

A photograph of a wedding table setting. In the foreground, there are several crystal glasses, including a large goblet and a smaller one, on a white tablecloth. In the background, there are vases filled with white flowers, possibly hydrangeas or similar, against a soft, out-of-focus background. The overall color palette is light and elegant, with white, light blue, and soft green tones.

# WEDDING SPEECHES

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UK ALLIANCE OF WEDDING PLANNERS



If you have been asked to make a speech at an upcoming wedding then this guidelines may well help you. The traditional order for the speeches is Father of the Bride, Groom then Best Man, if the bride wishes to talk she does so after the groom. Remind your clients not to be tempted to overindulge in alcohol; this gives false courage with speeches invariably ending in disaster.

## FATHER OF THE BRIDE

- Welcome to grooms parents, relatives of both families and friends
- Say how proud you are of your daughter
- Tell some stories about events leading up to the wedding
- Any childhood stories about bride
- Congratulations to groom
- Happiness at daughter marrying into groom's family
- Confidence in their future together
- A few words of wisdom for a happy future as man and wife
- Ask all guests to join you in wishing the bride & groom much happiness for the future.

## GROOM

- Thank the bride's father for his kind words & toast, could add proud to be his son-in-law etc. Maybe mention how her family have taken you in like a son.
- Reiterate how you are enjoying the day so far – so nice to have all your friends and family in one room together.
- Thank the bride's parents for bringing her up so well.
- Thank the guests for coming, their good wishes & gifts
- Thank the best men, ushers & bridesmaids
- Mention how you met bride, first impressions, who made first move etc
- Say to the bride (you could say "my wife") how lovely she looks, how you are fortunate to be marrying her, looking forward to the future as husband and wife etc.
- Few words about best man and why you choose him
- Hand out gifts to relevant people.
- Toast the bridesmaids – could say "before I hand you over to the best man I would like to toast the bridesmaids."





## BEST MAN

- Thank the bride and groom for their gifts and compliments to ‘the team’ of bridesmaids & ushers etc.
- Read any telegrams and other messages from invited guests unable to attend the wedding.
- Make a point of addressing the couple, and especially of talking to and about the bride, mention how lucky the groom is to marry her etc.
- Say how you were honoured to be the best man.
- Tell some behind-the-scenes stories about preparing for the wedding - especially any amusing incidents, narrowly averted disasters etc.
- Your material should be funny without being nasty, risqué without being offensive. Props are often used with stories - or hints from the stag night.
- Tell guests how the bride & groom met.
- Level the mockery with some sincerity. Talk about how you met the groom, how you came to be best mates, how much you really think of him, your perspective on the relationship between bride & groom, your best wishes for their future together etc.
- Inform guests of the evening schedule, i.e. music will start at 8p.m buffet will be at 10pm, if there have been any instructions from the wedding breakfast venue i.e. please vacate the room so it can be set up for the evening.
- Conclude with a toast to the bride and groom.



## SAME SEX MARRIAGE / MODERN ALTERNATIVES

- All the suggestions above are based on a very traditional, heterosexual wedding. But what if you are organising a same sex wedding? Here are some thoughts for you to consider.
- Parents of the Bride / Groom. It seems crazy that in the year 2020 it is still only the Father of the bride that gets to give a speech. Why can't both Mum and Dad give a speech?
- And why not have both sets of parents giving a speech?
- Why does it need to be a best man? What if there is a best woman for example? What if both bride and groom have a best man/woman? Why not have both giving a speech?
- Instead of traditional speeches why not have an open mic session!
- And top of my list is having a bride give a speech.

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