

# *Mother of the Bride Speeches*

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## **Crafting your Speech**

This section will help you to craft your own speech and come up with something which will surely leave you with a sense of achievement.

### **Clarity of Mind**

Before you sit down to actually write your speech you need to make a few things clear in your mind:

- 1) What is the purpose of giving a speech – obviously the reason is you are the mother of the bride and want to express your love and good wishes for your daughter and future son-in-law?
- 2) What message do you want to give out to the family of son-in-law, son-in-law, your daughter and the family and friends present?
- 3) How do you want the guests to feel after you have delivered your speech?

### **Getting the Facts Right**

- 1) Before writing the speech please make sure you remember the names of all the important people involved in the wedding like the names of the groom's parents, the names of any of bride's friends that you will be mentioning in your speech, the names of Best Man, Maid of Honor or any other people you will be talking about in your speech
- 2) If you are saying a story or an anecdote please ensure that you remember the time when the story took place (how old your daughter was at that time), the time when the bride and the groom first met, names of people involved in that story or incident. This will make it sound realistic and will make it interesting
- 3) Remember the things in which the bride excelled, the things that she dislikes, any interesting story about her growing up years, facts about her courtship with the groom. Make them a part of your speech

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- 4) Have a casual chat with your daughter and other important people involved so that things are crystal clear in your mind before you begin to make it a part of your speech
- 5) You will come across more incidents and funny stories when you talk to the bride's friends, the groom and other close people. There may be incidents you may have forgotten. These can be included in your speech. As you talk to people you will get more and more ideas.
- 6) Just keep writing small, little notes as you come across information. These notes can be converted into an excellent speech
- 7) Asking some of the following questions will give you more ideas for your speech:
  - How did the groom and the bride first meet?
  - Where did they meet?
  - When did they meet?
  - Was anyone responsible for bringing them together?
  - How did the groom propose the bride or vice versa?
  - When and where was the proposal made?
  - What was the reaction of the proposal?
  - Has anything funny happened during their courtship?
  - What is that one thing that the bride loves about the groom and vice versa?
  - What are the individual goals of the bride and the groom and what are their goals as a married couple?
- 8) Now you have so much of information to pick and choose from. You have come across so many new things that you did not know about.

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9) Walking down the memory lane will give you more ideas about the funny things or lovely things that your daughter did while she was growing up

10) It is also a good idea to have a little bit of idea about the kind of guests who will be attending the wedding. Their average age group, their religious beliefs, what kind of stuff will be accepted as funny. A look at the guest list will give you a rough idea

### **Organizing your Thoughts**

Before you begin to write you must decide the basic content of your speech.

Whether you plan to quote several small little incidents related to your daughter's life or you plan to narrate one story throughout the speech.

It is very important to decide upon a theme for your speech. Either you touch upon 2-3 small incidents related to the same theme or focus on building upon just one story related to that theme. Do not go overboard with mentioning too many incidents or getting into too many details. This will confuse and bore your audience.

### **Making the First Draft**

While writing a rough sketch of your speech just keep deleting the incidents that you feel are not so worth mentioning. Every memory with your daughter is special and there may be many incidents or stories you may want to share. But you must remember you have to pick and choose only the important ones. Talking about too many stories will make your speech a drab.

In a five to seven minute speech you only have enough time to cover two or three points **MAXIMUM!**

Remember you must always choose stories/incidents which will evoke a reaction among your audience. It could be either an emotional reaction or people might find something funny and laugh. The idea is to strike the right chord with your audience and stir their hearts.

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Now that you have selected 2–3 good stories or even decided to focus on one single story, your speech is already gaining a clean and organized structure.

Keep your stories short and crisp but please ensure that your audience completely understands what you are trying to say. To be able to connect to your speech they should be able to completely understand the details and the punch behind that story. In those short few lines you should be able to convey the story and the audience should also be clear as to why you have included it in your speech.

Just keep writing brief notes of whatever you want to include in your speech. Don't worry about the length of the speech at this stage. You can always edit it later on. Right now the important thing is to have all your thoughts on paper and in one place.

Use simple words. Even if you have Shakespeare's vocabulary please do not use fancy, complicated words as your audience might not be able to relate to these words. Keep it simple and easy to understand.

Avoid repetition at all costs.

A good speech has three parts the opening, the body and the conclusion.

1. Your Opening remarks should capture the audience attention
2. The body of your speech should support your opening remarks
3. The conclusion should reinforce the opening and your body in a memorable heartfelt way.

Now that you have got all your thoughts as points on paper you need to organize them and put them in the above structure. Good speech organization is essential if the audience is to follow your speech.

Do not worry about perfection at this stage. Just think about beginning to write. Once you get into the flow of writing other things can be fixed later on.

