



# ENGLISH WEDDING VOWS

Traditional, Christian, personal and non-traditional examples

“Choose words that express your love, your commitment  
and the life you intend to build together.”

Curated and presented by Wed By Jaco & Team



## How to use this guide

These examples are provided to help you make your wedding day more personal. You may choose one option, combine wording from several options, or write your own vows. Please give your final vows to your marriage officer before the ceremony so that the wording and practical arrangements can be confirmed.

### **A A warm, non-traditional vow**

I promise to be your lover, companion and friend; your partner in parenthood; your ally in conflict; your greatest fan and your most honest challenger; your companion in adventure; your student and teacher; your consolation in disappointment; and your accomplice in mischief. I will be your strength when you need me and will trust you with my own vulnerability. I will share with you a relationship filled with love, tenderness and laughter. \_\_\_\_\_, I love you and you are my closest friend. Will you let me share my life and all that I am with you?



## Traditional and Christian vows

### 1 Bridegroom to bride

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward; for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death parts us. According to God's holy ordinance, I pledge you my faith.

### 2 Bride to bridegroom

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward; for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death parts us. According to God's holy ordinance, I pledge you my faith.

### 3 Ring vow

This ring symbolises the unending union of my life with yours. Your dreams are now my dreams, your hopes are my hopes, your fears are my concern, your affection is my joy and your love is my blessing.

The marriage officer will guide the couple through the legal declarations and other wording required for the valid solemnisation of the marriage.



## Special Christian vows

### 4 **Bridegroom**

Today I choose to unite myself to God and to you as my wife. I confirm that God gave you to me as my bride. I desire to be a good husband to you, the kind of husband Jesus Christ wants me to be. I pledge myself to you for as long as we live: to love you and to be your loyal friend and partner. I will be slow to notice your mistakes and quick to see your good qualities. I will serve you. I truly love you and pledge myself to be yours forever. I reject divorce as an escape when life becomes difficult or when I am unhappy, and I bind myself to you and to God through conflict and problems, trusting that God's power will help us work through those times. By the grace and power of God, my daily life will confirm my covenant with you.

### 5 **Bride**

Today I choose to unite myself to God and to you as my husband. I confirm that God gave you to me as my bridegroom. I desire to be a good wife to you, the kind of wife Jesus Christ wants me to be. I pledge myself to you: to love you, to be your devoted lover, to care for your needs and to be your loyal partner and friend. I will be patient with your shortcomings, quick to appreciate your successes and slow to criticise. I will support you with my prayers and love. I will serve you. I truly love you and pledge myself to you forever. I reject divorce as an escape when life becomes difficult or when I am unhappy, and I bind myself to you and to God through conflict and problems, trusting that God's power will help us work through those times. By the grace and power of God, my daily life will confirm my covenant with you.



## Personal vows for bride and bridegroom

### 6 **Bridegroom**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, ask you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my equal partner, my one and only love, my greatest friend and my wife. I declare before you, our family and our friends that I will give you my deepest love, whether we are rich or poor, weak or healthy, whether we act with love or temporarily forget who we are. In every moment of darkness we may face, I will look for the light of love within you. I will support you in every way that builds you up and brings you joy.

### 7 **Bride**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, ask you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my equal partner, my one and only love, my greatest friend and my husband. I declare before you, our family and our friends that I will give you my deepest love, whether we are rich or poor, weak or healthy, whether we act with love or temporarily forget who we are. In every moment of darkness we may face, I will look for the light of love within you. I will support you in every way that builds you up and brings you joy.



## Wedding-vow options

- 1** I call upon everyone present to witness that I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, to be my wife / husband. I will share with you a relationship of love, tenderness and laughter. I will stand by you through all our tomorrows, respecting you as a person - your individuality, your needs and the ways in which you will grow. I will cherish your love for as long as we live.
- 2** In the name of God, I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, to be my wife / husband: to have and to hold from this day forward; for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.
- 3** I commit my life to our partnership in marriage. I promise to comfort you and encourage you in every part of life. I promise to share my thoughts and emotions with you and to listen to you in times of joy and sorrow. \_\_\_\_, I love you and you are my closest friend. Will you let me share my life and all that I am with you?
- 4** I promise to give you my love, to accept and cherish your love and to help you when you need me. I promise to be your faithful husband / wife in joy and sorrow, in sickness and in health.
- 5** I promise you, \_\_\_\_, that I will be your loving and loyal husband / wife. From this day forward, I will share all of life's joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain with you, until we are parted by death.
- 6** I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband / wife, secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, faithful partner in life and one true love. On this special day, before God and these witnesses, I promise to remain by your side in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, through good times and bad. I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in distress, encourage you to achieve your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, remain open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both live.
- 7** I affirm the special bond and unique relationship that exists between us, and I promise to keep it alive always.



