

wedding speeches

for the

*Best Man and
Groomsman*



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Introduction

One of the most anticipated events of any wedding reception is the best man's speech. Thoughtful and witty best men will leave their audience laughing, crying, and remembering what it is that they love so much about the groom. Dull or insipid best men will bore the audience; and add nothing to the reception.

If you truly care about your best friend and you want his wedding to be a success, then you will make sure your speech is good. Not only will it add some levity and some emotion to the reception's atmosphere, but it will also leave indelible impressions in all the minds of the wedding-goers.

Now, when creating a best man's speech, you must walk two fine lines. The first line divides humor and sentiment. Not only do you want to tell stories and anecdotes that will make people tear up, but you will also want to make them laugh. And this is exactly what they will expect from any good best man's speech.

The second line divides good anecdotes and appropriate material. A good anecdote should be telling, funny, and possibly embarrassing for the groom. It might contain material that he hasn't told anyone before, but it certainly should be something that would jeopardize his marriage, humiliate him in front of friends and family, or completely change how his mother and father view him.

Of course, walking these two lines successfully can be difficult. And this is where a good template can come in handy. Fortunately for you, this book provides exactly that: a set of indispensable templates that you can use to craft the perfect best man or groomsman's speech.

Note that a best man's speech is usually a vital part of the reception; whereas a groomsman's speech will often be given in the form of a short, impromptu toast. We will cover both styles in here, leaving you with a diverse assortment of options to choose from.

With that said, there are just two additional things to keep in mind. The first is that you will need to edit whichever template you choose. In addition to simply adding names and stories, you will want to modify them to make sure they match your tone and any other goals you have for the delivery.

Finally, you must remember to practice. Practicing is what makes the difference between a good speech delivery and a stuttering, confusing disaster. So spend time rehearsing once you've crafted your template.

Best Man and Groomsman's Speeches

As I mentioned before, writing a good best man's speech involves some wit, humor, and a vast store of anecdotes. It also involves trading off objectives and walking a fine line between funny and simply inappropriate.

Another two important components of any best man or groomsman's speech are tone and mood. Without these two elements, it will lack direction and emotion. For these reasons, I have divided all of the speeches into categories along these lines. Each speech broadly falls into the "sentimental," "funny," or "sentimental/funny" category. Remember to keep this in mind when selecting your template.

Best Man's Speech (Sentimental) I

Today, we're here to celebrate the union of [bride's name] and [groom's name]. For those of you who don't know me, I've been [groom's] friend for [number of years you have been friends with groom]. I've known him even before he met [bride's name].

Now, I'll admit it. I didn't always see [groom's name] as someone who would settle down. Don't get me wrong. He's a great guy, and I always knew he wanted to get married and wanted to have a family, but let's just say that he hasn't always been good with the ladies.

What do I mean, you ask? I'll tell you. [Tell humorous anecdote about something the groom did that might make him appear unattractive to women. You might mention something that he did on a double date that you saw in person or something he told you about that was especially funny. Keep it appropriate.]

Of course, I'm just joking. I knew that [groom's name] would find special person someday. I just wasn't sure when it would be.

And then it happened. He met [bride's name] and the search was over. This time, things were different. He wasn't unsure whether or not the relationship had legs. He wasn't bored with the relationship after a few months, as he had often gotten with other girlfriends in the past.

No, this one was for real. And how could it not be? Just look at her. <Point to the bride.> Isn't she stunning? Isn't she everything a sane man would want? And thankfully, [name of groom] realized that and didn't let her slip away.

Now, a mere [number of years bride and groom have been together], here I am, delivering a speech at their wedding. And I couldn't be happier for you both.

I'm glad my long time best friend, [name of groom], has finally found the woman of his dreams and is settling down with her. And I'm glad that [name of bride], who is now one of my closest friends in the world, has also found a great man to spend her life with.

Congratulations to both you! I hope that your marriage brings you true happiness and fulfillment.

Best Man's Speech (Sentimental/Funny) I

You'll have to forgive me if I'm a little bit sluggish with my delivery. I was out late last night and I had a little too much to drink. To be honest, I wanted to turn it at 8. After all, this is an important day for me and I knew I would be delivering this speech. But I had no choice. [Groom's name] is my buddy and he needed some company.

With that out of the way, I have an important message to deliver here today. Marriage is a union between two devoted, loving, and caring individuals. It isn't shortsighted. It isn't temperamental. So, [groom's name], I hope you're listening, since you have a lot of work to do.

In all seriousness, [groom's name], you know how I feel about you. You've been my best friend for as long as I can remember. Whenever I needed something, I always felt like I could come to you. And whenever I needed advice, I knew you would be there for me. I'm happy to call you my friend. And I can't say enough good things about you.

And your new wife—she's beautiful. Just look at her, everyone. She's radiant. Over the course of the past few years, we've grown closer, too, and I've come to know her like I know you. [Name of bride], so you know, I consider you a close friend, and I want the best for you, too. And I think the best is my friend, [groom's name].

