

## 17 Tips to Help you Deliver a Memorable Wedding Speech

1. It's time to celebrate! The Big Day has arrived! Time to give guests, from both families, the opportunity to meet and greet. You can create the perfect atmosphere for this through the wedding speeches.
2. Why make a speech? Firstly to congratulate the newly married couple on their vows. Secondly to give thanks to those people, who have taken an active part in the proceedings. Thirdly to enlighten and entertain. It's an ideal opportunity to add humour and fun to what could otherwise be a long-winded and tedious time.
3. Balance your speech. It should be sincere but also provide an element of entertainment for guests. Delivered correctly, speeches are an important element of a successful wedding.
4. Marriages are a commitment with a solemn element, however they are meant to be happy occasions so resist lengthy, boring procedures after the official ceremony has passed. Short, amusing speeches from the best man, groom and bride's father are more than sufficient for most audiences. If you wish to have more formality the bride, maid of honour etc can be added to the list of those speaking.
5. The running order of the speeches is not set in stone. Here's a popular timetable:
  - a. The master of ceremonies or best man calls on the father of the bride to propose a toast to the bride and groom. The bride's father then welcomes the guests before saying a few words about his daughter.
  - b. The groom replies by thanking his parents and normally concludes with a toast to the bridesmaids and the presentation of small gifts to them of his appreciation.
  - c. The best man then replies on behalf of the bridesmaids and sets the tone for the remainder of the day with a short, humorous speech.
6. Twenty is plenty, both for popular new road signage and for the total time needed for wedding speeches. For three speakers, therefore, the duration of each should be around seven minutes. Experience has shown that the guests will have an attention span of around seven minutes. One or two main points in a talk are ample material for each of the speakers.
7. Let me tell you about notes.... you need only one single index card. [Read More:](#) Eilidh's Expert Speaking Tips
8. Speeches normally come after the meal and before the cutting of the cake. Know the place and approximate time in the proceedings when you will be expected to speak. Remember around of half of the audience are likely to have no idea who you are so begin by identifying yourself. Speak clearly and slowly to assist the audience to digest your masterpiece.
9. Resist alcohol before giving your speech. One drink may assist in helping you relax, whereas two can seriously impair your judgment and overall performance.
10. Alienate no-one. Avoid making fun of anything associated with religion or politics, as there is a very good chance someone, somewhere in the audience, will end up being offended.
11. Be natural; speak as you do with friends in polite company and, if possible, do it from the heart. Create empathy, showing you are a caring; emotional person always goes down well with audiences.
12. Providing you don't cause any embarrassment, attempt to include stories that involve guests at the reception. People like amusing stories in which they are included. It is all about building a rapport with your audience.
13. Comment on something that happened at the church or reception and the guests will marvel at your ability to be spontaneous and observant. It doesn't need to be hugely funny. If they feel part of your humorous ad lib, their laughter will be loud and contagious.
14. If possible, throw off the constraints of a 'prepared speech' by interacting with light-hearted banter that always comes from a happy and perhaps slightly tipsy audience. Get the tone and pace of your talk right and you will have the audience eating out of your hand.
15. If you are speaking but are not down to give a toast, I have found that an '*So, here's again to the happy couple*' can be useful in letting the guests know you have finished and gives them an excuse to have another quick sip of something chilled and sparkling!
16. The wedding celebration is for your enjoyment too. Prepare your material well in advance. Preparation and planning promise perfect performance. Get to a point where you feel you know your material without having to refer to notes. It is not essential to get it word perfect. Relax, be natural, don't try too hard and there is every possibility your speech will be a fantastic success, admired and enjoyed by all.
17. Weddings involve lots of 'kissing.' Your wedding speech should be KISS-ed too - **keep it short and sweet**. Do your seven minutes then stop. Leave them wanting more. If you need help in putting together your speech just call or drop me a line. I can also recommend an excellent master of ceremonies for your event.