

# Wedding reception speeches and toasts

## TOAST TO THE BRIDE (AND GROOM)

This toast is made immediately following the cutting of the cake, which is announced by whoever is proposing the toast, or the Master of Ceremonies.

"Ladies and Gentlemen . . ."

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to have been asked to propose a toast to the bride and groom. I have had the pleasure of knowing the bride and her family for many years, and have shared their joy in watching her mature from childhood into beautiful womanhood.

Although it is only recently that I have gained the acquaintance of our groom, I think that we can all agree that he and his bride share many fine qualities and virtues that make for cooperation, mutual respect and understanding — those essential ingredients for a full and happy marriage.

(Perhaps, at this point, give a brief outline of the bride's life, as you have known it — inject some humour, e.g. an amusing story of her childhood or youth. Point out some of the bride's accomplishments, capabilities, charm and wit, her family background, etc. — what a lucky man the groom is!)

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise, charge your glasses and join me in wishing the bride and groom much success and happiness. "To the Bride!"

## RESPONSE BY THE GROOM

"Ladies and gentlemen . . . On behalf of my wife and myself, I thank you for your gracious toast to our health and happiness. We really appreciate your kind

words and good wishes. I totally agree with all your comments about my bride. I agree that I am a very lucky man to have . . . as my wife . . . and I am delighted to have all of you here today to share with us in our joy and happiness, on this most important and happy day. (Perhaps inject something personal here).

There are so many people to whom we want to express our profound thanks and gratitude, that it is difficult to know just where to begin. But, I must make mention of my best man. He helped me in too many ways to adequately enumerate. Thanks! We are particularly grateful to . . . The Clergyman, for his guidance and inspiration, not only during today's ceremony, but with the many preliminary arrangements. Thank you! This is also an appropriate time for me to express my gratitude to my parents for having so unselfishly guided me through the years. Thank you!

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my "new parents" for all their help in the past few months, and especially for having given me my lovely bride. Thank you!

**TOAST TO THE BRIDESMAIDS**  
And now, it is my pleasant duty to propose a toast to the bridesmaids. It seems unnecessary for me to comment on their charming appearance — that speaks for itself — but I know that my wife wishes to express her thanks to them for the efficient way they have carried out their duties, and for the great assistance they have given her.

It gives me great pleasure to ask you to join in this toast to the health and

future happiness of the bridesmaids.

## RESPONSE BY THE BEST MAN

I agree with the groom's remarks about our lovely bridesmaids. They appreciate having been chosen as bridesmaids today, and on their behalf I would like you to accept their thanks for the enthusiastic manner in which you have honoured the toast.

(Now, the best man reads, or refers to the telegrams that have been received).

## TOAST TO THE PARENTS OF THE BRIDE

"Ladies and gentlemen . . . I would like you to drink a toast to the parents of the bride. Mr. and Mrs. . . . will be known to many of you. It has been my privilege to have known them for a long time and I value their friendship very highly. It is only natural that they should have raised a daughter as charming and accomplished as . . . and it must give them great satisfaction to see her so happily married. May Mr. and Mrs. . . . enjoy continued good health and happiness!"

## RESPONSE BY THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE

"Ladies and gentlemen . . . My wife and I have been deeply moved by . . . 's generous remarks, and we both wish to thank you for your good wishes. Our daughter has fully justified all our hopes for her and we feel confident that she will make . . . a good wife. We have equal confidence in our new son-in-law and we are glad to welcome him into our family. Again, thank you for your good wishes."

## TOAST TO THE PARENTS OF THE GROOM

"Ladies and gentlemen . . . It is now my pleasure to

propose a toast to the parents of the groom. Mr. and Mrs. . . . have earned the respect of all of us who have been fortunate enough to have known them. If our bride and groom follow their example, they are sure to go

through life similarly honoured and loved. May Mr. and Mrs. . . . enjoy continued good health and happiness.

## RESPONSE BY THE FATHER OF THE GROOM

My wife and I thank you for

your generous remarks. We are both delighted in our son's choice of wife and we have no doubts about their future happiness together. Thank you all, for the pleasure you have given us by being present on this happy occasion.



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## A MODERN TRADITION, THE BRIDAL SHOWER

When an excited group of bridesmaids-to-be get together to have a shower, the least likely place to find them is in the bathroom.

They are more likely to be in one of their homes, preparing to surprise a lucky bride-to-be with a shower of gifts.

Bridal showers are meant to get the soon-to-be-wed woman off to a good start. Whether the shower adds to her trousseau, her linen closet or her kitchen cabinets, it is often one of the gayest parties to precede the wedding reception.

Showers are usually well-kept secrets, as half of the fun comes in surprising the bride. They may be small gatherings or all-out parties, depending on what the hostess decides.

A shower may occur at any time of day. Be it a brunch, an afternoon tea, an evening dinner or after-hours coffee and cake, the key is to plan it when the bride will least suspect it.

The shower is usually given by a member of the bridal party, a relative or a close friend. It is not considered proper for a member of the bride's immediate family to give the shower.

Shower gifts need not be extravagant or expensive. Rather, they should be helpful household necessities or other such items. The hostess may choose to give a theme to the shower — equipping the kitchen, filling the linen closet, armfuls of appliances, aids for the gardener — which helps make the gift selection easier.



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