



Vow Guide

Vows

The vows are the most important part of the wedding ceremony as this is the moment couples make their promises to each other.

While your vows can include almost anything you desire, there is a short statement that both partners must legally say. It is:

"I call upon the persons here present to witness that I [Name], take thee, [Name], to be my lawful wedded [wife/husband/spouse]."

These mandatory words must include your legal names, not nicknames. Many couples ask me what exactly these legal vows mean - they're phrased in an unfamiliar, and somewhat archaic way. Basically, you're asking all your guests to be witnesses to you taking your beloved to be your legal spouse! The legally required wording must be included, and you may add any personal form of vows.

If you'd like to try writing your own vows, this handy guide may be just what you are looking for!

Adding personal vows to your legal vows add a special bit of sparkle and gooey love to your ceremony. It's your chance to tell your partner what you promise for your relationship to come. It is your opportunity to make your vows a response to the awe-inspiring marriage ceremony that you are both taking part in. It gives you the chance to make sure your significant other knows without a doubt how you feel and what promises you are making in response to the vows you're both legally committing to.

While you can choose to write your own vows (and I encourage you to give it a go!) please don't feel any pressure to come up with something completely unique. If it's just not working for you, I have included plenty of examples and ideas to get the gooey-ness started. And there are plenty of resources on the internet too.

One more thing to think about is HOW you want your vows to be said. There are a few options. We can do the traditional "repeat after me" vows, or you can hold vow cards and read them yourselves without the cues from me. The one bit of advice I do recommend is DO NOT attempt to memorise either the legal vows or your personal vows - your wedding day is extremely emotional and you're bound to forget something really important!

If there isn't anything in this guide that tickles your fancy, don't despair! Do an internet search for 'How do I write my vows?'. The last time I did that search I was presented with 22,400,000 results. And if you can't find anything from those 22 million ideas, perhaps just stick with the legal vows - I will still make your ceremony beautiful!



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Vow Writing Prompts

Writing your vows from scratch can be an overwhelming prospect, and many of my clients tell me they don't know where to start.

Below are some questions you could use to help you write your vows.

Instead of trying to construct sentences, answer all or some of these questions, or finish the sentences.

From the answers you give, you should have a pretty good foundation for creating some heartfelt and purposeful vows. Remember your vows should be meaningful and personal.

- ♥ What is the purpose of YOUR wedding vows?
- ♥ Why are you getting married?
- ♥ When did you know you wanted to marry your partner?
- ♥ Why do you want to marry them?
- ♥ What do you hope will change, or improve, when you are married?
- ♥ How do you want your partner to feel as they hear the vows?
- ♥ What commitment are you actually making?
- ♥ What is something cute your partner does?
- ♥ What was a defining moment in your relationship?
- ♥ What defines your relationship now?
- ♥ What will define your relationship in the future?
- ♥ What do you just love about them?
- ♥ Why do you love them?
- ♥ Why will you always love them?
- ♥ Is there something special you want to promise?
- ♥ Where do you see you both being in 1 year? 5 years? 50 years?
- ♥ I love the way you...
- ♥ I love you for teaching me...
- ♥ I feel so lucky...
- ♥ Thank you for giving me...
- ♥ I promise to be...
- ♥ Thank you for showing me...
- ♥ After we are married, I'm looking forward to...



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Following are some suggestions for vows. Feel free to select more than one and mix and match. Use and re-write to your hearts content! I have listed here just a selection of the vow suggestions.

Vows Suggestions	
1.	[Name], all that I am, and all that I have, I offer to you, in love and in joy. From this day forward I will love and comfort you, hold you close, prize you above all others, and remain faithful to you all the days of our lives.
2.	<p>[Name], I choose you above all others to share my life in marriage. I promise to love and cherish you always, forever increasing that love over the passage of time. I promise to stand by you in all things and provide for you warmth, tenderness, understanding and protection. I promise to nurture a home environment filled with love, light and laughter.</p> <p>I promise to speak to you lovingly with an open heart, and to always honour the divine within you, your heart, your body and your spirit. I promise to fully appreciate your presence in my life and to accept you fully as you are. I promise to support and encourage you in the fulfilment of your hopes, your dreams, your life purpose, your highest good. I ask everyone present to witness that I take you as my [wife/husband/spouse].</p>
3.	To say I love you is not enough. To try to condense the depth of my feelings into a few words is impossible. It doesn't tell of the respect I have for you as an individual, nor how tender and caring you are, nor the joy I find in your laughter, nor the tears I hold back for your pain, nor the strength I give when I need it, nor the pleasure I feel in your touch. But if to say I love you means all these things, then let me say I love you more each day.
4.	[Name], I take you to be my partner, to have and to hold, from this day forward. I give to you my unending love and devotion. I promise to be true to you, to cherish you, and to share my thoughts, hopes, and dreams with you. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you, my best friend. I will love you forever.
5.	[Name], I want to be with you always just as you are. I choose you above all others to share my life in marriage. I love you for yourself, and I want you to become all that you can be. I promise to honour this pledge as long as I live. I ask everyone present to witness that I take you as my partner in marriage.
6.	[Name], today I will marry you, my friend, the one I will live with, dream with, and love forever. I take you to be my [wife/husband/spouse]. From this day forward I will cherish you. I will look with joy down the path of our tomorrows, knowing we will walk it together side by side, hand in hand, and heart to heart.
7.	...to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to hold, and to be faithful together until death do us part.
8.	All that I am and all that I have I offer to you in love and in joy. From this day forward I will love and comfort you, hold you close, prize you above all others, and remain faithful to you all the days of our lives.
9.	As my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquillity asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.



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Vows Suggestions	
10.	As we begin our married life, I make this commitment to share my life with you. I will always be there for you as your partner, lover, friend and buddy as we embrace the experiences of life together. [Name], I know my love for you will continue to grow, and that we will enjoy our lives together.
11.	...loving what I know of you, and trusting what I do not yet know. I eagerly anticipate the chance to grow together, getting to know the man/woman you will become, and falling in love a little more every day. I promise to love and cherish you through whatever life may bring us.
12.	I am proud to take you as my [wife/husband/spouse]. I promise to love and respect you, and provide for your needs as best I can. I will always be open and honest with you, support you through difficult times and try my utmost to bring you happiness. In the presence of our families and friends, I make the following promise: at all times I will support and respect you, when you speak I will listen and when you need me to I will share my thoughts with you. I will forever hold our love and commitment above all else.
13.	I take thee to be my cherished [wife/husband/spouse], to be my faithful partner, and to share my love from this day forward. On this bright day I now give to you, in the presence of family and friends, my promise to always be by your side as your truly devoted [wife/husband], in sickness and in health, both the good and the bad times, every day and every night I pledge. I will always love you without reservation, give you comfort, support you in each and every way, laugh, cry and share experiences with you, grow with you in every way, always be open, honest and forgiving, cherish and support you as long as we both shall live.
14.	On this special day, [Name], I give to you, in the presence of all these witnesses, my promise to stay by your side, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, through the good times and the bad. I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you, for as long as we both shall live.
15.	Today I marry my friend. The one I have laughed with and cried with; the one I have learned from and shared with; the one I have chosen to support and encourage through all the days given to us to share. Today I marry the one I love.
16.	Today I will marry my friend, the one I will live with, dream with and love. I take you to be my [wife/husband/spouse]. From this day forward I will cherish you. I will look with joy down the path of our tomorrows knowing we will walk it together side by side, hand in hand, and heart to heart.