



# **The Best Man Speech**

## **5-MINUTE GUIDE**

# Purpose

**The main purpose of the Best Man Speech is to give guests an entertaining insight into the Groom's life and character from the perspective of a close friend.**

The speech is also a fond tribute to the Groom and a celebration of a new chapter in his life.

The Best Man usually speaks last, after the Father of the Bride and the Groom.

# Duties

**In his speech, the Best Man will traditionally:**

- ✧ accept the Groom's toast to the Bridesmaids
- ✧ raise his own toast to the Bride and Groom

**He will usually also:**

- ✧ thank the Groom for choosing him as Best Man
- ✧ thank the Bride and Groom for their presents to the wedding party
- ✧ read out messages from absent friends & family

# Content

The very best wedding speeches include lots of personal detail and draw inspiration from shared memories and experiences.

*However, too many speeches rely on generic material copied from elsewhere.*

Talk to the Groom's other friends and his family for additional inspiration.

Resist the temptation to cut-and-paste content from the internet.

# Structure

## A simple but effective speech structure is:

- ✧ Take over from the Groom  
Accept his toast and thank him for his speech
- ✧ Introduce yourself  
Say who are you and how you know the Groom
- ✧ Share stories about the Groom  
Tell 2 or 3 anecdotes that give us an insight into the Groom
- ✧ Pay tribute to the Bride  
Compliment her and say why they make a great team
- ✧ Raise a Toast!

# Tone

## The Best Man Speech should be:

- ✧ warm and humorous
- ✧ gently mocking (but not humiliating)

## Also remember:

- ✧ the language should be suitable for all (i.e. no swearing)
- ✧ sensitive topics and more 'adult' references should be avoided altogether, or handled very carefully, e.g. with subtle euphemism

# Delivery

## When delivering your speech:

- ✧ aim to speak for no longer than 10 minutes
- ✧ keep it conversational – i.e. try to speak as you would normally speak
- ✧ take your time – pause between each of your main points
- ✧ use small cue cards to prompt you – don't try to do it all from memory or read from a script

And make sure you *practice* before the big day!

# Pitfalls

## The Best Man should try to avoid:

- ✧ upsetting the Bride
- ✧ offending any of the guests
- ✧ making 'in jokes' not everyone will understand
- ✧ relying on all-too-familiar lines and clichés
- ✧ drinking too much before the speeches!

# What Next?

## Three steps to a finished speech:

- ✧ start making a note of any ideas you could use in your speech
- ✧ write a rough first draft using the recommended structure
- ✧ practice your speech out loud and keep revising your draft until you're completely happy

# Good Luck!

For more free resources visit:

[www.weddingspeechcoach.com](http://www.weddingspeechcoach.com)