

Cheat Sheet Instructions

Again, congratulations on officiating a wedding and thanks so much for allowing me to guide you. I hope these instructions are helpful and clear. If anything in the material you've purchased from me can be improved, please let me know. I welcome all feedback. I'm always trying to improve every aspect of my life, especially when it involves others.

Have you ever seen someone on TV who was obviously reading from a teleprompter? You probably dismissed them as someone who had little or no authority. My goal is to prevent that from happening to you. If you're monotone or sound like you're reading, people will tune out and you'll notice their faces in the crowd and that will likely affect your confidence. You want to sound natural, like you're explaining something, having a conversation, or sharing a great story that gets you excited.

Knowing where to inflect your voice or emphasize a word will help you sound genuine and charismatic. That's where the cheat sheets come in. The underlined words not only show you where I've learned to inflect or emphasize, but will also help you keep your place on the page as you look up at the couple and their guests, and then back down at your book.

Don't officiate your ceremony reading from an I-Pad or tablet, unless you have a nice leather case! The ceremony book I read from can be found on Amazon here and it'll help you look like a pro.

The cheat sheets are a guide. You are in no way obligated to emphasize or inflect your voice on the words I've underlined. Rehearse and you'll discover what works for you. However, I've said this ceremony material hundreds of times and after much trial and error have found the words in each sentence that seem to matter the most. For example: "Bride and Groom hope YOU have a great time tonight." sounds much different from "Bride and Groom hope you have a GREAT time tonight." It's not only what you say, it's how you say it.

- <u>1.</u> Download a voice recorder app to your phone. Record yourself reciting ceremony material so that you can hear what you sound like before starting the video training. I use Hi-Q found <u>here</u>.
- <u>2.</u> Silently read the cheat sheet sections as you watch the videos of me reciting that same ceremony material. Then try to match my cadence and read out loud and along with me. Do this at least fifteen times per ceremony section chosen by your couple. There's no such thing as too much practice.
- <u>3.</u> Underline some of your ceremony sections using blue ink and some sections with black ink or other contrasting color. This is another great way to keep your spot on the page.
- <u>4.</u> Put a colored dot before sentences that address the bride and a different color dot before sentences that address the groom. Knowing who to look at before you even start reading the sentence will help you to sound genuine and will also help you keep your spot on the page.

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<u>5.</u> Make sure to print your materials with a font large enough to easily see. Straining to focus will kill your timing.

<u>6.</u> Record yourself again once you feel like you've improved. I'm willing to bet you'll still have places to improve and that's okay. Practice, practice, practice. I rehearsed 4-5 hours for my first wedding. Remember, you've been asked to officiate because they think you'll do a great job. Prove them right. It feels great to exceed people's expectations.

I'm happy to help beyond video training with 1 on 1 coaching. Check it out HERE.

Grateful Anticipation
Everybody welcome to this exciting moment in Bride and Groom's lives. Put your worries on hold. We're gathered here to have fun, to honor the beauty of love, and to celebrate Bride and Groom getting married! I'm sure you've all shared their anticipation for today so I'd like to tell you all how much you mean to them. You are the people with whom Bride and Groom share their love, support, their laughter and their tears. You form their community of support and each of you is called upon to uphold them because everyone here supplies them with different aspects they'll need to live a long and happy life together. They sincerely thank all of you for being here today, but the same goes for those who weren't able to attend. Bride and Groom carry them in their hearts, too. You've all been invited here not just to witness their ceremony, but to participate fully with the positive energy of your thoughts, which will bless them both and help to support their married life. Today marks another new chapter in the adventures of Bride and Groom as they proclaim their love to the world and unite in marriage. Today they'll promise to give themselves freely and generously into the hands of one another, for life! So, we're here to celebrate their love and their future together as husband and wife.

Continue to Flir

and Groom, your relationship stands for <u>love</u>, <u>honesty</u> and <u>trust</u>, but <u>also f</u>or friendship. You're not just in love with each other, you're best friends too and that forms the wonderful foundation of your relationship. Think about how much fun you have and how much you enjoy doing together, and today you both take a leap of faith into the commitment of marriage. This ceremony solidifies your moral, emotional and physical union. Groom, you've found Bride. With her, you can safely let your guard down to be vulnerable For the rest of your life, she's the girl you get to whimper to when you cut you finger or stub your toe You've got someone to share the smallest things with, like great conversation while in the car or over a meal, as well as someone to support you during tough times so remember Groom, that your anniversary is a special day and a card won't suffice. Plan something that requires a little thought. Surprise her with a weekend trip somewhere you've both talked about going or <u>relive</u> a <u>favorite date</u> Show the <u>world</u> how successful marriage and serious commitment can <u>be</u> because a happy wife <u>is</u> a happy life. Fortunately, she knows that happy husbands are important too. Bride you've found Groon someone who will always get you a blanket when you're cold and who will assure you that no matter what you're wearing, you're beautiful and you look great. Groom is unlike any <u>guy</u> you've ever <u>met</u> He's a better <u>fit</u> for you in <u>every way</u> and so you can <u>easily</u> see your <u>future</u> together and <u>so</u> can <u>he,</u> which is <u>why</u> he goes out of his way to make you smile. Groom is there to share the highlights, like today, and give you a shoulder to lean on when things are too stressful to handle on your own. He's shown you that he has your back no matter what, and so you're both prepared to make your marriage a life-long practice of loving one another to the fullest, and it is a practice so we all want you to nurture your playful attitudes and think of different ways to express your love to one another

Continue to firt with each other and act as though you're still dating to keep your relationship fun and alive because marriage is full of peaks and valleys. You've been together long enough to know that's just life, and sometimes there are surprises. Some surprises will cause you to beam with joy. While others will test the youthful love that you share. Fortunately, you both know how important it is to truly listen to each other, and not just to your dreams, but to your fears and frustrations. Stay open, honest and compassionate with each other and you'll nurture your marriage and future family-life with care. Bride and Groom you're teammates and best friends, and we're excited for you. May you hold hands until you're old and gray and may your love grow deeper and sweeter with each passing year.

