

wedding speeches

*for the
Father of the
Bride & Groom*



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Introduction

You might be surprised to hear this, but if you're a dad, you're almost certainly going to give a speech when one of your children ties the knot. You might expect it with your daughters, but it is now becoming common to deliver a "father of the groom" speech, too.

Rather than being bothered by this, you should take it as a compliment that your services are in such high demand. At the same time, you should proceed with caution, knowing that the audience at the reception hall will expect a lot from you. This is especially true if you are delivering a father of the bride speech.

Indeed, the two most anticipated speeches are the father of the bride's and the best man's. That means that a lot of people are expecting to be entertained and to learn something about your daughter through this speech. This is your opportunity to tell them how you feel and to give her a lasting, positive message about her marriage.

Now, what goes into a father of the bride or father of the groom's speech isn't exactly a science. However, there are a number of components that all speeches of these type should contain; and there is a general format they should follow.

In the remainder of the book, I will provide you with a number of templates that you can use to construct your own speech. I personally suggest that you pick one, fill in your details, and then spend some time altering it significantly, so that it makes your tone and style.

So, without further ado, let's get into the templates.

Father of the Bride/Groom Speech Templates

Father of the Bride (Sentimental Toast) I

Before I say anything else, I want to thank you all for being here. I know it means a lot to the bride and the groom. And it means a lot to me, too. It is wonderful seeing all of my friends and family members in the same room—and celebrating such a special event.

I suspect that most of you know me. If not, I'm [your name], the father of the bride. And I'll be telling you a little more about my little princess and her new husband.

Let me start with my daughter. She's truly an angel. A kinder, more loving, more caring individual would be hard to come by. When I think back on her childhood, it's hard for me to come back to this day and to realize that she's getting married. That she's growing up.

It seems just like the other day that [Tell story about her childhood. Make it charming and revealing of her character].

A short while later, she was out the door and ready for college. I can still remember the day we dropped her off at school. [Tell story about how you dropped her off at college].

And it wasn't that much later that she introduced us to [groom]. After hearing about him for months—about how great, and smart, and a good influence he was—we finally got to meet him when he came to dinner.

I'd be lying if I told you everything went smoothly from the start. For him, I think it was difficult to be thrown into the situation. [Tell story about how groom did something embarrassing or how he was nervous].

And sure, I was protective of my daughter at first. I love her and I want the best for her. And if [groom] wasn't the best, then he just wasn't good enough.

But after a while, when I came to know him better, I realized that he really was the best match for my daughter. He treated her well; and he was someone I could trust to keep her happy and secure.

To my daughter—[groom's name]'s is a good man. And I couldn't be happier that you two have decided to spend your lives together. Your mother and I give you our fullest blessing and wish for your success in life and in marriage.

To [groom's name]—welcome to the family. And please take good care of my daughter.

Now, let's all raise our glasses to the bride and the groom. May you two experience all of the joy and the happiness that married life brings. And may you never forget the experiences and the love that brought you together. Cheers!

Father of the Bride (Sentimental Toast) I

Let me first say thank you to everyone who came here tonight. Especially to those of you who drove from far away—thank you for being here. I know that [name of person who drove from far away] drove [number of miles] from [place she drove from]. It's great that you choose to do that to be her for this special night.

When I look out at the crowd, I see a lot of faces that I recognize. I see my friends and family members, and the groom's family members. But there are some of you in the crowd who I don't recognize. So, let me introduce myself: I'm [your name] and I'm going to tell you something about my daughter who is marrying the love of her life tonight.

It's funny. Even though I knew my daughter would one day get married, I never thought it would come so soon. It seems like just yesterday that she was a kid, planning her fantasy wedding and acting it out with Barbie dolls. But here she is getting married.

And then there's [groom]. I can remember when I first met him. He showed up at my doorstep with flowers for my daughter. At the time, I hated him. It wasn't so much that I thought he was a bad guy, but I had been a teenage guy before, and I didn't want one near my daughter.

