

The background of the entire image is a photograph of an elderly man with glasses and a brown tweed vest over a blue shirt and red tie, speaking into a microphone. He is smiling and looking down. In the foreground, a woman in a white lace wedding dress is laughing and looking up at him. There are yellow and purple bunting flags in the background.

FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH: THE CONTENT-CREATOR

HOW IT WORKS

This is a build-as-you-go template designed by a team of TV scriptwriters, wedding connoisseurs and some rather clever people. How you approach it depends on your timescale, enthusiasm and what's on telly.

You can write a great speech in a few hours simply by picking a **Speech Theme** & filling in the blanks, but we recommend using this **Content-Creator** first. Either way, the guests and your daughter are going to love it. And hopefully the groom won't heckle you too much.

Step 1

Read the three Speech Themes to understand how your Content-Creator material will be used.

Step 2

Fill in the Content-Creator, either in one sitting or just keep adding to it as inspiration hits. Remember to save as you go.

Step 3

Now you have your material, pick one of the Speech Themes. They're all great, but there's probably one that's more 'you'.

Step 4

Add the material from your Content-Creator to your Speech Theme and personalise your speech.

Step 5

Print off your speech and use the advice in this PDF to deliver your speech like a pro. Kapow!

FOTB SPEECH BASICS

Every father of the bride is different. Some are more sentimental, some more cheeky and humorous. Some are separated from the mother of the bride, some are still leading the happily-ever-after. Whatever the case, we have a speech which will work for your circumstances and style.

There are, however, a few rules:

1 Be original

Yes, despite the fact you've just downloaded a template, there's no cut and paste jokes or clichéd platitudes here. Instead we're going to work with you to extract all that comedy-gold and heartfelt-sentiment that's lurking in that noggin of yours.

2 Be funny

The pressure is on the best man but we want your speech to be the one that's remembered. Hook people in with humour first and then get to the 'thank yous' and the mushy bit later. It's fine to be cheeky as long as there's love at the heart of your speech.

3 Be insightful

A heartfelt tribute to your daughter is what this is all about but remember all brides are beautiful, kind and generally *amaazzzing*.

Cut the clichés and concentrate on what makes your daughter unique. Nailing her individual and quirky characteristics is key to delivering a great speech that will make her feel truly special. Whether she's ditsy, gobby or obsessed with fake tan, people love her the way she is and it's your chance to celebrate that.

4 Be succinct

We're aiming for between five and seven minutes on the day - so around 1000-1100 words accounting for ad libs and laughter.

5 Be discreet

No need to tell if you've made a financial contribution towards the wedding. Not even in jest.

6 Be clear

...about what your role is. You're the wedding's warm up man and your job is to welcome everyone to the wedding.

Thank all the guests for coming but remember the 'thank yous' are actually the groom's job. Of course, discuss with the groom if you want to thank certain people who've helped organise the wedding. It's fine if there's a bit of overlap but you don't want to steal his thunder.

Certainly avoid thanking caterers or anyone who's been paid for their services. Don't feel tempted to give a rollcall of guests who've travelled far.

You will probably want to compliment the bridesmaids but remember the groom will too, so keep this *short and sweet*.

7 Be nice

About the groom and his family. Whether this is genuine or not.

8 Be brave

The Speechy templates don't follow the traditional FOTB format, but trust us, they work. As ex BBC scriptwriters we've spent years entertaining audiences and writing for high profile talent. We can smell a great speech from a hundred paces and sniff out a dud straight away.

So relax. All our Speech Themes come with a delight guarantee.

YOUR INPUT...

...is crucial. We need you to be insightful about your daughter and the groom so we can create the best possible speech.

We've designed this Content-Creator to inspire you. Write honestly, but also try to inject humour as you go. Think of the little quirky things that make the bride and groom the people they are, whether it's the terrible TV they watch, the weird superfoods they consume or their unexplained fascination with the colour orange (yes, we had a bride who was obsessed by it apparently?!).

As well as adding your content to your chosen Speech Theme you'll need to edit out slightly to ensure it fits with your personal circumstances.

For example you'll need to tailor...

- **The opening** - are you comfortable with an informal greeting or do you want to address the guests as 'ladies and gentlemen'? We prefer the former but it's your call depending on the size and style of the wedding.
- **The tribute to the bride's mother** - this will clearly depend on whether you're still together. If you remain married you can involve your wife throughout the speech and substitute 'I' for 'we' in a lot of cases. If you're separated, you still have to acknowledge the contribution she has made to your daughter's upbringing. If she has passed away you will obviously need to give a more considered tribute (see *Dearly Departed* section below).
- **Significant others** - if the bride has siblings or already has children (biological or step children) it makes sense to weave them into the speech at the points you find most appropriate.

Simply delete or edit text if any of our assumptions don't fit with your family set up.



