



TIPS FOR WRITING WHIZZ BANG WEDDING VOWS & INSPIRATIONAL I DO's!

Here is a self-help guidebook to set you on the path to writing vows that wow, eliciting tears, laughter and whoops of joy!



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WOWING VOWS + DO YOU WANNA SAY I DON'T?



Saying "I do" – you don't have to if you don't want to

There is nothing in Australian law that requires you to say "I do" at any point in your ceremony. "I do" comes from the Christian church wedding ceremonies and is not required in a civil ceremony.

Having said that, we've all grown up watching couples say "I do" in the movies, and some people don't feel like they're really married if they haven't said it!

Of course YOU can say whatever you want when it comes to your ceremony. You can even say I DON'T. Meaning you can both write some surprise I Do's for each other (you send them to me, and I will pop them in my script and even sense check if you want. I call these Reverse Ninja I Do's. Where you theirs and they write yours.

But be careful with these – you could find yourself making a cup of tea every Sunday morning and taking it to your beloved in bed. Or committing to a life of taking the rubbish out every bin night (I should say here that these Reverse Ninja Vows aren't legal binding or enforceable). Reverse Ninja I Do's are always fun and add a good laugh to any ceremony. You can also add some sincere ones too. See below for some examples of Reverse Ninja I Do's .

Remember that 'The Asking' is where I ask each of you a question and you are responding. It's usually included before vows.

But remember you can completely ditch this and just have your vows.

Or you can do both. Just make sure whatever you choose is a reflection of you both as your wedding ceremony should reflect YOU.

Here are some examples of TRADITIONAL I Do's

1.	Do you [Name] take [Name] to be your partner in life and love, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; until death do you part? Answer: I do
2.	[Name], will you take [Name] to be your partner? Will you commit your life to [her/him], embracing all joys and sorrows, all triumphs and hardships? Will you be there for [her/him] when [she/he] needs your support and in all of your tomorrows? Answer: I will
3.	[Name], on this day will you take [Name] to be your partner, to live together to support [her/him] in every way? Will you show love, forgiveness, compassion, and cherish [her/him] from this day forward, being loyal from this day forward as long as you both shall live? Answer: I will.
4.	Will you [Name] and will you [Name] take each other as partners in life and love? Will you share in all things, encourage and support one another, so that each may fulfil their dreams? Will you be there for each other in all your tomorrows and spend the rest of your life striving for happiness? Answer: We will
5.	Do you [Name] and [Name], take each other as partners in life and love? Do you accept the discoveries and treasures of growing old together, providing strength in times of weakness while supporting one another in all things, for the rest of your journeys on earth? Answer: We do

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Here are some examples of REVERSE NINJA I DO's

1.	Do you promise to breathe deeply when [name] bites their nails and remember why you're marrying them? Answer: I Do
2.	Do you promise not to spend the monthly budget on indoor plants and candles? Answer: I Do
3.	Do you promise not to throw out [name] favourite sweatshirt/footy shorts/hat, no matter how battered and holey it gets? Answer: I Do
4.	Do you promise to keep appreciating [name] refreshingly brutal honesty but to call them on their bullshit and challenge them when needed? Answer: I Do
5.	Do you promise to be supportive of Xbox/Call of Duty/Mario Brothers game marathons, celebrating all loses and wins with proportionate joy or appropriate tears. Answer: I Do
6.	Do you promise to walk the dog and pick up the poop AND/OR clean the litterbox without complaining or having to be reminded? Answer: I Do

Vows that WOW and how to write good ones.....

Some couples think vows are the most important part of their wedding ceremony. Some couple would rather burn off an eyebrow than say something lovey dovey in front of guests.

But vows don't have to be scary or sound like a Shakespearean sonnet. If you don't want them, if they aren't a reflection of you then DITCH EM. Yep, you don't have to say them.



The ONLY words the couple being married have to say OUT LOUD are the following words –

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

Many couples ask me what exactly these legal vows mean - they're phrased in an unfamiliar (and somewhat archaic!) way. Basically you're asking your guests to be witnesses to you taking your partner to be your legal spouse.

But my suggestion is that a couple say these to each other while exchange rings (if you are exchanging rings).

If you do that then everything else is completely up for grabs. You don't have to say I Do or say Vows. Or you can do one and not the other OR YOU CAN DO BOTH.

What I tell couples is that this section, the vows, this is the chance for you to say something special to the person you are marrying. It's just a conversation between you both. No one else has to hear a word. But this is your moment, it's when the couple make their promises to each other with your witnesses and guests watching on.

So these vows can be anything you want. Funny. Short. Serious. Loooong.

It's your day. Speak from the heart.

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OR don't say vows out loud. You can do WHISPER VOWS.

These are really popular with shy couples. In their ceremony I announce that at this time the couple are going to share their vows just with each other. Leaning over and just whispering in each other's ear. The guests will never know what has been said.

Another option is to write a letter for your beloved and they can read it right before the ceremony. You can keep these forever and we can leave personal vows out of the ceremony altogether.

After this section we move to exchange rings, saying the legal vows and KISS.

Wham! Bam! You are married and I am a FAN!

Still want to write your vows? No problem..... I got you.....

For the couples I marry I am here to help with writing your own vows, I'd be more than happy to give you a hand if you're struggling to find the right words. This is your chance to tell your partner what you promise for your relationship to come; make your vows a response to the awe-inspiring moment you're taking part in (your marriage ceremony). Make sure your significant other knows with no doubt how you feel and what vow/s you are making in response to the commitment you're both entering into.

Just agree on a word count for your vows first. I think between 150 – 250 is a good amount.

I encourage my couples to send their vows to me so I can 'sense check' them and make sure they are the same length and tone. I am happy to tidy them up if you think they need it.

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 there are some great examples over the page.

Of course you can Google or try Chat GPT but make sure the words really resonate with you. Use the words you would use so your partner knows it's from YOUR heart and not some AI Bot.

For the couples I marry I am always happy to print your vows on special, keepsake vow cards. Printed in nice big font and look so pretty and you don't have to memorise anything.

Still not sure what to write?

No problem, over the page you will find some vow writing prompts to help make this a little less painful and hopefully get you both writing in the same direction.



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Vow Writing Prompts

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

Instead of trying to construct sentences, answer all/or some of these questions, or finish the sentences. From the answers you'll have, you should have a pretty good foundation for creating some heartfelt and purposeful vows.

Remember your vows should be meaningful, personal, and in your own words.

- 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 defines your relationship now?
- What will define your relationship in the future?
- 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...
- Thank you for teaching me...
- I feel so lucky...
- I promise to be...

Now you've answered those questions, use your answers as the basis for your vows.

Start out by making your partner feel like a million dollars. Compliment them, encourage them, affirm them. Let them know you're here for them and them only. Tell them what is unique about them and your relationship. Now, make a promise, make a vow, perhaps even many promises or vows. This is the "why" behind the "let's get married". Then wrap it all up with a quick look to the future, create a path forward for the both of you.

Now you're vowing!



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Vow suggestions

Here are some examples of TRADITIONAL vows. Feel free to select more than one of the options or mix and match or of course re-write and create your own vows in your own words.

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.	To say I love you is not enough. To try to condense 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 you 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.
3.	[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.
4.	[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.
5.	[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.
6.	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.
7.	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 companion 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.
8.	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.

Remember these words need to sound like you?!

Good luck and have the best wedding day EVER.