

How to Write Your Own Vows

How do I start to write my own wedding vows?

This is a question I am often asked, so here are a few top tips. Start with a blank document and get brain storming. Here's how.

Use my questionnaire as a starting point

In order to get to know you, I will send you a questionnaire. Some of the questions may seem a bit random, but really it is a basis for me to start getting to know you.... And may give a little kick start to reminding you what you really love about your partner and why they are special to you.

[Click here to link to the pre-wedding questionnaire](#)

Let your vows evolve organically

Here is a suggestion: don't fill out the questionnaire together!

Why not each fill it out separately, truthfully and without influence.

No matter how long you have known each other, I bet there is a little something that you don't know, that is revealed by your answers!

After all, we are always changing; relationships are always evolving.

Be inspired by the honesty of discovery. Have your brain storm document in front of you and write down what you *feel* as your partner reads out their answers to you. Let your vows evolve organically.

Inspirational quotes

You don't want to say what everyone else says, you want to avoid platitudes and clichés, you don't want to sound cheesy or trite and you've got writer's block!

Here is where social media can be amazing at inspiring you if you know what to search for. And the ever-so-easy key words are: "inspirational quotes" or hashtag #inspirationalquotes

Head off to your favourite search engine and type in the key phrase. Copy and paste any wording that resonates with you into your brain storm document....

Remember, you are still just looking for a starting point. Your own actual wording will come later.

Then have a play with Pinterest and Instagram. They have some great inspiring words combined with visuals. This can be really helpful if you like to work from an image.

Get personal

So you've now got a brain storm document onto which you have spilled your feelings and inspirational quotes. To pull all of this together into something really personal, it is a great help to see the person you are writing about.... So go and get some photos!

Photos of the early days of your relationship, of when you first met. Photos of a memorable holiday or special occasion like your engagement. And that one special photo of your partner that you love; you know the one that always makes you smile when you see it.

Now you are ready to “*speak to your partner*”, you are ready to write your vows.

Heartfelt rather than perfection

No one expects you to write poetry. You are not writing for an audience. You are writing words of commitment to the person you love most in this world. Making them your own *personal promises*. In fact if nobody else in the world ever hears your vows except for your partner (and your celebrant!) then that is OK.

Basically it's your day, you are speaking personally to each other.... but if you do have guests and witnesses, don't be so cryptic that your family and friends can't follow you!

Boil it down to the essential essence

Start by blurting out everything, then organise it a bit so it has a beginning, a middle and an ending. Now boil it down! Edit, edit, edit so what you're left with is the essential essence of what you want to say .

That's it! Job done!

Send a copy of your vows to your celebrant (so they have a cue for when you have finished speaking).

Remember to bring a copy of your vows with you to your ceremony just in case you need to read them. Even the best memorised vows sometimes vanish from your mind in the emotion of the moment. And belt and braces, your celebrant will also have a copy of your vows so if they see a “rabbit in the headlights” look about you, they can always gently step in and guide you.

But do you know what? Your vows will be amazing. Your wedding will be amazing. You will be amazing. The look on your partner's face when you speak your vows will be amazing.

You're nearly wed! Yay! Go you!!!



About the author: Debbie Skyrme, "Celebrant Spain", is a Civil Celebrant living full time in Southern Spain. Former Deputy Superintendent Registrar, Debbie crafts wedding ceremonies, funeral celebrations of life, baby namings and other life event ceremonies in sunny Andalucia.

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