



# TOAST PILLARS

5 PILLARS TO CREATE AN  
INCREDIBLE WEDDING TOAST.

## THE OPENER

# 1

**Start with a hook.** A funny line, a quote, an absurd statement, the punchline to a story you will tell. Start strong to grab the audiences attention.

## THE PAST

# 2

Dive into the memory banks and pull a story or encapsulate the couple in a short, powerful story to help the audience **learn a little about the couple.**

## THE PRESENT & FUTURE

# 3

A brief look at where the couple is now and how they evolved as you've known them. A mention of what lies ahead as they **start this new chapter.**

## THE SIGNIFICANT OTHER

# 4

This is what most toasts miss! More than a mention of the significant other, this day is about **the two people getting married (not you!).**

## THE BIG FINISH

# 5

Save the best for last. Leave the audience with a laugh, a tear jerker story or a heartfelt story. **Start strong, end stronger.**

# Wedding Toasts 101

Take your toast from meh to memorable! Begin with the five foundational pillars of wedding toasts, then elevate it further using our helpful Do's & Don'ts chart.

## DO'S

Start with "If you don't know me **by now, you're probably at the wrong wedding** because I've been friends with the groom for 25 of his 27 years..."



Start strong with a great **hook to grab the attention** from the first word.



**Be prepared!** Have a printed copy. Screenshot the toast and keep your phone on airplane mode.



Be memorable. Make people laugh or bring them closer to tears. Find a **silly joke or quote for a corny laugh**.  
(it works!)



Short & strong. **Challenge yourself to tighten your toast** into a 3 minute entertaining masterpiece.



**Practice your toast out loud.** In the mirror, or better, to a friend to get feedback. Write it, then speak it to make sure it flows naturally.



Remember Nana. Think of telling your **toast to a sweet Nana...** does it pass the test?



Bring a glass to raise and say "**raise your glass!**". Set the glass on a table while you are talking, don't hold it.



## DON'TS

Don't start with "for those who don't know me..."

Don't start by fumbling with your mic, phone, tapping the mic, asking if they can hear you...

Don't admit you didn't prepare for your speech. You will lose all credibility immediately.

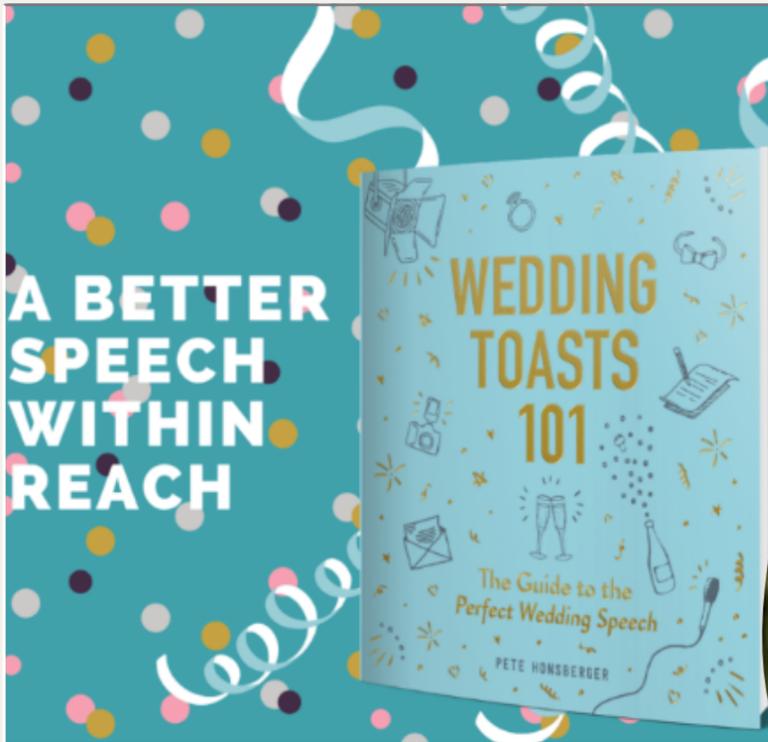
Don't tell insider jokes. They are boring for 90% of your audience.

Long & boring. If you have more to say to the couple, write it in a card, don't make the toast about you.

Don't drink too much. Really. Even if you are nervous. Wait until after your speech!

Don't be cringy-worthy. Reference ex-partners. Stories with drugs/drunk mishaps. Criticize the couple.

Don't forget your glass to toast. Don't try and hold the glass as you toast.



[weddingtoasts101.com](http://weddingtoasts101.com)



## PETE HONSBERGER

Pete Honsberger has been to a lot of weddings. Maybe you can relate. He's seen the good, the bad, and the embarrassing when it comes to wedding toasts. It's his personal mission to enhance the quality of these speeches worldwide. In addition to attending weddings, he's been a serial groomsman, toast-giver, and consultant to friends and families on their own toasts. His book, *Wedding Toasts 101*, has sold approximately 5,000 copies and can be found anywhere books are available online, as well as Barnes & Noble stores nationwide. Pete has been married since 2018, and lives in Cleveland, Ohio, with his amazing wife, Jenna, and their daughters Kali and Summer.

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