# Best man timeline: what to do month by month before the wedding

Have the conversation with the couple as soon as you're asked. Plan and book the stag do six months or more ahead, help with outfits four to six months out, run the stag do one to three months before, draft the speech by the last month, and spend the final week on cue cards, timings and briefing the ushers.

## Checklist

- [ ] Say yes properly. Tell the groom you're in, and mean it. Ask when he'd like to talk through what he needs.
- [ ] Have the conversation. Sit down with the groom (and ideally the couple) and agree what's yours: the stag do, the rings, the speech, the ushers, anything else. Our guide to the best man's job lists what's usually included.
- [ ] Note the date and the venue. Block the wedding weekend and the likely stag do window in your calendar now.
- [ ] Start a speech note on your phone. Every time you remember a story, write one line. You'll thank yourself later.
- [ ] Get the stag guest list from the groom. His list, not yours. Ask who must be there and who to leave out.
- [ ] Set up the stag group chat and poll for dates. Give two or three options rather than an open question.
- [ ] Agree a budget privately with the groom before anyone books anything. Our stag do budget guide covers how to set it and collect the money.
- [ ] Book the big things for the stag: travel, accommodation and the main activity. Popular dates and venues go months ahead.
- [ ] Introduce yourself to the other groomsmen and ushers if you don't know them.
- [ ] Help with outfits if that's part of your role. Hitched suggests suit fittings around four to six months before the wedding.
- [ ] Collect stag deposits and keep a simple record of who has paid and who still owes.
- [ ] Agree the groomsmen's gift for the groom, if you're giving one, and collect money for it around two to three months before.
- [ ] Ask family and old friends for stories. A short message asking for one memory each gets better results than "any stories?"
- [ ] Read up on the speech. Start with how to write a best man speech and how long it should be. If you want a full writing pack with cue cards, the Best Man Speech Kit on Etsy (opens in a new tab) has the guide, workbook and six large cards.
- [ ] Run the stag do. Hitched recommends holding it one to three months before the wedding, which leaves time to recover and avoids the final rush. Our stag do planning guide goes step by step, and stag do games covers the night itself.
- [ ] Settle the stag money within a week of getting home: refunds, final shares, and a short message so everyone knows it's closed.

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