

## *D*evelop the body of your speech

This is the thought part of the speech. It requires a little bit of thought and planning. So let's break down the body into some different ideas you can talk about to develop your speech.

Remember this though. You only have time to develop three or four of these ideas at the most. So it would be best to go through this entire exercise and see what content you would like to include, and the content to discard.

If you only intend to speak for 5 minutes. Then select one or two of these only. But they'll need to be very good, high impact and very entertaining, otherwise your speech will lack substance.

*H*ere's the full list of ideas to develop.

1. Story about your relationship to the groom.
  - a. How did the two of you meet?
  - b. How has your friendship developed
  - c. how you came to be best mates?
  
2. Little known facts about the groom. What is he good at, what is he bad at, does he have any ticks, or moments of clarity, anything that the audience might find amusing.
  
3. 5 good adjectives to describe the groom's personality and  
5 bad/indifferent adjectives to describe the groom's personality
  
4. Why did the groom choose you as best man? Ask him before and give his answer a nice twist
  
5. Address the couple and include an anecdote or story about the bride and groom. Tease a little bit.
  - a. How did they meet each other
  - b. How did he tell you about his new love?

- c. What did they do for their first date
  - d. What is the most interesting thing they have done together as a couple
  
- 6. Come up with some funny stories about the groom
  - a. his years of study,
  - b. job skills,
  - c. sports,
  - d. hobbies and
  - e. achievements.
  
- 7. Read out some telegrams. These are usually fictitious, so I'll give you some good ideas here.
  
- 8. Advice to the Bride & Groom
  
- 9. What year was the groom born? What other "Special" and/or hilarious moments occurred either on his birth date, or during his first year.
  
- 10. What was the US or UK #1 single, band or album in the year he was born. *(if this story is appropriate, then tie it in a funny anecdote)*

If you are thinking "WOW" that's a lot of information, don't worry too much. You should know more than enough to fill in hours of speech on the groom, so if you already have an idea about what you'd like to say, then jump to the appropriate section and write your information now. Otherwise, let's work through the above list methodically and build the body of your speech.

*Notes* you need to know before you start your body:

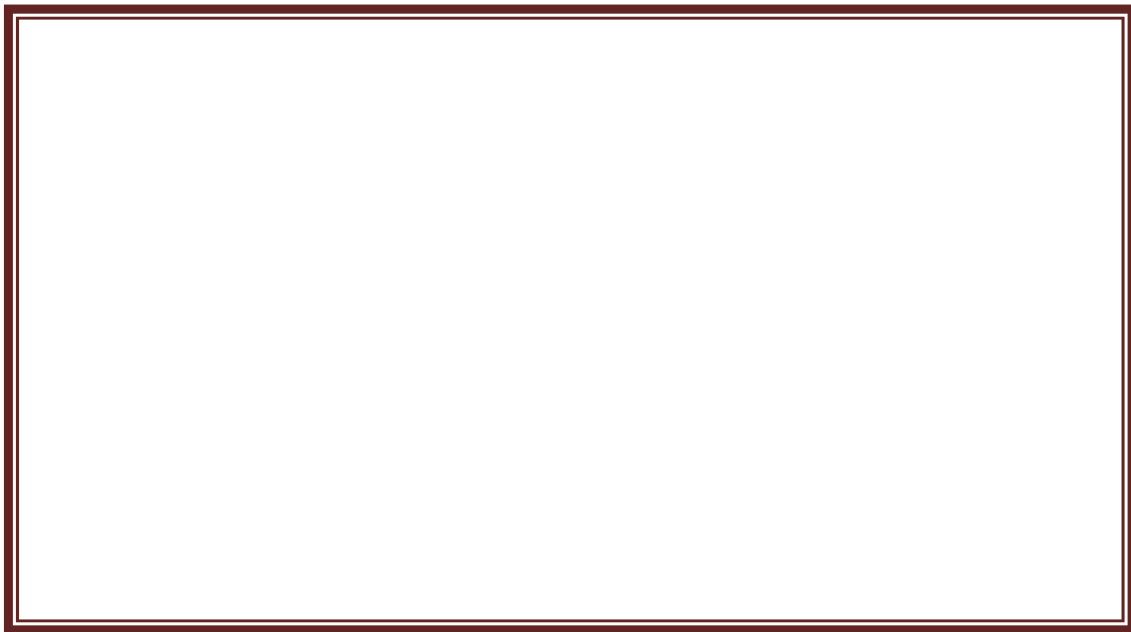
1. A story or anecdote in this section should consist of 3 or 4 sentences maximum.
2. The usual structure for these would be. First sentence introducing the paragraph, 2 or 3 sentences to develop the paragraph, and a final sentence to deliver your punch-line.
3. Don't talk about past girlfriends, or experiments with past girls. It's bad taste, and ½ the audience won't appreciate you for it.
4. **The arrangement of your speech is important, use lead ins, lead outs... follow on's etc... to pad out your speech. Be brutal when you edit your speech, don't repeat yourself and read it aloud to someone else to get their feed back. You'll easily see where it needs to be re-arranged.**
5. Remember, the writing of your speech is not as important as the delivery. So memorize as much of your speech as possible, or at least the opening and conclusions.