Also do not worry about gaining audience attention as it is quite easy to get audience pay attention to you in case of a Wedding Speech. The reason being the theme of the speech is love and relationship and people are quite keen to know interesting stories about both the bride and the groom.

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While writing your draft remember to stick to the theme of your speech about the couple, their courtship, your relationship with them, their bright future together. Do not deviate from the main theme.

## **The Opening**

The first thing to remember in the opening of the speech is that you must sound enthusiastic and involved. You might be tired but don't show it. The opening of your speech sets the mood of your entire speech.

Create an interesting opening to capture the audience's attention.

It is often better to say a quick witty joke, or one liner to grab the audience attention, making sure not to offend anyone.

In the beginning always introduce yourself. The bride is an integral part of the occasion, a very important part that should be referenced somewhere in the opening remarks of your speech.

It is always a good idea to try and memorize the beginning 2- 3 lines of your speech.

Remember, your audience actually wants to hear what you have to say.

The impact of standing up, lifting your head and speaking to the audience will help make them feel immediately part of the wedding speech.

If humor is not your cup of tea and you are uncomfortable being funny please do not attempt to be funny. It's perfectly all right to stick to your own style and be warm and gentle.

If you are extremely nervous it is always good to admit it. A line in the beginning like "Hello my name is ..... I am the bride's mother and I am extremely nervous." This is an excellent icebreaker line and will also evoke humor.

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## **The Body (Middle)**

The best way to lay out the body of your speech is by formulating a series of points that you would like to raise. The points should be organized so that related points follow one another and each point builds upon the previous one. This will also give your speech a more logical progression.

You will only have time to cover two or three points maximum, so keep your stories small and straight to the point. Don't get caught up in the detail of your stories.

Make the body of the speech a sequence of little build-ups to a climax or punch line.

The trick is to try and keep momentum going with your speech. So do break down your body into one or two stories, and never deliver a monologue of past events as this will bore your audience to death.

Make your speech emotional and get your audience involved in the speech. Apply the think, feel, act formula. Share a story that leads them to think, then show how emotional you are today, this will make them feel and finally request them to join you in wishing the couple the best, thus they act.

Choose your stories in such a way that you can have the audience engaged in these stories and they can relate to these stories on a personal level. A few lines on the bride's first meeting with the groom's parents and how impressed she was to meet them, will not only involve the groom's parents but will also involve your audience as they will think that you will share more stories with them during the speech.

It is also a good idea to throw in a marriage or love quotation but make sure you do not use too many quotations in your speech and that the quotations you choose are very relevant and appropriate. (Refer to the section that offers lots of love and wedding quotations and toasts).

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## **The Conclusion**

Experts say that in the opening and closing of the speech you must remember to re-emphasize the theme of your speech.

You must restate and not REPEAT the main points in the closure of the speech. Just summarize one or two most important points of your speech in the conclusion. For example if the bride and the groom met each other in a dance school and you have mentioned it in the body of your speech, you can end by saying, “Emma and Max, look where your dancing has got you to. Hope you dance as perfect partners throughout your life.”

End by offering a toast to bride and the groom. You should however have two or three different toasts ready to call upon as it is possible that someone else has already used your toast. (Refer to the section that offers lots of love and wedding quotations and toasts).

## **Fine Tuning**

- ✓ Once you have completed your draft it is time to read it several times, edit and delete the unimportant portions and polish it up
- ✓ Take a stop watch, read out the speech and time it. This will give you the duration of your speech which is a very critical aspect of speech giving
- ✓ It is always a good idea to take a second opinion on your speech from your spouse, your friend or anyone who you feel might be able to give you an unbiased view
- ✓ Now that your speech is ready, it is always good to practice it several times. Reading it loud and clear. Sometimes in front of someone or sometimes even in front of a mirror. Emphasize on the main points. Use eye contact, facial expressions, gestures. (Refer to the section which offers tips and tricks on delivering a speech). Practicing several times will boost your confidence level and will give you the command over your speech. The more number of times you rehearse the better you will get. It's simple.

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- ✓ Most professional speakers use cue cards to deliver a seamless speech. Write the important points of your speech on the cue card and use it as a reference while giving the speech on the final day. It is perfectly all right if the audience comes to know you are using cue cards. You can't be expected to memorize the entire speech. In case if a sudden mental block occurs, the cue card will come to your rescue.

### **Closing Remarks**

Hope this section has helped you to get an overview of how to craft a speech which will hold the attention of your audience, will impress the newlywed couple and will be remembered for a long long time to come.

The speech samples provided in the book will give you a better idea about how to write a great speech and not just a good speech. You can in fact pick and choose portions from these sample speeches and make them a part of your own speech. The samples are written in such a manner that they can be easily adapted to your situation and can be easily used after making minor changes.

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