I wish nothing but the best for you two as you embark on your journey into matrimony. I hope that you can achieve the bliss and satisfaction that comes with a stable home life and your love for a life-long partner.

Best Man's Speech (Sentimental/Funny) II

Let me start by thanking everyone for coming here tonight. On behalf of both myself and of the bride and groom, we all appreciate that you were able to be here tonight and to partake in this wonderful ceremony.

For those of you who don't know me, try to pay attention better. I'm the best man. It's a pretty important role in the ceremony. I'll assume you've either done a very good job taking advantage of the open bar or that you skipped the ceremony altogether and hit up the party.

But let's be serious for a moment. I'm here to tell you more about my friends, [groom's name and bride's name]. So let me start with [groom's name]. Before [bride's name] came into the picture, we were just two single guys, hanging out, and dating around. Women came and they went, but few relationships looked promising.

Finally, one day, [groom's name] decided that he was sick of this. He was getting old, he told me, and he needed to find a suitable bride before none were left. And for those of you who know, [groom], you understand that when he sets his mind to something, he does it.

So, from then on, he was determined to find that perfect woman. But things didn't necessarily get off to a good start. [Tell anecdotes about groom's dating disasters and failure to find the perfect woman.]

But that all changed on the day [groom's name] met [bride's name]. When we met up later that day, I could see it in his eyes. He was a changed man. He had finally found the perfect woman—and it was just a matter of explaining the situation to her.

Knowing how proficient [groom's name] was at destroying relationships, I gave it some time to see whether or not [bride's name] would run in fear or stick around to find out what he had to offer.

To my surprise, she stuck. This beautiful, intelligent, funny woman—the stunning bride you see today—stuck around. She, too, knew that they were a perfect match, and that it would only be a matter of time before they married.

Now, that takes us to today. Today, [bride's name] is my good friend, too. And I want nothing but the best for the both.

So, congratulations, you two. May you both spend the rest of your lives together, being happy, and loving one another.

Best Man's Speech (Funny) I

Life offers us few certainties. One is death and another is taxes. Until [insert appropriate date], I think that [groom's name] never getting married was the third on that list.

Look. I'm sorry. He's a nice guy. He's successful professionally. He's not even terrible looking—although, let's face it, [bride's name] is way out of his league, and he simply got lucky there. But no matter how hard I tried to picture it, I just couldn't see him settling down.

Maybe it's because he doesn't settle. [Give funny anecdote about something the groom did not settle for. It should not be related to dating or marriage.]

Or maybe it's something else. I can't put my finger on it, but I just never saw him settling down.

Well, one day that all changed. [Tell story about how the groom met the bride and what he told you after they met.] Yes, meeting [bride's name] changed everything.

[Groom's name] stopped sounding picky and started sounding interested. He knew that what he had in this woman was amazing—like nothing he had ever experienced before. After mere weeks, he was deeply in love; and there was no way out.

And you know what? He never turned back. And here he is today with his beautiful bride. Could there be a more perfect match?

So let that be a lesson to all of you loveless old maids here tonight. No matter how bad you think your situation is, it can't be as bad as [groom's name]'s; and he ended up with what he wanted most.

And with that, I will close. [Groom's name] and [bride's name], you two are both amazing people. Alone, you can accomplish great things. Alone, you are funny, intelligent, charming people.

But, together, you're so much better. You belong together. If there's such a thing as fate, it brought you were you are today.

So, congratulations! I love you both; and I hope that the love you two share grows and becomes more robust as the marriage ages.

Best Man's Speech (Funny) II

Marriage is a wonderful thing, they say. It's a bond between two people that surpasses any other commitment we can make in our lives—with the exception, perhaps, of the ones we make to our children.

When [bride's name] and [groom's name] decided to get married, they also decided to make this commitment. They decided that they wanted to live out their lives together, in love, and with the mutual goal of partnership and to raise a family together.

In fact, when you think about how big the commitment is, it can actually be scary. But from talking to [bride's name] and [groom's name], I can tell there is no fear in their hearts. And why is that? Because they've got no other options. Let's face it: neither one is getting any younger.

Additionally, they're two of a kind. Truly, it would be difficult to find anyone else like them. [Tell funny story about how the couple shares some strange quirk that you have observed].

And that's not all. [Tell another light-hearted, but not embarrassing story about the couple].

Yes, it's clear that they're meant for each other. And it's clear that they're in love.

In all seriousness, I think you two will be great. And with that, I will wish you a long, lasting marriage, filled with love, and filled with mutual joy. To the bride and the groom.

Best Man's Speech (Funny) III

If I could have everyone's attention for a moment, I would like to say something about the bride and groom. They're two of my best friends in the world and I want to tell you a little more about who they are, how they came to know each other, and how they fell in love.

