

8. Speeches normally come after the meal and before the cutting of the cake. Know the place and approximate time in the proceedings when you will be expected to speak. Remember around half of the audience are likely to have no idea who you are so begin by identifying yourself. Speak clearly and slowly to assist the audience to digest your masterpiece.
9. Resist alcohol before giving your speech. One drink may assist in helping you relax, whereas two can seriously impair your judgment and overall performance.
10. Alienate no-one. Avoid making fun of anything associated with religion or politics, as there is a very good chance someone, somewhere in the audience, will end up being offended.
11. Be natural; speak as you do with friends in polite company and, if possible, do it from the heart. Create empathy, showing you are a caring; emotional person always goes down well with audiences.
12. Providing you don't cause any embarrassment, attempt to include stories that involve guests at the reception. People like amusing stories in which they are included. It is all about building a rapport with your audience.
13. Comment on something that happened at the church or reception and the guests will marvel at your ability to be spontaneous and observant. It doesn't need to be hugely funny. If they feel part of your humorous ad lib, their laughter will be loud and contagious.
14. If possible, throw off the constraints of a 'prepared speech' by interacting with light-hearted banter that always comes from a happy and perhaps slightly tipsy audience. Get the tone and pace of your talk right and you will have the audience eating out of your hand.
15. If you are speaking but are not down to give a toast, I have found that an "So, here's again to the happy couple" can be useful in letting the guests know you have finished. It also gives them an excuse to have another quick sip of something chilled and sparkling!
16. The wedding celebration is for your enjoyment too. Prepare your material well in advance. Preparation and planning promise perfect performance. Get to a point where you feel you know your material without having to refer to notes. It is not essential to get it word perfect. Relax, be natural, don't try too hard and there is every possibility your speech will be a fantastic success, admired and enjoyed by all.
17. Weddings involve lots of 'kissing.' Your wedding speech should be KISS-ed too

Keep It Short 'n Sweet. Deliver your seven minutes then stop. Leave the guests wanting more. If you need help in putting together you just call or drop me a line.

Ever Positive,
Eilidh
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