



SPEECH!...

Apart from asking your girlfriend to be your wife there is probably nothing more daunting than the speech that you are inevitably expected to make at your wedding.

Well you might be able to take some comfort in knowing that you aren't the only one. The father of the bride and the best man are also expected to make a speech. So get together and work through the advice and guidelines below, which will help you to write and deliver a speech to remember.

There is something about speaking in public which makes even the most composed of us start to quake, our voices to tremble and our hearts to miss a beat. But fear not. Keeping in mind a

few simple rules, you, too, can write and deliver a speech, which will be remembered for all the right reasons!

There are no hard and fast rules as to when the speeches should take place. Traditionally they take place after the last course of your wedding breakfast, i.e. the wedding reception meal. The first person to speak should be the father of the bride, then the groom, then the best man. They traditionally follow each other, to allow the festivities to continue with the cutting of the cake.

General good advice to all speech givers is.....

1. Prepare ahead of time.
2. Keep it short, simple and to the point! No more than 5-10 minutes each depending on how good you are as a public speaker.
3. Write out the main points of your speech. Keep a notecard, which is clear and easy to refer to, even after a couple of glasses of Champagne! Do not get drunk before your speech. Plenty of time for that later!
4. Rehearse your speech a couple of times in front of a friend, in the mirror, on a tape recorder or using a video camera.
5. Learn from your mistakes; don't repeat, don't hesitate too much, don't wave your hands around too much, don't say anything you'll regret afterwards, and don't, don't say anything to upset anyone, even in jest!
6. Speak slowly and clearly so that everyone can hear, even the ones at the far end of the room.
7. Try and introduce a little appropriate humor. There's no better way of winning people over or ensuring that your speech is enjoyable.
8. Stand up straight and look authoritative.
9. Relax and smile.
10. If all of this is too much information think the three P's; Prepare, Please and Practice!

The Father of The Bride's Speech

It is traditional for the father of the bride - as the person who has paid for the wedding - to speak first. His task is to toast the bride and groom, welcome the groom into the family, and offer fatherly advice. He will speak on behalf of himself and his wife (if she's the mother of the bride).

Important things to include:

1. Praise for his daughter. Saying how proud he is of his daughter, saying how proud both he and her mother are of her, and her choice of husband.
2. Welcoming the groom into his family. Congratulating the groom on securing his daughter's hand in marriage and welcoming him into the family and extending a welcome to the groom's parents.
3. The body of the speech. This will include one or two funny and/or sentimental anecdotes, which illustrate the bride's character. Wishing the couple all the best for their future, a long and prosperous life together, children, health, wealth etc. and some advice on how to approach their married life together.