## *S*tory about your relationship to the groom.

- a. How did the two of you meet?
- b. How has your friendship developed
- c. how you came to be best mates?

This part should be pretty easy. It is also a very good option to insert straight after the opening remarks, as it introduces the groom and serves as a good platform to grill the groom from here.

Don't just talk about how you met, if there's a funny story, or even bending of the truth slightly for the sake of the story, then you should do that. You can always say something like "I always thought..." or "If you ask me,..." as a precursory to any fabrications you might need to put into your speech.

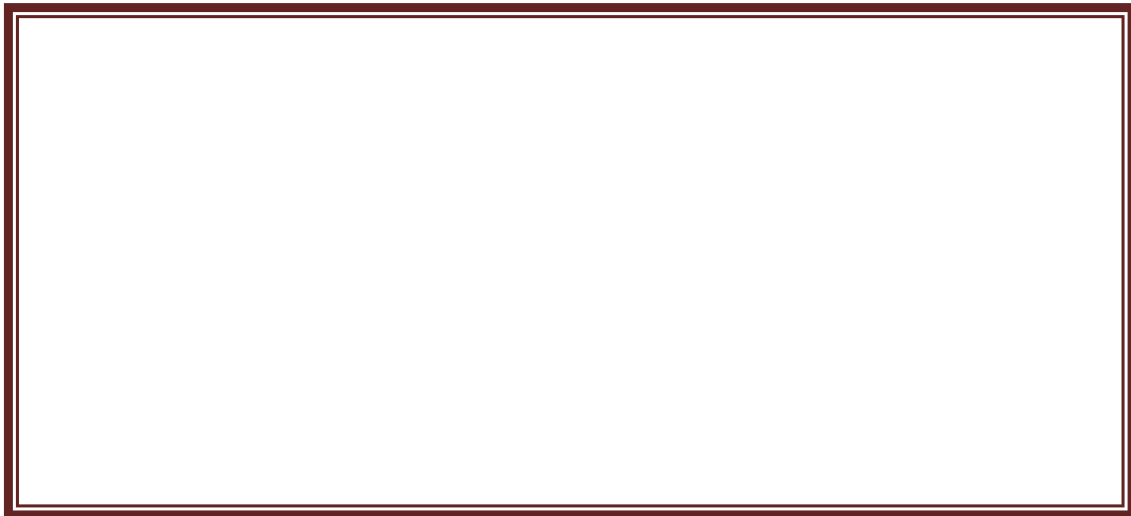


**Example:** *"My first encounters with John were on the sports field. In fact we were both very competitive in our earlier years. It wasn't until high school that we became good mates. Our high school years were great years, discovering beer, sports, and developing our tastes for girls. Unfortunately, that's all I can tell you about those years, as anything I tell you about John also incriminates me."*

## *Little* known facts about the groom.

- a. what is he good at
- b. what is he bad at
- c. does he have any ticks
- d. or moments of clarity
- e. anything that the audience might find amusing

This is a good follow on from the introduction story about how you know the groom. Here this is a natural progression because now you get the chance to develop your character (the groom). Make sure it's funny, and make sure that it makes sense! Once again don't worry about white lies and fabrications, as long as it flows, you'll be fine.



