

Writing your own Wedding Vows:

People can be intimidated by the idea of writing their own vows despite the desire to have something unique to them. This is an outline to simplify the process for you and to help us gather some details so that we can create a unique ceremony. Please ONLY answer the questions that speak to you. If that means all of them, awesome, if only a few...fine too. You can sit down and answer them as a couple, independently or we can chat about them. It is up to you.

It can take time to craft, create and write wedding vows, so I would appreciate seeing your answers or a rough draft about a month before the ceremony.

Writing your Wedding Vows - things to consider.

- Start early: give yourself at least two weeks to find & mull over the words.
 - Brainstorm - use the questions below as a guide.
 - Write several drafts.
 - Focus on the highlights, you're not writing an academic paper nor trying to cover everything that has happened since you met.
 - Short sentences is fine.
 - Avoid absolutes 'always', 'never', 'till death do us part'(on the slim chance your marriage doesn't make it to the grave, you don't need the guilt/shame or emotional noose around your neck.) No one is perfect, Don't add anything that will provoke guilt /regret in the future when you find your humanity during a down day.
 - Embrace emotions; it is okay to be genuine, authentic, and offer up heartfelt sentiment
 - A little levity is fine. The ability to make another smile is always a plus.
 - Practice reading out loud. It takes longer to speak than read.
 - Indicate pauses (intonation) in the notes - allowing time for your intended to hear you.
 - Run it past me or another trusted friend, until you are comfortable with the words.
 - Email them to me and I'll incorporate them into my binder.
 - Your vows are a form of a gift. They can be shared in advance or held back until the wedding.
- Sources of inspiration
- Borrow from your favourite songs, movie lines, scripture, books, poems...
 - Past letters, emails, or journal entries between the two of you
 - Your photo albums
 - Interview your best friend(s) - What have I told you about my fiancé that I can use in my vows?
 - Keep a thesaurus & dictionary handy while you write or when you revise

Wedding Vow Template

Write two or three sentences about each of these elements, weaving in personal stories as little or as much as you desire.

Consider agreeing to keep the same structure/tone/word count if you prefer to keep your vows private until the ceremony. I can be your sounding board on this behind the scenes.

- Express your love
 - Something you appreciate about or value in your partner.
 - Something from the past that pulled you together. (dream, memory, decision, ...)

- Promises that will guide your marriage.
 - Who will you be, what will you do, ...
 - Communicate intent to be there through; peaks/ hills & valleys, while paddling upstream & floating downstream, High & low notes,
 - You can draw from your personality here.

- A look to the future:
 - goals, your aspirations, the qualities to embody.
 - Acknowledge the role of family & friends who will help guide/support/inspire you.

Relationship Questions:

1. How did you meet your fiancé?
2. When was that first date, what was it like?
3. Do you remember your first impression(s).
4. When did you first say, "I love you?"
5. Who said I love you first?
6. Was there a moment when you 'knew this was the ONE'? How did that happen?
7. When did you know you wanted to get married?
8. Did you discuss the engagement/your future before 'popping the question'?
9. When did you and how did you get engaged?
10. Tell me about the proposal
11. What qualities(5+) do you most love about your fiancé?
12. What do you most admire in them?
13. Something/someway they have contributed to your life?
14. What traits do you admire about them
15. Do you have a favourite memory about your history together so far?
16. Is there a place and/or memory that is sacred and significant to you, that inspires you?
17. Have you travelled together? Any memories/precious moments to share about your travels?
18. What do you most enjoy doing together?
19. What are your shared interests/hobbies?
20. How would you describe your relationship?
21. What does being married mean to you?
22. What is most important to you about being a married couple?
23. What are your hopes for your future together?
24. Tell me about YOU two – where do you live? what do you do for a living?
25. What is the most romantic gesture your fiancé has done for you? (Besides the engagement)
26. Is there anything quirky or unique about your relationship?
27. Do you have any public nicknames for each other?
28. Is there anything humorous or interesting that has happened in your relationship that you would like shared during the ceremony?
29. How do you describe your fiancé to people who are hearing about him/her for the first time?
30. How would your parents(inner circle) describe your fiancé to their friends?
31. What are you most looking forward to about your life together, after your wedding?
32. What do you see when you think about your longer-term future together?
33. What are your hopes for your future together?
34. Will children factor in your future?
35. If you could live anywhere in the world with your fiancé, where would it be and why?