But what I soon found out is that he was no average guy. He wasn't planning to date my daughter for a few weeks and then dump her when he lost interest. No. That wasn't him. He was in it for the long haul. He loved my daughter.

And then it happened. It felt like it was just a few days later, but in reality, it had been years. He called me on the phone and asked me if he could marry my daughter. When I heard the words, I couldn't believe them. I thought they would get married, but I couldn't believe it was happening now.

My daughter. The daughter that I remember [Tell story about your daughter when she was young]. The daughter who grew up into a beautiful, smart, and funny woman and who [say something about what she did in high school or college] was getting married.

With that said, I just want to wish you both the best. I have been married to [wife's name] for [number of years you were married]; and I can tell you that it hasn't always been easy. Marriage is a challenge. It is about compromise and communication. But it is also about fun, excitement, love, and shared joy.

So, to my daughter, I give you this message: I love you and I hope that you and [groom] have a wonderful, loving, happy life together. And to [groom], please take good care of my daughter.

Now, let's toast to the man and woman of the hour. To my daughter and to her loving husband—may you stay happy and healthy. And may your marriage bring more joy and more love into your lives each day. Cheers!

Father of the Bride (Sentimental Toast) III

Today is easily one of the most important days in my life. It's the day when my beautiful, intelligent, compassionate daughter will finally tie the knot with a man who means the world to her; and who has come to mean quite a bit to our family, too.

As a father, this day is both a joyous and a nerve-wracking occasion. It's joyous because my daughter is settling down and starting a family of her own. The very thought of that makes me feel good. And it is nerve-wracking because I am watching my daughter finally move on—finally separate from me and her mother and become an adult.

Sure. She's grown up now, but it seems like only yesterday that she was [Tell story about something she liked to do as a child.]

And it brings tears to my eyes whenever I think about how she used to [Tell another story about her childhood.]

But I'll stop there. I don't want to get too emotional. Like I said, this day is joyous, but it is also sad for me.

Now, with that said, there's something you should know about my daughter: she never settles. No matter what she's doing in life and in relationships, she doesn't accept the minimum and move on. And that's exactly why I was so surprised when I had heard that she accepted [groom's name's] engagement. <Pause for laughs>.

But in all seriousness, [groom's name] is a great guy. Over the years, my daughter has had a few boyfriends. Some bad, some good, but none stood out like [groom]. When I saw them together, I pretty quickly knew that what they had was for real.

When I saw their relationship grow over time, I thought secretly that this was it: he was the guy she would marry. I was sure of it, but I waited. And I waited. And finally, I got a nervous phone call. [Tell story about how groom asked father for permission to marry daughter].

And here we are today. Today, my daughter gets married. Today, my daughter begins her life as a wife and as a partner with the man she loves.

I think that deserves a toast. Everyone, please raise your glasses for the bride and the groom. May your marriage endure. May you grow old together. And may you love each other more with each passing day. Cheers!

Father of the Bride (Funny Toast) I

We're gathered here today to celebrate a special day. For every one of us here, either the bride or the groom (and, for some of us, both) mean a great deal to us. We've known them for years. We've watched them grow up and fall in love. And now we're watching the next phase—the creation of their new family.

Well, for those of you who don't know me, I'm here because I'm the father of the bride. Generally, it's frowned upon not to show up when you're the father of the bride, so I had few options. And with this speech to deliver and all, it's not like no one would notice if I wasn't there.

In all seriousness, though, I want to tell you a little more about my daughter. But before I do, I want you all to look at her. <Point's to daughter.> Isn't she beautiful tonight? Doesn't she look exactly how a bride should on her wedding day?

So what should you know about my daughter? I made a list of things I would tell people who have never met her before. <Open up list.>

Number 1: [Quality of daughter]. [Tell a story about how this quality played a role in your daughter's life].

Number 2: [Quality of daughter]. [Tell a story about how this quality played a role in your daughter's life].