**Example:** *“Now I have always admired John for his ability to be able to take a joke, perhaps not the best example of this is when myself, Kilpy and Dan attended John’s 30<sup>th</sup> (quite some ago now) and we decided to remove all the labels from all his tinned food (immature I know, it was Kilpys idea), not sure if John was more gutted with our action, or perhaps the next time he went to get some peaches for his ice cream and got baked beans.”*

It is possible to put two of these snippets into your speech. Should you choose to, just make sure they are entertaining. I wouldn't do any more than two myself, otherwise the content would be too repetitive.

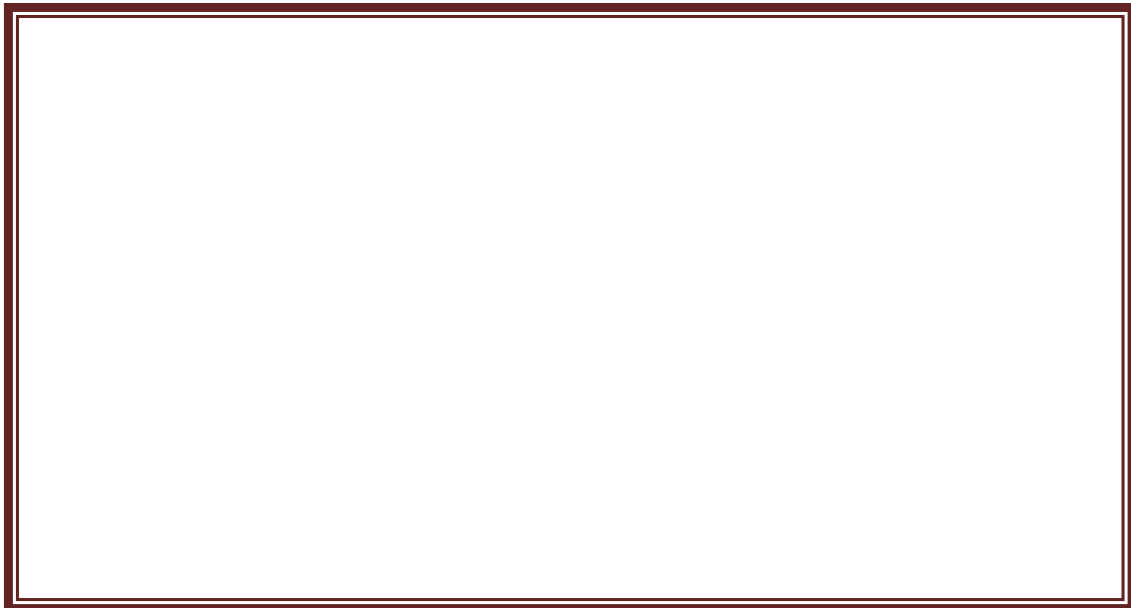
## *D*escribe the Grooms personality

- a. five good adjectives to describe the grooms personality and
- b. five bad/indifferent adjectives to describe the grooms personality

This is another way to further develop your subject! I love this one as illustrated in the example below. Go to town with this and have some fun with your speech.

Now you're really getting into your speech, so feel free to let loose here with some great adjectives.

It's also a really good idea to say that you've gathered these descriptions from someone else, like the grooms family, or new bride!



**Example:** *“Then there have been a few words of kind words and praise that have come from some people that are here sharing in your special day. So I wrote a few of them down. **John** here are a few of the words that have been used to describe you...*

*“A great friend” that was my one. Thoughtful, caring, trusting and charismatic... all very kind words... , In fact, I barely found a person that had something bad to say... Although I did find some...*

