What not to say in a best man speech

Leave out exes, anything sexual, stag do stories that would embarrass the groom in front of his new family, in-jokes only a few people understand, digs at the partner, and anything about money, weight or what the wedding cost. Use a simple test for every line: if you wouldn't say it with his grandmother and his new boss sitting at the front, cut it. Then replace what you've cut with stories that show what kind of person he is.

Checklist

- [ ] Why it matters
- [ ] The topics to leave out
- [ ] Lines that undercut you
- [ ] The grey areas
- [ ] Risky lines and better ones
- [ ] What to say instead
- [ ] Test every line before the day
- [ ] Related guides
- [ ] "I'm not very good at this." Apologising in advance makes the room nervous for you.
- [ ] "I looked up best man speeches online." It tells the room the next line is borrowed.
- [ ] "I'll keep this short." Only say it if you mean it.
- [ ] "I didn't think it would last." Even as a joke, it's the wrong message on their wedding day.
- [ ] "Anyway, that's it." End on the toast, not a shrug. See how to end a best man speech.
- [ ] Borrowed one-liners. Someone has heard them at another wedding. Lines from your own stories always land better.

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