



The Do Not's of a Best Man Speech.

You now have some ideas of what you want to include in your speech and you have researched structure and jokes. Have you researched the mistakes others have made? Well, here are some classic school boy errors. Try to avoid them.

Appearance and Posture.

When talking in public, especially in front of people you hardly know you need to look good! The first thing people will see is your appearance, don't slowly start to undress after the church ceremony, try and wait until you have delivered your speech. It might be cool to have that un-buttoned bow tie look that Frank Sinatra had in his shows but if you go too far you'll just end up looking like Rab 'C' Nesbit's poor cousin.

Don't start drinking too early, it might settle your nerves to have a small drink but don't get sloshed, there is nothing worse than a drunk person trying to deliver a speech and it will completely undermine your well planned speech.

Don't speak from a sitting position, stand up and face everyone, you will probably be on the same table as the Bride and Groom, don't direct your entire speech to them, direct it to the whole room. Don't fiddle with your notes or clothing. Don't keep your hands in your pockets, maybe hold a glass of champagne. Stand up straight and look everyone in the eye. 70% of how people perceive you will come from the way you stand and look.

Your Voice.

Speak as loud as you can with a strong voice and be purposeful in your delivery. There is nothing worse than someone who speaks quietly or too fast in a speech. We have all been there, during church or at a meeting when the person speaking to a room full of people can't be heard or speaks so fast they sound like a tommy gun, we just turn off and go to sleep. Unfortunately, you are not in a forgiving environment, there are so many expectations from the best man. Everyone is sitting there expecting you to entertain them, if you start to stutter or can't be heard then you have lost them.

When you're introduced and the moment has arrived, don't panic. Stand up straight and look everyone in the eye. Have a massive smile on your face, even if your shaking from nerves, don't show it! Imagine you're an actor and you will remove yourself from the scary scenario and you can act your way through the speech. Take a moment to compose yourself and start with your ice breaker. As soon as you show everyone who's boss and that you are fantastic, the room will relax and then you can enjoy the rest of the speech.

The Bride

Never, never, never crack any jokes at the bride's expense, especially rude or crude ones. You were probably asked to be the best man a few months before the wedding and if you're totally honest, you have been preparing for only a few weeks. The bride has been waiting for this day for her entire life, ever since she was five and dressed up in her mothers wedding shoes. One unthoughtful compromising rude joke from you and you have ruined her entire day. Remember, its not your day, its hers!

Stick to the nice stuff, compliment her and her family, tell everyone how lovely she is and say that the groom is lucky to have her. You won't go far wrong with this.

Tell everyone that the bride and grooms mothers have worked really hard getting the room looking so great and that their efforts haven't gone unnoticed, thank the dads for the bar bill (if there is one, don't embarrass yourself or the dads if it's not a free bar). The rule 'Do your Research' particularly applies to this section of your speech.

The Groom

The groom is much less hassle and much easier for you to speak about, after all you know him much better than the bride (maybe). Research your jokes and don't compromise him, no one in the room will thank you for making up sex toy jokes just for a laugh, nor will they be impressed when you mention previous girlfriends.

There may be kids in the room so keep it clean and tasteful, you're not down the pub now, you're in a room full of the brides and grooms family who probably won't see the funny side of your best friends sexual exploits whilst at college.

But this doesn't mean you can't have fun, just think about your jokes before you add them to your script.

The Toast & Closing Lines

This is the cornerstone of your Best Man speech and is where you should receive your loudest ovation. Here you will say some brief closing lines followed by your Best Man Toast and then it is all over and you can enjoy your day in earnest.

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Thank everyone for listening, especially the bride and groom. They were probably really worried about what you might say especially if you have been winding them up before hand with horror stories so hopefully your speech will come as a really nice surprise. If you have delivered it right and it had all the right content it should have really impressed them.

You should look to make this a big conclusion, and always leave them wanting more. He is your Best Friend and he trusts that you will do him proud. Think of Mel Gibson in Braveheart, that famous speech on the battlefield and you will have the entire room standing and clapping, they will love you for being such a great best man!

And Remember! Do your Research!

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