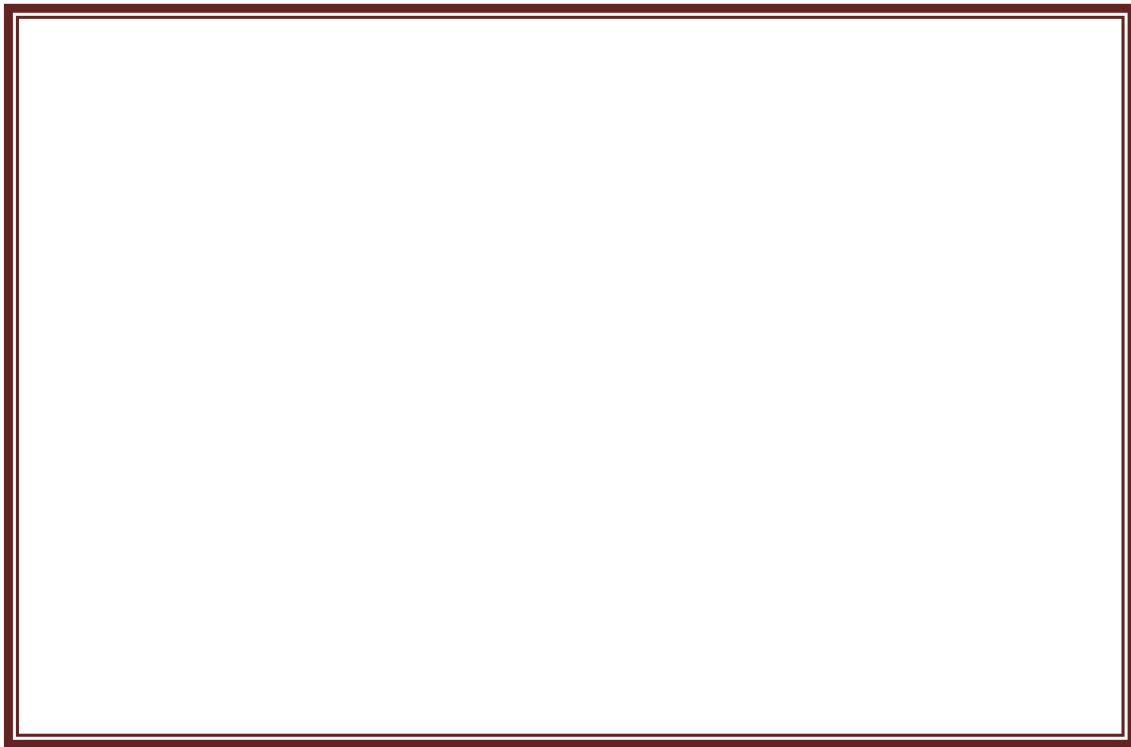
*When I heard... “Belligerent, lazy, stubborn and obstinate... I thought, hang*

*on, that's a bit rough... Maybe not entirely untrue but a bit unnecessary for my speech... But if his parents don't know him, then who does..."*

## *Why* did the groom choose you as best man?

- a. Ask him before and give his answer a nice twist

This is another idea to pad out your speech, or even use this as a link into another section in the body of your speech, which is my preferred approach. You probably know why you're the best man. Surely you've been best friends for as long as you can remember, maybe you share a special bond, or an event that brought you together. Be original here and don't whatever you do, repeat yourself from earlier... skip this section if you think you've already covered this in your story, or use the information here to help structure your speech with a link into another section.



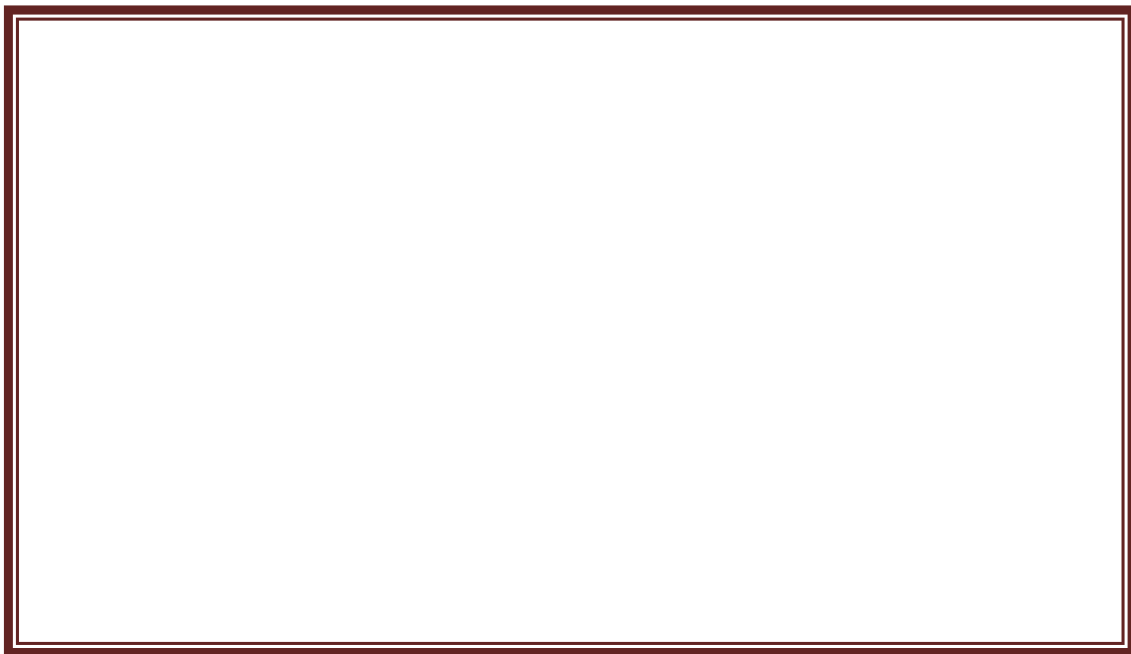
**Example:** *“When John asked me to be Best Man, I honestly felt very honoured. And in typical Brent fashion for avoiding responsibility, I succumbed to saying to him that I felt that the role may be better suited to one of the other guys. A couple of days later, John phoned me and admitted that I was in fact the best of a bad bunch.*”