Let me start off with my buddy of [number of years] years, [name of groom]. He's truly a great guy. If you searched all over [city you live in], you'd have a hard time finding someone who is kinder, more patient, and more understanding than [groom's name]. But once you crossed the border into [nearby town], it probably wouldn't be difficult. So it's a good thing [bride's name] didn't travel much.

But in all seriousness, for those of you who don't know how these two met, let me let you in on the story. It all started back [time when they started dating]. You see, these two aren't exactly what you would call sociable. They kept to themselves and had little interest in dating. But that all changed when they met each other.

[Tell humorous story about when they met each other or about something that happened shortly after.]

[Groom's name] is not one to settle down. As long as I've known him, the one constant about him is that he needs change. He likes to move to new apartments. He likes to live in new cities. He likes to go to different restaurants, and to even change jobs occasionally. That's just who he is.

But not anymore. Finally, this beautiful woman, the bride you see sitting over there <point to bride> has tamed him. When I talk to him now, he is truly a changed man. All he wants is a peaceful life with his bride.

In life, there are few things as beautiful as a strong, lasting marriage. I hope that your marriage, [name of bride] and [name of groom] remains strong and endures all of the battles that you will encounter.

Groomsman's Toast (Short) I

For those of you who don't know me, I'm playing the part of a groomsman tonight, but I'm actually [groom's] best friend. I was initially offered the best man position, but I declined because I know how fragile [best man]'s ego is. I guess that's just how I am, though—selfless.

But in all seriousness, tonight is an important night. It's the night that we celebrate the union between this lovely woman and her unlikely choice for a husband, [groom's name]. Sure, some say she could have done better, but I still think this is an occasion to celebrate. Even if you settled, marriage is marriage.

With that said, I propose a toast for the bride and groom. May you grow old together, may you love each other more every day, and may you truly learn what it means to be in a lifelong partnership with another person. Cheers!

Groomsman's Toast (Short – Married Groomsman) II

For those of you who don't know me, my name is [your name]. I'm one of [groom's name]'s groomsmen tonight. And it truly chokes me up to be here and to see him marrying the woman of his dreams.

I married my beautiful wife [number of years ago you were married]. Since then, I have experienced all the emotions that come with a marriage. The ups and the downs. The joys and the sorrows. The shared love. The shared responsibility. And the shared plan for a future together.

All of these things have made my life so much better. And, today, I am glad that one of my closest friends, [name of groom], will finally be able to experience it with the woman of his dreams.

You two are truly a match for the ages. You make up for each other's deficits; and you fortify each other's strengths. You truly make each other better people in tangible ways; and I could not be happier for you both.

<Lift champagne flute.> To the bride and the groom—may you experience the joys of marriage together. May your love for each other grow each day. And may you always remember how special and significant this day was for each of your lives. Cheers!

Groomsman's Toast (Short – Married Groomsman) III

My name is [your name] and I was one of the groomsman tonight. I can't tell you what a pleasure it is for me to see my buddy, [name of groom] get married here tonight.

As a married man, I have learned what it means to be a long-lasting, loving relationship. I have experienced both the joys, responsibilities, and hardships that can sometimes come with marriage. And as an institution, I cannot endorse it any more than I do.

So, to my good friend, [groom's name], congratulations! You just entered into a life-long commitment that will ensure your happiness and the happiness of your wife.

I propose a toast to you and to your wonderful bride. To the love you share, to the bond between you, and to your future together. Cheers!

Groomsman's Toast (Short – Married Groomsman) IV

Let me start by saying that I have known the groom for [number of years]. And he has consistently been one of my best friends. No matter what I've needed, he's there for me. And it's clear that he's there for the other important people in his life, too.

To the [bride's name]—some may say that you could have done better. And looking at how beautiful you are tonight, there's no question in my mind that that's true. But if you had to settle for someone, [groom's name] isn't a bad choice.

To my buddy, [name of groom]—I'm sorry for saying that, but we all know it's true.

You're a lucky man; and a married man now, too. I hope that you are able to experience the love, the joy, and the excitement that can come with marriage; and that I have had in my own with [name of your wife].

With that, I propose that we toast the bride and groom. You two have come a long way together. And may you continue down that road towards love and happiness. Cheers!

Conclusion

If you've been picked as the best man for your friend's wedding, a lot rides on you. As I said earlier, you could add levity and humor to the atmosphere. You could inject emotion and tear-filled anecdotes. Or you could leave the entire room dry-eyed and bored.

So, for the sake of your friend, make sure that your best man's speech is great. And if you're a groomsman, be prepared to deliver an amazing toast. If the timing is right, you'll want to do it; and when you do it, you'll improve the mood of the entire reception.

From here, your path is entirely up to you. However, you should start by selecting a template, altering it to match your personality and speaking habits, and then polishing it up between now and the wedding.

Finally, you should always practice your best man's speech several times before you deliver it. Ideally, you should do this in front of 1-2 willing listeners (perhaps your wife or friends). Whatever you do, make sure that your delivery is smooth and measured by the time the big day arrives. If you do, your friend will be eternally grateful.

