

THE ULTIMATE WEDDING SPEECH Checklist

Your simple guide to creating a heartfelt,
natural and unforgettable wedding speech

BEFORE YOU START WRITING

- Decide who is giving a speech (there are no rules, choose what feels right for you)
- Agree roughly how many speeches there will be
- Choose when speeches will happen (before or after the meal)
- Set a relaxed time limit (aim for 5 to 7 minutes each)
- Think about the tone, heartfelt, funny, relaxed, or a mix

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING SPEECH

- Start with a short introduction (who you are and your connection)
- Thank key people (guests, family, anyone who helped)
- Choose 2 to 3 meaningful memories or stories
- Include something personal and genuine
- Add light humour if it feels natural
- Keep it inclusive so everyone in the room feels part of it
- Avoid anything that could embarrass or upset anyone
- Think about how you want people to feel when you finish

WRITING YOUR SPEECH

- Write in your own voice, not how you think it should sound
- Keep sentences simple and easy to say out loud
- Avoid long paragraphs
- Read it back and trim anything unnecessary
- Aim for natural, not perfect

PRACTISING & PREPARING

- Practise out loud (not just in your head)
- Time your speech to keep within 5 to 7 minutes
- Adjust anything that feels awkward when spoken
- Practise in front of someone you trust (if you can)
- Prepare cue cards or notes (do not rely on memory alone)

ON THE DAY

- Take a deep breath before you start
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Pause if you need to, especially if emotions come up
- Make eye contact with your partner and guests
- Remember, everyone is on your side

FINISHING STRONG

- End with a clear, confident toast
- Keep it simple and easy for everyone to join in
- Smile, you've done it!

BONUS TIP (FROM YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER)

The best wedding speeches are not the most polished, they are the most real. The laughter, the tears, the little looks across the room... these are the moments you will treasure forever, and the ones that tell the real story of your day. If you'd love those moments captured naturally, you can view real weddings here:

<https://lucylouphotography.com/real-weddings-by-hampshire-wedding-photographer-lucylou-photography//>

WANT MORE RELAXED, NATURAL WEDDING ADVICE LIKE THIS?

Download more free planning guides and tips:

<https://lucylouphotography.com/helpful-resources/>

If you're still planning your wedding and looking for someone calm, experienced and friendly to capture it all, I'd love to hear from you. I've been photographing weddings for over 15 years, and my approach is all about natural moments, gentle guidance and helping couples feel completely at ease.

Get in touch to chat about your wedding plans:

<https://lucylouphotography.com/contact/>

Wishing you a joyful, relaxed and unforgettable wedding day.

Lucy - Lucylou Photography