*I was understandably a little offended at this and I told him that I was certainly not a man that could be bought. So to avoid confrontation, he offered to pay for my suit, hotel room, and offer as much food and wine that I could swallow.”*

*Address the couple. Include an anecdote or story about the bride and groom*

- a. How did they meet each other
- b. How did he tell you about his new love?
- c. What did they do for their first date
- d. What is the most interesting thing they have done together as a couple

This content is typical of about 90 percent of all best man speeches. How the bride and groom met. You can keep it brief, or tell the full story. Remember though, if the story is long, then you'll need to tart it up and make it funny. However, it is always a good idea to talk a bit about the bride as well. You may need more space than is provided, just make sure you keep your sentences short and paragraphs to two or three sentences each.



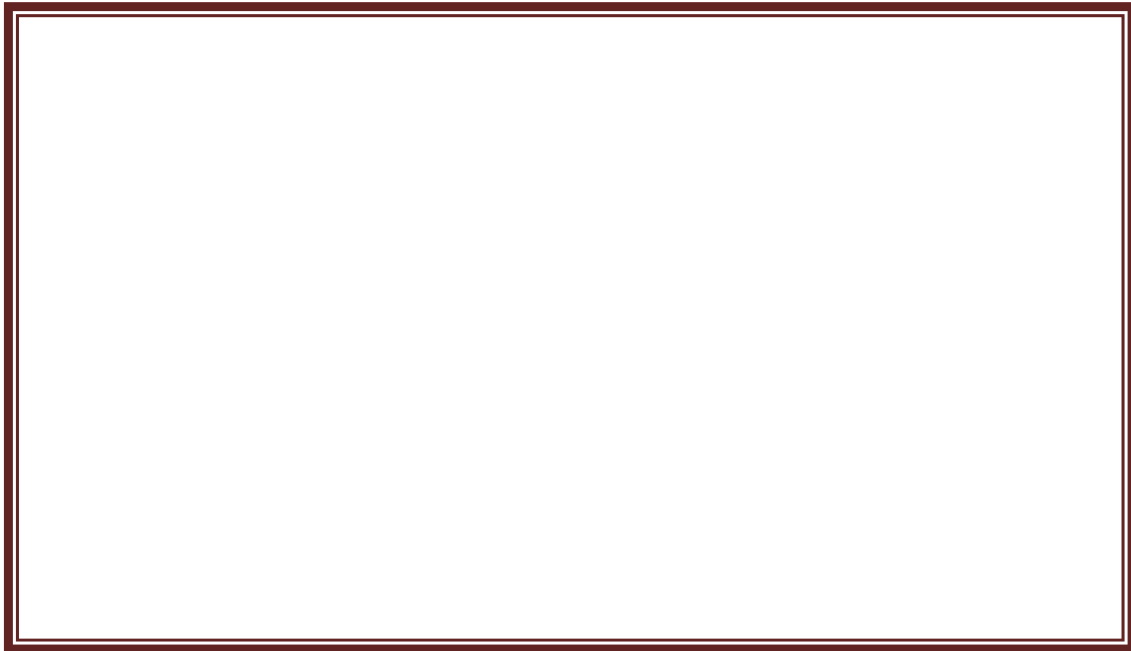
**Example:** *“asking Adele’s father for his blessing was the hardest thing John ever did. The setting was the local golf course, where I hear John played his usual game of whiskies, pulls and hooks, missed putts and duff shots... obviously he had a few more important things on his mind! Funny thing is that after Brent asked Stuart for Adele’s hand in marriage, his game blew out and I hear he played almost as bad as Brent was.”*

## *C*ome up with some funny stories about the groom

- a. his years of study,
- b. job skills,
- c. sports,
- d. hobbies and
- e. achievements.