CONTENT-CREATOR

Now let's begin...

This Content-Creator is designed to get you thinking but we've added some inspiration (a.k.a. nuggets you can nick) to help you along the way.

Don't feel you have to answer everything – if nothing springs to mind, leave it. Your responses are simply for you to add flavour and depth to the Speech Themes later. Highlight the really good bits and make sure you add it to your speech.

Use the table on the following page to start developing your speech...

TOP TIP:

ONCE YOU'VE WRITTEN YOUR THANK YOUS, GO BACK AND CHECK FOR CLICHÉS
ANYTHING YOU'VE HEARD BEFORE NEEDS TO BE BINNED!

YOUR DAUGHTER - THE EARLY YEARS

Think about	Your ideas	Inspo
Describe your daughter as a child		<i>Chatty, active and a big ball of curls.</i>
What was she good at as a child? Did she have any unusual talents?		<i>She was good at gymnastics, dancing and putting on plays that the whole family was regularly forced to endure. Sorry, enjoy.</i>
Examples of naughty behaviour		<i>She liked to play hide and seek but was rather too good at it. We once lost her at the shops and were about to call the police when we discovered she was in the window pretending to be a mannequin.</i>
How did she make you laugh?		<i>She believed she could take on the same challenges as her big brother. To be fair, the rugby boys did seem to be intimidated by her – a six year old girl convinced she was Jonah Lomu.</i>
Did she have any odd habits?		<i>She had an invisible friend who was extremely naughty. He got blamed for eating the Easter eggs and doing a lot of smelly bottom-pops. Actually it might have been me who blamed him for those.</i>
What did she enjoy doing?		<i>She loved art but had a rather modernist approach. We were of course delighted to discover the painting on display in her Primary 7 classroom was of mummy and daddy arguing.</i>
Who was her first crush?		<i>One of the Jonas Brothers – don't think she was fussy about which one.</i>
What did she want to be when she grew up?		<i>A fashion designer. But rather than Chanel or Armani, her ambition was to design for Primark.</i>
What are your happiest memories together?		<i>Going on camping holidays to Cornwall. I loved it when it rained and we were forced to play games in the tent. She started to beat me at chess around 8.</i>
What strange habits did she adopt as a teenager? Examples of naughty behaviour as a teen.		<i>Her music taste got worse around 13. She started listening to Jay Z and Kanye West and thinking she came from downtown Brooklyn.</i>
Do you have any old school reports? Is there anything funny in there that was perceptive or completely wrong considering the woman she's grown into?		<i>Writing this speech has been an opportunity to hunt out the old school reports. I found one from Primary 1 that said '(bride) has developed sound numeracy skills and can now count from one to 20.' However, twenty years later I'm still not sure she understands, despite having 63 pairs of shoes, she only has two feet.</i>

YOUR DAUGHTER - TODAY

Think about	Your ideas	Inspo
When and why have you felt proud of her?		<i>Very proud when she got her new job. I know she's worked hard for it and it's a pleasure to watch her excel.</i>
What traits do you share?		<i>Overly competitive – especially at crosswords. Both hate honey and both love beetroot.</i>
What traits does she share with her mother?		<i>Very kind and loving. Also can't resist dancing when Beyonce comes on.</i>
What makes you smile when you think about her?		<i>Her habit of always saying the wrong thing / being rubbish at pub quizzes despite always trying to win.</i>
What's her quirkiest habits?		<i>Still wears slippers with bunny ears on them. Dips her chips in Nutella. Can't sleep easy if she knows there's chocolate in the house.</i>
What's her guilty pleasures?		<i>Ben & Jerry ice-cream, Marc Jacobs bags and Pinot Grigio.</i>
What are her passions?		<i>Taking photos of her food, sparkly shoes and taking Freddie the dog walks on the beach.</i>
What makes her happy?		<i>Family, the dog, Cornish pasties.</i>

THE GROOM

Think about	Your ideas	Inspo
What did you think of the groom when you first met him? Was there anything to arouse a father's suspicion?		<i>What a complete and utter hipster! He had a ridiculous beard and his trousers stopped at his ankles.</i>
Can you give a comedy description of him physically?		<i>Hertfordshire's answer to Brad Pitt minus a million or two.</i>
Can you list the groom's most questionable 'qualities'?		<i>He supports Manchester United and can't name one Bob Dylan song.</i>
What makes the groom a good guy? Why is he a good match for your daughter?		<i>He's kind, he's practical and he's very good at listening to (bride) even when she's talking about Keeping Up With the Kardashians.</i>
What have you and the groom bonded over? How are you similar?		<i>He can play a good game of chess, likes malt whiskey and hates Keeping Up With the Kardashians too.</i>
What traits / hobbies / passions do the bride and groom share?		<i>Share a similar sense of humour. They both love adventure and they're both Star Trek fans. They both seem to love quinoa for some reason.</i>

ANECDOTES

Are there any standout anecdotes? Have a think. Remember the trick is to keep them concise & ensure the punchline is at the end.

