



## A Few Tips on Toasts



Toasts can be a delightful and entertaining portion of the reception celebration or they can be interludes of awkwardness and embarrassment for the speaker, guests, and newlyweds. The entire process is a little easier with the following pertinent information, presented with the permission of author and communications professional, Tom Haibeck. You can find out more at [www.WeddingToasts.com](http://www.WeddingToasts.com) or in his book, *Wedding Toasts Made Easy*. It's a quick, fun read, and under \$10.

### Considerations for the Bride & Groom

- ♥ **When determining who will give toasts, choose friends and family members who are comfortable speaking in front of people.**
- ♥ **Give the selected persons adequate time to prepare; the quality of the sharing will improve significantly.**
- ♥ **Indicate how long you would like the person to speak. The optimal toast is 3-5 minutes long.**
- ♥ **Inform the speaker of the audience make-up: Number of guests? From? High society or regular folk? etc.**

### Suggestions for the Speaker

- ♥ **Remember this is a toast, not a roast. It should be a tribute that leaves the bride and groom feeling good.**
- ♥ **Speak about the bride and groom. Anecdotal humor and stories are fine as long as they remain appropriate for the grandmothers in the audience.**
- ♥ **Speak from the heart. Be sincere and genuine. Be cautious of ill-advised off-color humor.**
- ♥ **Notes ARE a good idea. Use point form on index cards. Number your cards in order.**
- ♥ **If at all possible, *practice* in the space where you will deliver the toast. Use the microphone when you rehearse.**
- ♥ **Avoid alcohol before the toast. You can look forward to celebrating with a beverage after the toast.**
- ♥ **Close with class (kind comments/wishes), and remember the call to action: "Raise your glasses to..."**