A must have section of your speech. Make your stories flow, and follow the rules of speech writing as discussed in previous sections. The above list should give you a few ideas.

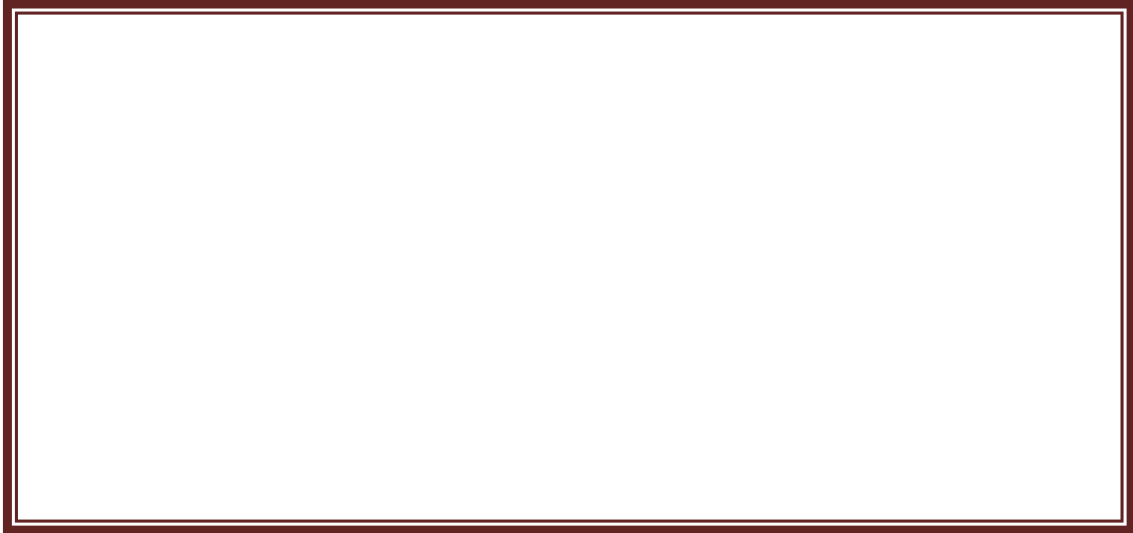
You will need to put at least one story down here. Maybe two, but certainly no more than three. Each story should take about one minute to two minutes to say, so your speech timing can easily get away from you here if you're not hard on yourself and making the stories succinct.



**Example:** *“John was always a high flyer. Destined for great heights. He applied himself at school, and got some really good grades. In fact, he was so dedicated to his studies that I remember one year he sat his end of year exams with the impediment of having his good arm in a cast. I asked him how hard it was writing with such an impediment, to which he relied; “the exams were a breeze compared wiping my ass with my left hand, it can get quite messy, you should give it a go some time.”*

## *Read* out some telegrams

These are usually fictitious, so feel free to make them up. Two telegrams is the norm. so if you've got actual emails or telegrams to say, then mix in one fictitious one.

