

Want to Write Your Own Vows?

Tips on Writing Your Own Vows

Most couples feel that their love is truly unique, a special bond between the two of them that no one else will ever experience in quite the same way. They're right. Writing your own vows can be an intensely moving and intimate way to create a ceremony that truly reflects the way you feel about each other.

Before you can effectively express your feelings, you'll need to identify them. It's important to talk to each other about your marriage, discussing your beliefs, dreams, and expectations. Take notes on this conversation and use it as the foundation for building your own custom made vows. Once you identify the things that are the most important to you, then you can decide how best to express them.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- When and where did you first meet?
- What was the state of your life before the two of you met?
- At what point did you realize you were in love? Describe the feeling.
- What inspires you about your loved one?
- What life goals and dreams do you share?
- What have you learned from each other?
- What qualities make your love unique? What qualities will keep it strong?
- How has your view of the world changed since you fell in love?
- What do you most look forward to about life with this person?
- What are some special moments in your relationship, either happy or sad, humorous or profound?

IMPORTANT TIPS!

The vows themselves should only take two or three minutes to say to one another. This is a public declaration of your commitment, not a private conversation between the two of you. Don't embarrass your friends and family with details that are too intimate or lengthy. Sincerity is the key; the words should come from your heart.

Decide whether or not the two of you will recite the same vows or different ones. Incorporate your wedding guests into your vows by having them responded with their blessings and support. Discuss your personal vows with your officiant beforehand. Read your vows out loud, which is a surprisingly effective way to catch errors, glitches, or awkward phrasing. Additional thoughts on your commitment to marriage may be expressed in the main body of the ceremony or through the use of special poems and prayers.

Words to help write wedding vows:

When searching for the right words to use, don't forget poetry, books, or song lyrics that touch your heart. These are a great place to begin.

Also consider taking some of the typical words used in ceremonies- Cherish, love, honor, support, obey- and brainstorm around them, finding your own unique words with just the right nuance of meaning. Just in case you're stuck, below is a list of phrases and words that will get you started.

VERBS	NOUNS	QUALITIES	DESCRIPTIONS
Accept	Accomplice	Beauty	Alive
Adore	Adversity	Candor	Ardent
Challenge	Ally	Charisma	Attractive
Cherish	Angel	Charm	Beautiful
Comfort	Beauty	Cheerfulness	Beholden
Commit	Beloved	Chivalry	Binding
Cry	Best friend	Courage	Caring
Declare	Companion	Dearest	Charming
Desire	Darling	Dependability	Complete
Develop	Dearest	Determination	Considerate
Embrace	Despair	Elegance	Constant
Encourage	Eternity	Enduring	Courageous
Endeavor	Faith	Eternal	Cozy
Endure	Fears	Everlasting	Dauntless
Experience	Frailty	Fidelity	Deserving
Give	Freedom	Forever	Desirable
Honor	Friend	Generosity	Devoted
Join	Good Fortune	Gentility	Ecstatic
Laugh	Growth	Grace	Emotional
Learn	Hero	Happy	Enduring
Love	Humor	Holy	Fair
Nurture	Joy	Honesty	Faithful
Offer	Lover	Hopeful	Forgiving
Pledge	Neglect	Humility	Genuine
Promise	Partner	Humor	Glowing
Protect	Peace	Independence	Happy
Respect	Permanent	Innocence	Hopeful
Share	Problems	Integrity	Innocent
Stand	Reverence	Joyful	Jubilant
Strive	Sickness	Long	Lasting
Support	Sorrow	Loveliest	Lovely
Swear	Soul Mate	Loyalty	Mutual
Uplift	Spirit	New	Noble
Wonder	Symbol	Partnership	Precious
	Teacher	Playfulness	Predestined
	Treasure	Priceless	Pure
	True	Pride	Reliable
	Counterpart	Purity	Romantic
	Understanding	Simplicity	Safe
		Sincerity	Significant

Sweetness	Sincere
Tenderness	Soft
True	Solemn
Trust	Staunch
Unknown	Sweet
Virtue	Triumphant
Worth	Unconditional
	Virtuous
	Wonderful
	Worthy

PHRASES

In sickness and in health
In sunshine and in shadow
For all eternity
From the deepest recesses of my heart
The full measure of my love
Built on mutual love and honesty
A symbol of my love
All the days of our lives
Dearer than life itself
I give myself to you
Light of my life
May our love flourish and grow
Before I met...my life was...
When I first realized I was in love....
What I love about...is
I look forward to spending my life with....
Once, when...and I were together....
Since, I met...
Both of us share the same....
I have learned to....