

- Remember to wait to be cued by the wedding planner or the catering manager before going up to the podium. You should also be provided with a timeline for the evening.
- Make sure you know how to pronounce every speakers' name.
- Practice smiling while speaking and allow your voice to boom across the room. If nothing else, this will fill you with the confidence to believe that the room belongs to you!
- Arrive early. You will need to get an understanding of where you will be speaking from, lighting, how to use the microphone, and go over your notes.
- Remember to speak directly into the microphone.
- You don't have to stand at the podium for your welcome speech or throughout the night. Feel free to walk around (if you have a wireless microphone), it will make the speech come across as effortless.
- Be animated. The more personality and charm you project, the better. Be witty, tell a few jokes, take a stab at the bride and groom a bit, but all within reason and keep it PG. It will lighten the mood of the evening.
- One liners and jokes are welcome, however, if you are not a stand up comic, then practice, practice, practice!
- Keep things short. Try to keep the welcome speech to no longer than 3-5 minutes, and introductions of speakers to less than 1 minute.

Sample Script

Invitation to be seated

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen. As dinner will be commencing shortly, may we invite everyone to kindly take your seats. Thank you."

Once everyone is sat, Introduction of the bridal party

Welcome Speech

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen, friends and loved ones, welcome to (Bride's Name) and (Groom's Name) wedding reception. My name is "_____" and I have the pleasure of being your Emcee for tonight's celebration. To kick off the night, I'd like everyone to stand and formally welcome Mr & Mrs (insert Groom's Name).

**If doing a formal bridal party introduction of each bridesmaid/groomsmen and family, the above needs to be modified.

After the bride and groom sit at the head table, Segway into a few key things about the evening.

Talking points:

- Tell the bride she looks beautiful
- Speak a bit about how you know the bride and/or groom
- Make a point of where the washrooms are
- Inform guests of any key highlights to come for the evening (i.e. band, late night station, etc)
- Add in a joke or a quote before you end the speech – see list of samples below.

End the welcome speech with something like – "Bride" and "Groom" have planned a wonderful evening for you, including a few speeches throughout the evening, a fabulous dinner, and of course, an epic party to follow dinner. But before we start off the festivities, "Groom", I'd like you to look into "Bride's" eyes and place your hands on top of hers. With all your friends and family present, we are witnesses to this very special moment...."Groom"...take it all in my friend, cherish this moment, (Pause for a

moment), because this is the last time you will ever have the upper hand! Cheers to the bride and groom! Enjoy first course everyone!”

Introduction of the Families Speech

“Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you are enjoying dinner so far. I promised a few speeches throughout the night. I know you were hoping that you’d only see my beautiful face tonight (pause), however, there are some special people that would like to say a few words. At this time, I would like to call upon “Bride’s Parents/Family name” to give a few words of inspiration to the newlyweds.”

MC to stay near podium. After Bride’s family have spoken, “May I call upon “Groom’s Parents / Family” to come up to the mic and share some words of wisdom to the bride and groom.”

After the speeches are complete, “Ladies and gentlemen, please enjoy second course.”

Introduction of the Best Man/Maid of Honour’s Speech

“Ladies and gentlemen, may I please have your attention. This is where the evening either gets really emotional or really funny or perhaps both. I’d like to take this time to introduce the “Bride’s” best friend “Insert Name” to the mic to say a few words.”

MC to stay near podium. After the Maid of Honour’s speech. “At this time, I’d like to call up the third best looking man in the room, “Groom” is the first of course, but naturally I’m second! So without further a due, ladies and gentlemen, please welcome “Best Man”.

After the speeches are complete. “Ladies and gentlemen, please enjoy the dessert”.

Introduction of Bride and Groom’s Speech

“We have heard some beautiful words of wisdom from both families and the best friends of “Bride” and “Groom”. But we haven’t heard from the most important people of the night. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to introduce “Bride” and “Groom” to the mic to share a few words.”

After the Bride and Groom’s thank you speech, MC to announce the cutting of the cake. After the cutting of the cake, “Ladies and Gentlemen, it’s been a pleasure being your Emcee this evening, but my duties have come to an end and I think I’ve earned myself a drink! But before we attack the poor bartenders, I’d like to welcome “Bride” and “Groom” to the dance floor for their first dance as husband and wife!.

After First dance, DJ/Band can introduce father/daughter dance followed by mother/son dance.

Example Quotes for Toasts

Here is a toast to lying, cheating, stealing, and drinking:

If you must lie, lie with each other.

If you must cheat, may you cheat death.

If you must steal, steal your lover's heart.

If you drink, drink deeply of the joy of your new life together.

"Bride" you must remember, men are like fine wines, they start out as grapes and it is your job to stamp on them until they mature into something that you would like to have after dinner. By coincidence, women too are like a fine wine...They start out fresh, fruity and intoxicating to the mind...And then they turn full bodied with age, and eventually give you a splitting headache!

When the one whose hand you're holding, is the one who holds your heart
When the one whose eyes you gaze into, gives your hopes and dreams their start
When the one you think of first and last, is the one who holds you tight
And the things you plan together, make the whole world seem just right
When the one whom you believe in, puts their faith and trust in you
You've found the one and only love, you'll share your whole life through.

You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams. ~Dr. Seuss

It doesn't matter if the guy is perfect or the girl is perfect, as long as they are perfect for each other –
Good Will Hunting

"Soul mates. It's extremely rare, but it exists. It's sort of like twin souls tuned into each other." – What Dreams May Come

The best love is the kind that awakens the soul; that makes us reach for more, that plants the fire in our hearts and brings peace to our minds. That's what I hope to give you forever. ~The Notebook

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person. ~ Germaine Greer.

There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.~ Martin Luther.