

Words of wisdom for creating epic wedding vows!

By Mandi Forrester-Jones

With any wedding, one of THE most important part of the ceremony are your vows to each other. But what exactly are the wedding vows, and what is the meaning?

When it comes to the actual vow-writing (and yes, they are vows – not vowels!), this is where the fun starts.

The first thing to mention is that this is usually the one and only time you are talking to each other in a civil ceremony, and the second thing is that it should be about everyday life and relevant to you both, not something from Google, but personalised vows to each other, and something you can renew on an everyday basis.

Let me explain with a story:

I met this couple, who were really not bothered at all, but I asked them to just think of one line, just one line! I met her in my local supermarket about 4 months after the wedding, and she tells me in a very excited fashion “I get it! I really get it” - her one line to him was that she would always love him even though he drove her mad playing with his Xbox when she tried to talk to him. Cut to a few months after the wedding, she was trying to talk to him about kids going to camp, and he was on the sofa playing his Xbox. She was getting so frustrated and angry. She stormed over to have a huge argument about it, but as she was doing that, she passed her wedding photo. She stopped, she gathered herself, walked over to the sofa, kissed him on the head and walked back. “What was that for?” he says, “I’m just renewing my wedding vow” was the reply. To which he apologised profusely, put the game down, they had the conversation, and a crisis was averted! Now that is powerful!

So, I have convinced you to write personal vows! Now what? Well your celebrant will be able to guide you and help write them but remember they do not feel the same about your partner as you do! So here are a few tips to help you:

Remember to write as you feel normally, so that if you are not normally hearts and flowers, romantic flowery people, then don’t write hearts and flowers, romantic flowery vows, or at least you can, but maybe add some light-hearted references as well. They also can be light-hearted and funny if that is how you are. It is not being irreverent, but it is every day promises you can keep!

Start with a comment about what they mean to you, what it is you love about them. Then perhaps 2-3 promises that you want to do in real life, not just on the day. Then end with something romantic if you like. Keep it to 2 paragraphs or so. Oh, and ugly crying is allowed but try and avoid comments that might cause upset!

You can also keep the vows secret and surprise each other at the wedding ceremony. I would suggest you discuss the basics of what you plan to say beforehand. What style, as in funny, serious etc. A few lines or a few paragraphs?

Keep it simple, busy long winded sentences don't work too well in vows. Talk in a way you would actually use in conversation.

Don't stress about remembering them, a good celebrant will give you a palm card or allow you to read from their book, unless of course, you want to remember it all! If you do that, it doesn't hurt to have a cheat sheet too!

Be careful if you use lyrics from songs, words from movies, poems you find on Google etc, copyright law is a thing, and remember that it is possible a video may surface on Facebook, so if you do use someone else's work, credit them!

Being honest is a wonderful trait but remember your grandma or little nephew might be there, so try and keep it clean! Certain topics may be off-limits as well.

Ultimately, remember these vows are your personal promises to each other and should reflect you two as a couple, not what someone else has said and posted on Google! Have fun with them, make them personal and meaningful, and remember the power behind the promises you make to each other!



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