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Speaking Tips # 44 080527

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Prepare the Wedding Speech

Many wedding speakers believe that it's OK to not prepare their speech and the results are therefore often pretty poor. Others may be so nervous that they fall into an adrenaline haze, blocking their attempts at preparation. But nervousness subsides in inverse proportion to preparation. The more preparation, the less nervousness. Failure to prepare, however, is preparing for failure. Here are a few alternative preparation tips.

Guests

Find out how many guests are invited and how many of them you already know. Find out how many other guests plan to speak, in what order, and when it will be your turn. Also find out the best place to stand in the room to be heard and seen well.

The Speech

Become inspired and gather useful material by asking yourself the following ten questions:

1. How long have you known the bride and the groom? And how did you meet?
2. How did they meet? Were you involved?
3. How did the groom propose to the bride (or was it vice versa)?
What was the immediate reaction?
4. How long have they been a couple?
5. Do they have children?
6. What interests do they have in common?
7. What five words first pop up when you think of the bride?
And when you think of the groom?
8. What is, in your opinion, the funniest thing that has happened to the bride when the groom was present? And vice versa?
9. What is the funniest thing that has happened to the bride or the groom when you were present?
10. What are your wishes for the bride and the groom for the future?

Practice what you want to say in order to make the speech flow well, but avoid learning the words by heart. If you do, you may lose track as soon as you miss one of those words or sentences. Rather "speak from your heart". This will make it easier for you and, above all, safer and more personal.

Manuscript

Keep a manuscript with points (short headings for each section) in order to remember the speech structure but speak from your heart. There is no shame in having a manuscript. You can have it in your pocket, put it on the table in front or simply hold it in your hand.

Next Speaking Tips will give some advice on **what to avoid** in wedding speeches.

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