True Friend and Soul Mate, Unknown Author

If you're <u>lucky</u> in life, you <u>find</u> someone who can <u>completely</u> turn your <u>world</u> around. You tell them things that you've <u>never shared</u> with another soul and they <u>absorb</u> everything you say and <u>actually want to</u> hear more. You share <u>hopes</u> for the future, <u>dreams</u> that will <u>never</u> come true, <u>goals</u> that were never achieved <u>and</u> the many disappointments life has <u>thrown</u> at you, but when something <u>wonderful</u> happens, you <u>can't wait</u> to <u>tell</u> them about it, <u>knowing</u> they will <u>share in your excitement</u>. They are not embarrassed to <u>cry with you</u> when you are <u>hurting</u> or <u>laugh</u> with you wen ot good enough, but <u>rather</u> they build you <u>up</u> and show you the things about yourself that make you <u>special</u> and <u>even beautiful</u>. There's never any <u>pressure</u>, <u>jealousy or</u> competition but only a <u>quiet calmness</u> when they're around. You can <u>be yourself</u> and <u>not worry about what they will think</u> about you because they love you for who you <u>are</u>. In their presence, there's <u>no need for continuous conversation</u>, but you find you're <u>quite content</u> in just having them nearby. Things that <u>never interested you before</u> become <u>fascinating</u> because you <u>know</u> they are important to this person who is <u>so special to you</u>. You think of this person on <u>every occasion</u> and in <u>everything</u> you do. You find strength in <u>knowing</u> you have a true friend and a <u>soul mate</u> who will remain loyal to the end.

Letter Box

Bride and Groom have asked their families for advice, blessings and support, and are starting a time capsule of sorts. We'll invite some of their family members up now to deposit their letters into the time capsule and give hugs. Out of sincere respect and admiration, Bride and Groom would like their grandparents to come up first. Mr. and Mrs. ??? will you please join us? Bride and Groom plan to read these letters on their tenth wedding anniversary. With equal respect and admiration, now we'd like to invite your folks to join us to put their letters in the box and give hugs. Mr. and Mrs.?, Mr. and Ms.? Will you please join us? Bride and Groom plan to read these letters on their fifth wedding anniversary. Now we'd like to invite all your siblings to join us to put their letters in the box and exchange hugs. Bride and Groom plan to read these letters on their fifth wedding anniversary. Next, the letters written to each other/or yows are placed in the box, which will be read next year, on their first anniversary.

Don't email the cheat sheets to your couple. Replace the ceremony material within their outline with the "cheat sheet" versions and then you're ready to paste it into your ceremony book.

I mention the newbie mistakes to avoid in the ceremony material instructions, but feel they're important enough to reiterate.

*Avoid this newbie mistake and make sure you're on the same page as the Bride and her escort. Before their ceremony ask the bride if someone is escorting her down the aisle, usually dad, and if she'd like you to ask him, "Who has the honor of escorting Bride down the aisle and presenting her to Groom?" That's the contemporary way of asking, "Who gives this woman away?" The bride is not a possession or gift. If her parents are still married, "Her mother and I." is the most common response.

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I usually ask the bride if she wants me to ask this question while she and I are away from her dad, just in case she says no. There's no need to hurt dad's feelings unnecessarily. Good vibes are the goal!

*Avoid this newbie mistake and start every ceremony by asking the guests to, "Please rise" when you see the bride about to walk in. I usually take a few steps forward with the groom to meet the bride and her dad, to then ask, "Who has the honor of escorting Bride down the aisle and presenting her to Groom?"

Make sure the groom knows to acknowledge her dad with a handshake or hug, however they're most comfortable, and to make sure Bride has a chance to kiss dad before he sits and she hands her bouquet off to the maid of honor.

<u>*Avoid this newbie mistake.</u> Be sure to then instruct the guests to sit back down by saying, "Please be seated." Wait until the maid of honor has finished straightening out the bride's dress before beginning their "welcoming guests."

*Avoid this newbie mistake and be sure to ask their guests to "Please rise" before pronouncing them as husband and wife. "Ladies and gentlemen will you all please rise as I get to introduce for the first time ever, Mr. and Mrs!!!" Allow the bridal party, then the bride's parents, then the groom's parents to exit before you. If grandparents or others in the front row stand up and walk out in front of you, it's not a big deal. They're all important people. As I'm walking out I usually say to the crowd, "We're going to sign their marriage license and then Bride and Groom will be snapping photos, but invite everyone to start the party during cocktail hour and they can't wait to join you soon. Have a great night!"

Thank you again for investing in my ceremony process and for allowing me to guide you. I sincerely wish you the best of luck. If you wind up loving officiating weddings and want to try to make a living from it, reach out and ask for my help. God speed!

