

How to prepare and give a Wedding Toast or Speech

A well-prepared toast or speech is a wonderful addition to a wedding celebration. Here are some tips to help you prepare and give a great speech.

Keep your toast or speech short, between 3 and 5 minutes is best. (Speaking at a moderate pace, you'll need approximately 75 words for each minute.)

► *Prepare your speech in sections...*

1. **INTRODUCTION...** BRIEFLY introduce yourself to the audience and BRIEFLY identify your relationship to the bride and groom. Example: "Hello everyone, my name is Fred Wilson and I've known Harry since the 3rd grade."
2. **SEGUE #1...** This is where you create a bridge from your introduction to lead in to your speech. Example: "I'm not a fortune-teller, however I knew that when Harry met Sally, they had a very strong connection."
3. **BODY...** Come up with a few (3 to 5) interesting points about the bride and groom that you can share with the audience during your speech. Keep it simple. Think about how the couple met, why they're perfect together or how great their families are.
4. **SEGUE #2...** Create another bridge from the body of your speech to lead in to your conclusion. Example: "And so here we are today, celebrating the union of Harry and Sally."
5. **CONCLUSION...** Wrap up your speech with a heart-felt sentiment or thought. A short, appropriate quote is good. Avoid clichés.
6. **TOAST...** Be sure to ask everyone to raise their glass and join in a toast as you wish Harry and Sally a lifetime of love, luck and happiness.

► *Make sure the bride and groom are the subjects of your speech...*

It's about them, however this is not the place to take a trip down memory lane. Keep your speech upbeat and friendly with lots of praise and positive thoughts. A reference to the bride or grooms mother, father, brother, sister or family is good if you are close to one or all of them. Humor is fine, but should be used sparingly and only when appropriate. Avoid honeymoon jokes, obscure references, or inside comments.



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