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# Autumn Wedding?

**Toasting Tips for the Groom**

Giving a toast doesn't have to be a terrifying or traumatic event. To counter these feelings plan ahead! About a week or two prior to the wedding, carry a pad around to write down any thoughts that come to mind; great ideas will usually turn up when least expected. Once it starts getting long, create a rough draft and work on it from there to create a perfect speech. Here is a guide to help you through the process:

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE**

It will dissipate any nerves likely to creep up on the day of, and give you a sense of confidence that comes with being prepared. Practice giving your toast with a prop, similar to a mic, in hand and in front of trusted friends. This way you get in practice and a sense of if you need to edit or add to your speech.

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**WHAT TO SAY**

As a Groom, you should keep in mind that this is an opportunity to thank everyone who helped make the wedding a reality. It is also a chance for you to reflect on the event that brought everyone together. You may want to talk about how you met your bride, describe how your romance developed, and perhaps say something about the nature of love and marriage in general. And to lighten up the crowd you can even add some humorous and/or touching comments.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR BRIDE**

If your bride is not speaking, your words should be from both of you. Bear this in mind throughout your speech, and remember to begin your speech with My wife and I....'

**THANK EVERYONE INVOLVED**

Include some notes about how successful the wedding is going. Thank and present offering to all the people who have helped with the wedding, including the two sets of parents (especially the mothers) and the bridesmaids, etc. You should also mention anyone else you want to thank - performers, caterers, etc. Thank everyone for coming. Send good wishes to any guests who are unable to attend due to illness, etc.

**FROM YOUR HEART TO YOUR BRIDE**

Include an section exclusively from you to your bride about how happy you are to be marrying her and how much you are looking forward to your shared future, etc.

**FINISHING UP**

You can include a few words about the best man this will help to introduce him to those guests who haven't met him before.

Generally, the order of toasts during a reception is best man toasts the bride and groom, groom toasts the bride and her family, father(s) toast the bride and groom, and the bride and groom toast each other. The toast should be kept to approximately three minutes in length, and is to be delivered standing up and in an area where all your guests will see you. You also want your guests to hear you, so hold the mic close to your mouth while making the toast. And remember to hold off on the shots until after the toast. A small drink to help you relax is okay, but to much and you'll be remembered as the bumbling, drunken fool no one could tear away from the mic. Make your bride proud!

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