have worked so hard and as a team through the planning process. Thank you very much for your love and devotion to my wife and to our marriage. Will everyone in the room please raise your glass of champagne as we toast these lovely ladies?

Well, I think I've gone on long enough! Once again, a huge thank you goes out to every guest here. We hope you enjoy the rest of the reception, eat, drink, and be merry.



SPEECH NINETEEN

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you here this evening to this special occasion of celebrating the marriage of Becky, often called Beck, and myself, David. I'm sure everyone agrees that Beck looks absolutely radiant and gorgeous and if I might say so, I'm not so bad myself.

We know that some of you traveled quite a distance to be with us here tonight, from both overseas and interstate and both Beck and I want to thank you and welcome you here. From the bottom of our hearts, we hop you enjoy yourselves. We are a little sad that Beck's grandfather Joe is unable to be here and we all miss him but I'm sure he's watching down on us, beaming with pride.

When we stood at the altar earlier today and Becky said those magic words "I Do", I had to remind myself that this was one of the few times in her life when she's agreed to do something without question. Now, don't get me wrong, Beck I'm told was a good and obedient child - with a little prompting.

Becky's dad tells me that as a child, she was full of life, effervescence, fun, joy, and was just so bubbly. During her teenage years, both at school and during college, she had a wonderful time being the first person to gain the distinction of getting her Bachelor of Science degree without having to do much studying but for her honors, she worked very hard. I want to thank Beck's mom and dad for raising such affine lady, the woman I love and now call "wife."

For me, I was more of the class clown. I know my mom and dad wondered if I would ever grow up to take life serious - mom, dad, just look at me now. In all honest, my parents stayed on me, making sure I kept up with my studies and supported me through my entire life. I want you to know that I'm so grateful for all you've done, which is more than most parents do. I'm very blessed and I will carry into my marriage with Becky the same things I watched in the two of you - love, sacrifice, honest, laughter, companionship, all good things.

Thank you to my best man too for helping me to keep my sanity through all the planning. I remember Mike telling me that marriage is a joining of two individuals and that while our lives are now symbolically one, it's important for each of you to realize and accept that we are also individuals, which is to be respected.



He also told me that as we come to understand and appreciate the differences, we would grow in trust, respect, and love, which would only make our love deepen. Pretty wise words from a best man but Mike knows, he's been happily married himself for 10 years. Thank you Mike, we will both cherish your friendship and your advice.

A huge thank you goes out to my ushers as well. These guys were college friends who have worked not just as ushers but they pitched in and helped Mike anyway they could. Thank you so much, especially Kevin who stopped last night from becoming a runaway drinking session to calm my nerves. To the master of ceremonies, you did an amazing job keeping things organized today and running on schedule.

I am sure everyone here will agree what a beautiful bride Beck has made. She looks like an angel. Honey, I want to especially thank you for accepting me just as I am faults and all and helping me to learn to laugh at my shortcomings. You are an amazing woman, different from any other woman I've ever met, which is why I fell in love with you.

In conclusion, I hope that none of you will go home thinking the words of Groucho Marks, "I've had a wonderful time, but this wasn't it". I would ask that each of you raise your glass as we toast everyone who worked so hard to make this wedding the beautiful affair that it was and to the bridesmaids. They look beautiful and worked so hard over the past few months. Here's to everyone here, we love you and thank you. Now, we want you to get up and dance, have some wine, and enjoy the rest of the evening. Here's to the greatest day of my life with my new bride, Becky!



SPEECH TWENTY

To the master of ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen, as I stand to respond to the toasts already offered, I can say that I am a proud man tonight. I am proud that so many wonderful family members and friends have chosen to come to my wedding, I'm proud that both Becky and I have such wonderful parents, and most of all, proud that I have a beautiful lady who now wears my ring - my wife, Becky. I know that this is the beginning of a long and productive life together because she has brought to the relationship her charm, character, kindness, and lovingness, which when coupled with my veracity and effervescent personality will only serve to cement the special bond between us.

I can assure you that Becky and I will do all that is in our power to fortify this relationship every single day. I remember a story about an elderly woman who was in great health but went to the doctor. After being examined, the doctor told her that she was in great health but that he was going to give her some medicine to "fortify" her. The woman looked at the doctor and said, "I appreciate what you are doing but could you give me something to "twentify" me instead." I know that with all of your prayers, our marriage will be fortified. We know with love and support, we can achieve anything.

At this time, we would like to express sincere gratitude to a number of people who have made today's event successful. Most importantly, our parents who made sure that everything was in place in every aspect of this wedding and reception. You are all amazing people that have done a wonderful job as parents. We love and respect you. We also want to thank our minister for the beautiful ceremony this afternoon.

We express a thousand thanks to everyone who has in anyway contributed to the success of today's event and we know that it took all of you. We would like to thank the people seated at the head table for the critical role you played.

As we come to the end of this afternoon's program, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has expressed congratulations to us on the termination of the isolation and to those who have expressed an appreciation on our determination to end the desperation and frustration that caused us so much consternation in giving us the inspiration to make a combination to bring an accumulation to the population. Did I lose everyone on that?



Mike, you are an amazing best man and were my rock throughout the last year. I can't imagine getting through all the planning and nervousness without you man. To Becky's parents, thank you so much for the kind words. I've been told that you should be able to find some solace in the thought that you're not losing a daughter as regaining a telephone. Becky is a very fortunate woman in that she has an amazing, loving family. We've had so much fun and I can only imagine our relationship growing stronger and stronger through the years. I must say that I appreciate you entrusting your daughter's hand to me. To my own parents, you are wonderful people, who have raised me right and taught me about the purity of love. That's something that I'm going to take with me into my marriage so we can have a successful marriage too.

Becky is such an amazing person, always on the go and never dull. I love you sweetheart and cannot express to you just how beautiful you look. I have never known anyone like you and promise to take care of you in good and bad times. On behalf of my beautiful new wife and myself, I., we would like to say a special thanks to our three lovely Bridesmaids for taking such good care of Becky and getting her to the church on time.

Then, our friends, the caterers, you did such a wonderful job with the flowers, decorations, cake, and food. Wow, you have such talent and we appreciate it. To everybody for all your cards, kind thoughts, and gifts, I was a little overwhelmed with your generosity. Finally, to each of you for attending and sharing this special day with us, especially those who traveled great distance, without you, the wedding would not have been as wonderful as it was.

In conclusion, I would want to extend a very special thank you to my best friend. Becky has enriched my life beyond what words can express. Our relationship is not one of take and take but of give and take. What I love about Becky is that she's so good to me. In fact, I noticed she's been trying to get rid of some of my less endearing habits. While she's still working on some things, she has persuaded me to put the toilet seat down. Hey, that's a major accomplishment for a man.

Now if you'll all please raise your glasses, I would like to propose an old toast to two young ladies, the bridesmaids. "And nature swears, the lovely dears, her noblest work she classes, her apprentice hand she tried on man, and then she made the lasses". Ladies, this toast is to you. Before I sit down and hand over the microphone to my best man and great friend, I would just like to stress that he's never been one to let the truth get in the way of a good story so be prepared.