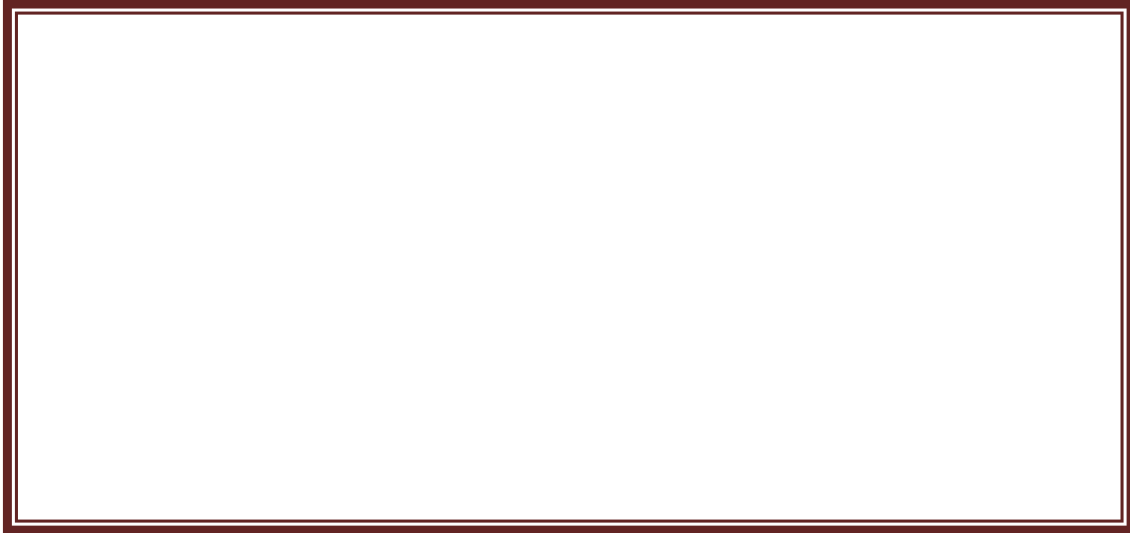


**Example:** *“I have a couple of messages... this came in from Johns baseball team... dear John and Jane. We’ve been playing with John for a while now, and we’ve tried in him every position... and he’s bloody useless... hopefully you have some better luck.*

*And this one I received yesterday. John, we wish you all the best with your marriage, Jane is a luck woman to have you, and we will miss you. From the girls at XXX Fantasy Club.”*

## *Give* advice to the bride & groom

This is another fun part. And always well received at weddings. I've included lots of examples here to help get your creative juices flowing.



**Example:** *"I've collected a wonderful assortment of advice from your friends and family in the audience here today, and here is a brief selection of what they have to say:*

*Firstly, to the bride.*

*Adele:*

- 1. The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness, can be trained to do most things*
- 2. The best way to get your Brent to do anything is to suggest that he is too old to do it*
- 3. Never go to bed angry. Stay up and fight.*

*John:*

*Married life can be compared to football. So be fully committed every week and make sure you score at least once every weekend. Make sure you change ends at half time. Put your tackle into it hard or you might injure yourself. However, **Adele** assures me that playing away from home, will result in a serious injury and will immediately place you on the transfer list."*

**Other advice examples:**

Love honour and cherish each other, and don't forget to take out the garbage

Your wife is always right

Just in case she is not right, refer back to #2

Always, yes always, notice every new hairstyle or dress

Do something nice for each other every single day. If she asks if something makes her look fat the answer is categorically NO

Flowers are always a good Idea, even if you are not in trouble

There is really nothing better than a good foot rub or massage

Your wife IS more important than sports. I guess. Even the cup final

Remember forever, what it was like when you first met and had the sparks of romance, cherish the union like it is constantly renewed

### To **The Bride**...

Remember that men are like a fine wine...

They start out like grapes...

And it is your job to stamp on them in the dark until they turn into something you would like to have dinner with.

### To **The Groom**...

By coincidence, women too are like a fine wine...

They start out fresh, fruity and intoxicating to the mind...

And then they turn full bodied with age, and eventually give you a splitting headache!

*What* **year was the groom born?**

What other “Special” and/or hilarious moments occurred either on his birth date, or during his first year?

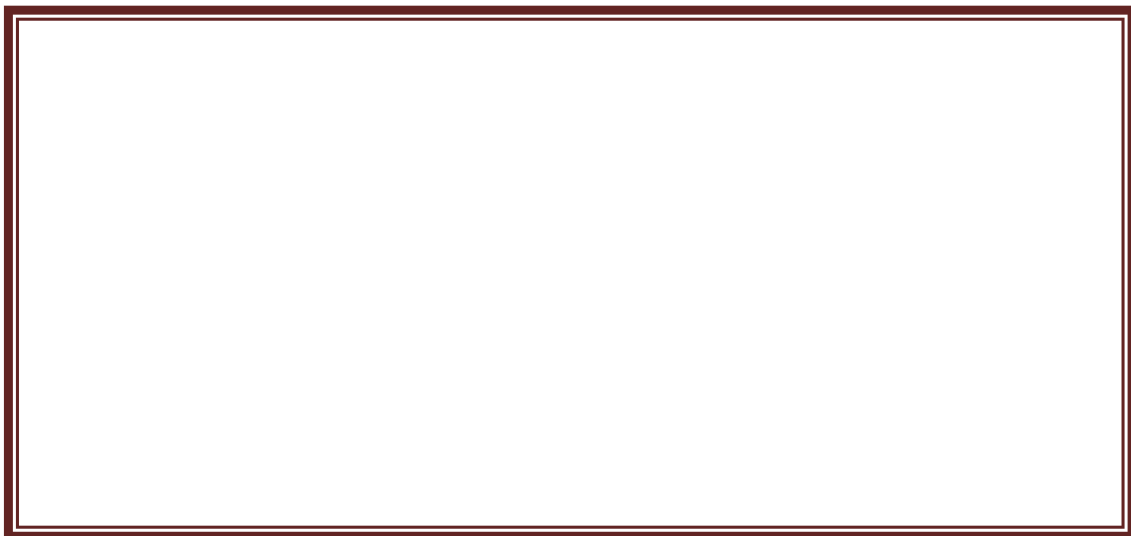
For this section you might need to use the internet to do some research. Find out what got invented, or what happened on the same date or same year that the groom was born.