Think about	Your ideas
Your daughter as a child (NB Stories about the birth, potty training or sleepless nights are rarely funny)	
Your daughter as an adult	
Meeting the groom	
Anecdotes relating to the groom	

NOTE:

ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR **SPEECH THEME** YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLOT IN ANY OF THE GREAT STORIES YOU'VE JUST DISCOVERED

THE DEARLY DEPARTED

How you handle the loss of a loved one depends on how raw the emotions are. Our advice is keep it short, sweet and script it towards the end of your speech. Certainly do NOT turn your speech into a eulogy. A father of the bride's speech needs to be joyful so think of poetic and thoughtful ways to acknowledge a loved one's loss.

Think about what qualities they share with the bride. Think about the funny things they may have added to the day if they were still here. What would they have thought about the wedding or the groom? If you can make it funny – all the better! We want people to remember loved ones with a smile.

For example if your daughter's mother has passed away...

'Seeing you look so beautiful today I can't help but be reminded of all the amazing qualities you share with your mother – a warm heart, a cracking sense of humour and a mega-watt smile. I know if she was here today you'd both be giggling away together and showing off your Beyonce moves by the end of the night. I've no doubt she's looking down on us today with a smile on her face – probably wondering why we haven't ordered more Champagne.'

If your daughter has recently lost a grandparent...

'Of course it is a great sadness that your Grandma can't be here today. If she was, I'm sure there would have been a bit more ABBA on the playlist. Still, I've no doubt she would have approved of the groom – once he shaved his beard off!'

Use this section to write your tribute to your dearly departed...

Loved ones to mention	How to pay tribute to them

NOTE:

ONCE YOU'VE WRITTEN THIS SECTION PRACTISE IT AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE DELIVERING IT ON THE DAY

WRITING YOUR SPEECH

Now you've got your material, it's time to start writing your speech using your favourite Speech Theme.

It'll be obvious where some of the content you've created will go, however you may like to add an extra line or 'chapter' if you feel there's more material that we haven't included in your chosen Theme.

Of course if you have a cracking anecdote – whack it in! We've created a framework for you to play with.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR TEMPLATE

It's pretty simple - decide which one you like the best!

- **'Instruction Manual'** - is your guide to how the bride works. This template is a good option if you want to avoid the politics of a messy divorce as it focuses on the woman your daughter is today, rather than her childhood years.
- **'Unconventional Fairy Tale'** - is good for fathers who were heavily involved in their daughter's upbringing as it takes a trip down memory lane.
- **'Opening Night'** - is a good option if your daughter has a bubbly character and is known as a bit of a drama queen. It also works if the wedding is quite theatrical or extravagant.

SPEECH PROPS

If you're nervous about memorising your speech, *'Unconventional Fairy Tale'* and *'Instruction Manual'* themes both have book props scripted into them meaning you can legitimately read your speech! Clearly you still need to maintain eye contact with the guests, but the book is a useful reference if you know you're going to be nervous:



You can 'design' a book yourself (just print a mocked up cover & paste it onto a hardback) or commission a keepsake from our favourite supplier of bespoke books:

www.notonthehighstreet.com/andsotheymade

Of course we still approve of cue cards if you opt for 'Opening Night'.

DELIVER YOUR SPEECH LIKE A PRO

When you've written your speech it's time to start thinking about delivering it. Here's our tips...

- Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse. If you keep stumbling on the same section, just change it.
- Try to memorise your speech but use notes. Even if you're normally great at presenting, you'll be shell-shocked on your wedding day and you may need some help. Either use cue cards, our book prop idea or print your notes on to quality paper to avoid the paper shaking.
- Make sure you look up and make eye contact with your guests. Remember to smile – it's literally infectious.
- Talk slower than feels natural. You'll come across as more confident.
- Leave pauses where you expect laughter. Sometimes the humour is slow to land and people need that extra moment to 'get it'. Never talk over the laughs you've worked so hard to get.
- Prepare for some affectionate banter throughout the speech and ad lib accordingly.
- Check the acoustics of the venue and source a microphone if necessary.
- On the day, feel free to have a drink before your speech! - but no more than a couple!

FINALLY

Hopefully you know you have a corker of a speech on your hands but check out our 'Review' or 'Bespoke Speech' service if you want more expert guidance.

If you have a minute, we'd love to know what you thought of our template. We always want to improve and it makes our day if we know we've helped a father of the bride in need - [Email *heidi@speechy.co.uk*](mailto:heidi@speechy.co.uk) with any thoughts.

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST FOR THE BIG DAY!