Number 3: [Quality of daughter]. [Tell a story about how this quality played a role in your daughter's life].

And, finally, number 4. [Funny quality of daughter]. [Tell a funny story about how this quality played a role in your daughter's life].

I could go on and on, but I won't. My daughter is an angel. She's loving, kind-hearted, thoughtful, funny, and smart. She is a true catch. One who deserves a great husband. Unfortunately for her, the best we could do is [groom's name], but he'll have to do.

I'm joking, of course. As a teenager and as a young adult, [daughter's name] had boyfriends that worried me. Quite frankly, I didn't trust some of them; and I didn't think they were good enough for my daughter. But not [groom's name]. I may have been skeptical at first, but once I got to know him, I knew he would be nothing but a positive influence on my daughter's life. And, for that, I thank him.

With this said, I would like to propose a toast to the bride and the groom. On behalf of everyone in this room—your family and your friends—we love you. May you your marriage be a strong one. May it be full of love, and may you find ways to keep it fun and exciting over the years. Cheers!

Father of the Groom (Short Toast) I

I know you all have heard a lot of speeches tonight. You've heard a speech from the father of the bride, from the best man, and from [anyone else who has given a speech]. But don't worry. I'll just keep you a minute.

I want to tell you about my son. I know this sounds sappy, but I can't tell you how proud he makes me. I can still remember the day he was born. Picking him up; and feeling like the proudest Dad in the world.

As a child, I can remember going to his sports games. He played [list of sports he played]. I can still remember sitting on the bleachers and [Tell story about one interesting sporting event.]

Years later, he excelled as [something he was good at in high school]. And it's hard for me to express how proud it made me and his mother.

Today, he's getting married to a beautiful, loving bride. I think they are both lucky; and I'm glad that they're both getting the relationship they wanted.

<Lift glass up for a toast.> So, to my son and to his beautiful wife and partner, may you have a long, loving, and meaningful marriage. Cheers!

Father of the Groom (Short Toast) II

It's great to see all of these familiar faces in the crowd. My friends, family members, and people I don't even know—all here to celebrate this special day with my son and with his beautiful bride. <Point to bride.>

I can still remember it like it was only yesterday: [Tell story about your son achieving something or playing a sport as a child]. At that moment, I felt like I was the proudest father in the world. I really understand what it meant to love your child; and to want to do anything you can for him.

Fast forward to [number of years since son left for college]. I can still remember that day. Watching my son leave our house and head off to college. [Tell story about it.]

Today, he stands before you—a college graduate, a successful professional, and, now a married man, who is starting a family. His new wife is a beautiful, mature, intelligent, and all-around amazing woman. I couldn't be happier for them both. They deserve each other.

So, let's raise a glass to them. To the bride and groom: may you have a wonderful, joyous marriage filled with love and with partnership. Cheers!

Father of the Groom (Short Toast) III

Thank you, everyone, for being here tonight. It is truly a blessing for the bride and groom to get married in the presence of all of their friends and family members. Even I have bumped into relatives and friends I haven't seen in years. So, thank you all for being here.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm the father of the groom. And, tonight, I'll be delivering a short toast. I'll be telling you a little more about my son and about the woman he's marrying.

So what would I tell to someone who has never met my son before? I'd tell them this. <Take out a list and unfold it.>

Number 1: [Quality #1 of son]. [Story from childhood that illustrates this quality.]

Number 2: [Quality #2 of son]. [Story as a teenager that illustrates this quality.]

Number 3: [Quality #3 of son]. [Story as an adult that illustrates this quality.]

Yes. I've watched him grow up from a young boy into an accomplished adult. And, now, I'm watching him marry a woman who he truly loves and truly cares about. I can't tell you how much, as both a father and friend, I am proud and happy to see this day.

To my son and his new bride—I love you both. And I propose a toast to you. May your marriage be long-lived. May you love each other more each day. And may you learn to compromise with and understand each other more and more over time. Cheers!