These are the internet sites I use to collect information like this:

**Google.com** - do a search - “what happened the year I was born”

<http://www.blogthings.com/whathappenedtheyearyouwerebornquiz/>

<http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html>



**Example:** *“John was born in 1977, and I had a quick look on the Internet to see what other events took place that year. New York Yankees win the World Series and Oakland Raiders win Superbowl XI. But the main event of 1977 was the birth of the world's first test tube baby, and isn't he looking well ladies and gentlemen?”*

*What* was the **US or UK #1 single, band or album in the year he was born**

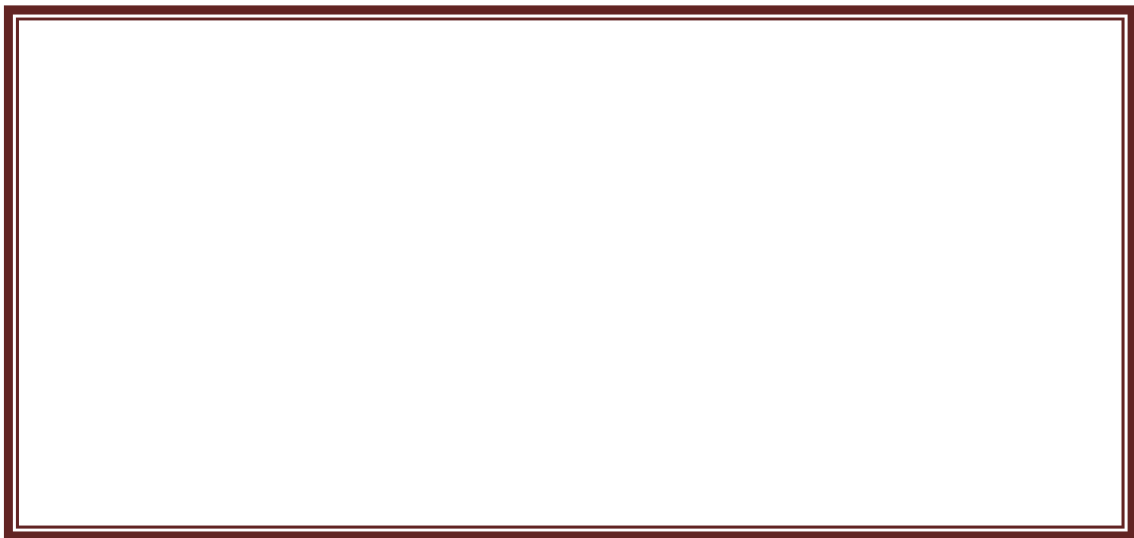
*(if this story is appropriate, then tie it in a funny anecdote)*

Use Google and Wikipedia to answer this question, you'll want to pad out your answer, and maybe tie this in with one of your previous answers. Use this as a lead in, or lead out, or to help make one of your existing stories funny. It is always nice to have quotes or facts in which to help illustrate your points.

These are the internet sites I use to collect information like this:

**Google.com** - do a search - "what was number one single"

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_number-one\\_singles\\_\(UK\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_number-one_singles_(UK))



**Example:** *"He was born IN 1956 on a Sunday, number one in the charts was Elvis with 'way down', now the only other event I found of any importance in this month was the introduction of free family planning.*

*Now I wouldn't say **John** was an ugly baby, but his mom only had morning sickness after he was born."*