

Tips for delivering a speech

Speeches are among the highlights of a wedding reception, so it's important to get them right.

The key speeches are usually delivered by the groom, best man and the bride's father, and each has a slightly different function. Speeches are usually a mixture of humor, sentiment, compliments and messages of thanks.

Getting the balance right is essential and can make or break a wedding speech.

Relax

It's natural to be nervous before delivering a wedding speech, and even those used to public speaking will experience anxiety.

Keeping things simple is one of the key tips for delivering a wedding speech. Take deep breaths to calm your nerves, and speak loudly and clearly so that all the guests can hear you.

If using a microphone, make sure you know how to operate it before standing to deliver your speech. Any comedy moments should be intentional, with guests laughing with you and not at you!

Prepare

Writing a wedding speech can be daunting. Research, preparation and planning are the keys to success.

Begin preparing the speech weeks before the wedding day, and don't get caught out at the last moment. Every speaker should have several stories and anecdotes to share, so begin researching these well in advance.

Always consider the

audience you will be speaking to, and make sure all material is relevant and of interest. Never set out to embarrass or offend anyone.

Time It

Once you have some stories to share, write them out and time how long it takes to read them. If you are a confident speaker, 10 minutes is a good time aim to deliver the whole speech.

If you want to be brief, three to five minutes is acceptable. One of the worst mistakes is to speak for too long, and lose the interest of your audience.

Consider Props

Props can bring additional interest to a wedding speech. A slideshow of photographs can be highly entertaining.

For example, showing photographs of the bride and groom as babies and children is always very well received.

Remember the boundaries of good taste, and do not show photographs which may offend.

Stay Focused

Keeping a clear head is essential when delivering a wedding speech.

Weddings generally involve alcohol, and it's important not to partake too early.

Drinking before delivering a speech is one of the worst mistakes you can make, and it's something that will be remembered for years to come.



Delivering a wedding speech is actually an honor, and it's something you should look forward to doing. If you follow these tips, you should be confident in delivering an entertaining speech to be proud of.



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