

Nottingham Speakers Club - Best Man Speech Guide

A great Best Man speech does two things. It makes people laugh at the groom, but it also says nice things about the new couple. It should last about 5 minutes. Here is a simple plan for your speech, with easy examples you can use.

1. The Opening and Joke

Start by thanking the hosts (usually the parents). Then, say who you are, because not everyone will know you. Right after that, tell a quick joke to get a laugh. This will help you feel less nervous.

- **Example (Friend):** "Good evening, everyone. I'm John, Simon's Best Man. I was very proud when Simon picked me. It was a tough test. He only asked two questions: 'Are you free that day?' and 'Can you speak while standing up?' Well, you are about to find out!"
- **Example (Brother):** "Good evening. I'm Michael, Jordan's younger brother and his Best Man. It is a great honour to stand here and say nice things about him in public. It is the first time anyone has ever done that for free."

2. Teasing the Groom

This is where you make fun of the groom. Tell one or two funny stories about him. Make sure the stories show what he is really like. For example, instead of just saying he is clumsy, tell the story about the time he tripped over his own shoes.

- **Tip:** Do not tell jokes that only the two of you understand. Never mention his old girlfriends. Keep it clean—remember, his grandmother is listening!

3. Talk About His Partner

Now, change the mood. Stop making fun of the groom and talk about his new partner. Tell the room how much he has improved since they met.

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- **Example:** "But seriously, before he met Sarah, John lived on frozen pizza and did not know how to use a washing machine. Sarah, you have worked a miracle."
- **Example:** "Sarah, thank you for making John so happy. The way he smiles when he talks about you is really special."

4. Be Nice to Your Friend

Before you finish, take a moment to say something truly nice about the groom. Tell the room why he is a good friend.

- **Example:** "All jokes aside, John is a great man. He is a loyal and honest friend. When he promises to do something, he gives it his whole heart."

5. The Toast

Finish your speech by talking to both together. Wish them well for the future and ask the room to raise their glasses.

- **Example:** "To John and Sarah: I hope your marriage is full of fun and happiness. Everyone, please raise your glasses to the happy couple!"

Quick Tips for Speaking

- **Use paper cards:** Write your speech on small cards instead of reading from your phone. It looks much better in the wedding photos.
- **Wait for the laugh:** When you tell a joke, stop talking for a second. If you keep talking, people will stop laughing so they can hear you.
- **Keep it kind:** A good speech makes the groom look a little silly, but makes his partner look amazing.