

Your Words, Their Day.

For maids of honor & best men

Turn one meaningful story into a speech that sounds like you.



A practical path from blank page to final toast

Role-specific prompts / Two complete fictional examples

Worked edits / Rehearsal tools / A 24-hour prep path

Collect scenes, not adjectives

Start with small, observable moments. A dramatic story is optional.

Write three memories as rough notes. Do not try to make them sound like a speech yet. For each one, capture where you were, what happened, one detail you can picture, and what your friend actually did.

A vague claim	A detail guests can see
"She is thoughtful."	She brought two bowls of soup when I cancelled a birthday dinner.
"He is dependable."	He stayed after the workshop until my bike was working, too.
"They make a great team."	When dinner ran late, one welcomed guests while the other found snacks.

Use this four-line capture

- Scene: Where were you, and what was happening?
- Action: What did the person do or say?
- Detail: What small object, gesture, or line makes it memorable?
- Meaning: What did that show you about them?

Find the detail without inventing it

Check your own photos or messages if that helps your memory. If you do not remember the exact words, paraphrase: "She asked whether a smaller evening would help." Do not put invented dialogue in a real person's mouth.

TRY IT NOW

Set a short timer and list three moments: a routine day, a small setback, and a time someone made room for another person. Stop after three. Choosing is the next step; you do not need an archive.

Watch a paragraph get clearer

Fictional example. Keep the personal detail; remove the extra runway.

BEFORE / 58 WORDS

I think everybody here probably already knows that Lena is an incredibly thoughtful person, and I could honestly tell you a hundred different stories about that, but one that really sticks out in my mind happened during college when I was having a pretty difficult week and, long story short, she did something really nice for my birthday.

AFTER / 45 WORDS

In college, I cancelled my birthday dinner after a difficult day. Lena asked, "Would a smaller birthday work?" An hour later, we had two bowls of soup and a candle in a piece of toast. She noticed what I needed and made room for it.

The change	Why it helps
Start at the event	The audience enters the scene without a preamble.
Trade praise for evidence	Soup, toast, and the small question show thoughtfulness.
End with meaning	One clear sentence explains why the memory belongs here.

This edit is stronger because it is specific, not simply shorter. For your own speech, use details you remember and paraphrase dialogue you cannot recall exactly. The new scene details here are part of a fictional demonstration.