



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