Father of the Groom (Short Toast) IV

Every father dreams of having at least one boy. We dream of being able to raise someone to become a similar, but better man. We hope and believe that we will be able to correct our own deficits in our children.

But one thing most of us find out pretty quickly is that having a boy can be difficult. They can be a handful. They're energetic; and they can get into trouble.

Fortunately for me, my son didn't turn out that way. I thought I was going to shape him to be great, but he was already great; and he had ideas of his own. When other boys were getting into trouble, he was [Tell story about hobby he had as a child that was impressive.]

And that's just how he has always been: the good kid. The one who avoids trouble. The one who consistently makes good decisions; and achieves great success.

And today, he continues with that trend by marrying a beautiful woman who loves him very much.

I couldn't be happier for my son and his new wife. So I propose a toast to them. To the bride and to the groom: may your years together be many; may your love for each other be infinite; and may your life together be wondrous and exciting. Cheers!

Father of the Groom (Short Toast) V

When the bride and groom approached me to do a “father of the groom” toast, I was pretty confused initially. I had never actually heard of such a speech. But after thinking it over, it seemed like a nice addition to the wedding.

But then I realized that I would actually have to come up with something to say. What would it be? The more I thought of it, the more it became obvious: I should tell him what I wish someone else had told me about marriage on my wedding day. So here goes.

First, you should know that marriage is mostly about patience and communication. If you can't be patient, you'll end up fighting all the time. And if you can't or aren't willing to communicate with each other, you'll never resolve fights when they do happen.

Second, keep things lively. Marriage is a big commitment. Some don't want to make it because they don't like the thought of being with the same person for an entire lifetime. But in my opinion and from my experience, the benefits outweigh any costs. Just remember to find new ways to keep your marriage lively and exciting and you won't ever regret committing to just one person.

And finally, take good care of your wife. Make sure she feels loved, secure, and comforted. Always do what is best for her, even if it requires some sacrifice on your part.

I love you son. And I couldn't be happier for you and your new wife. She is a truly a wonderful, beautiful, funny, and intelligent woman. You both are lucky; and I congratulate you on your life together.

Now, I propose that we toast the bride and the groom, so lift your glasses. To the bride and groom: may you live together in happiness, love, and security. May your future remain bright and your marriage remain exciting and filled with adventure. Cheers!

Father of the Groom (Short Toast) VI

Since my speech is non-traditional and since there have already been two speeches, I will try to keep this short and to the point.

Today is a wonderful day. For the bride and groom, it is the day they commit to each other. It's the day that they begin their journey through life together. And for family members, friends, and relatives, it is a day to bask in their joy and radiance. It is indeed a great day for everyone here.

To my son—I couldn't be happier for you. You've found a wonderful match in your wife; and I know that she will keep you happy. Make sure that you, too, sacrifice for her, make her happy, and keep her secure. And to [wife's name]—I'm so happy that you're a part of our family. I've never seen my son happier than when he is with you. You are truly kind, beautiful, and loving woman. Please take care of my son.

To everyone else—I propose we toast to the bride and groom. To your marriage, to the love you share, and to your future. Cheers!

Conclusion

In this book, we covered a number of different templates you can use when it comes time to give the speech on that big day. It doesn't matter whether you are giving a speech for the bride or for the groom, you have a good template that you can use to craft a compelling, heart-felt speech or toast for the occasion.

It is important to understand, however, that the template in itself is not sufficient. You should use it as a starting point for your own speech. From there, at a minimum, you will need to fill it in with powerful anecdotes (and, of course, with the correct names). You will also want to change the style, so that it matches your speech patters and mood.

Finally, the most important thing you must do is practice your speech. As the father of either the bride or the groom, your speech will be highly anticipated; and if you aren't well-prepared, wedding-goers will notice. So spend some time preparing by rehearsing your speech until you feel comfortable going through it without any notes.