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**8** I promise to love, respect and honour you; to share your plans and interests, ideals and emotions; and to care for you through life's trials as well as its joyful times, in lifelong commitment.

**9** I promise to be your confidant, always ready to share your hopes, dreams and secrets.

**10** Before God and these witnesses, I promise to be your faithful husband / wife; to share with you in plenty and in need, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health; and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others for as long as we both live.

**11** I take you to be my wife / husband and to share this journey with you as my partner. I will cherish and respect you in happiness and in troubled times. I will seek your love, counsel and support in good times and in times of trial. I will share my gladness and sorrow, my triumphs and failures with you. By God's grace, I will love and honour you with all my heart and remain faithful to you all the days of my life.

## **12 Christian vows for both partners**

Bridegroom:

\_\_\_\_, I prayed for you as my wife, and because God has answered my prayers, I praise and thank Him for His faithfulness. I have delighted in knowing and loving you. I look forward to being your Christian husband for as long as we both live. I will love you as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. I will love you in good times and difficult times, knowing that the Lord is our Saviour and guide. You will always be my bride, and I give myself to you today.

Bride:

\_\_\_\_, I thank God for a man such as you, strong in faith and loving His Word. I believe it is God's will that brought us together today, and I praise Him for His goodness in bringing you to my side. I will love you and submit to you as to the Lord. I give myself to you today.

**13** Here, before our family and friends, I promise that I will always be there for you and care for you, whatever life may bring. I promise before everyone present that I will love you forever, respect who you are and, above all, be your best friend.



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**14** I promise to share my life with you, to speak truthfully to you and to respect you as an individual. I will be kind, unselfish and trusting. I promise to love you through good fortune and adversity. Above all, I promise to be your best friend.

**15** I promise to be your lover, companion and friend; your partner in parenthood; your ally in conflict; your greatest fan and most honest challenger; your companion in adventure; your student and teacher; your consolation in disappointment; your accomplice in mischief; your strength when you need me; and vulnerable with you when I need strength. Above all, I will be your companion in the search for wisdom and meaning.

**16** I take you, \_\_\_\_, my friend, to be my wife / husband, promising with God's help to be a loving and faithful wife / husband for as long as we both live.

**17** I, \_\_\_\_, ask you, \_\_\_\_, to be my wife / husband and faithfully promise to be true to you. I will honour and love you. I will work with you, protect you, support you and provide what is needed to sustain our life together. I willingly accept the responsibilities of our shared life.

**18** \_\_\_\_, our miracle lies in the path we have chosen together. I enter into this marriage with you knowing that the true magic of love is not found in avoiding change, but in navigating it successfully. Let us commit ourselves to one another until we are parted by death.

**19** \_\_\_\_, I enter into covenant with you to be your husband / wife. I offer you my love and support throughout our lives. I commit myself to years of growth and sharing as I encourage you to explore new directions. I will strive to fulfil my potential as God's creation and celebrate your progress toward the same goal. I give myself to you as I am and as I will become, for all my life.

**20 For marriage later in life**

I offer you not the summer of my life, but the autumn - brisk, vibrant and rich with experience. I promise to be a companion worthy of your precious friendship. I pledge compassion in good times and bad, and encouragement in sickness and in health. I intend that our life together will embrace our wide circle of friends and loving families. We will treasure the memories of our separate paths and create a new life as we walk forward together.



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- 21** Since finding you, \_\_\_\_\_, I have found a new life. I make the decision to share that life with you happily and with complete confidence in our love. \_\_\_\_\_, let us be husband and wife.
- 22** In honesty and sincerity, I pledge to be a faithful and loving wife / husband to you.
- 23** Respecting one another, we commit to live our lives together for all the days to come. \_\_\_\_\_, I ask you to share this world with me, in good times and difficult times. Be my partner, and I will be yours.
- 24** I walked to this place to meet you today. We will walk from it together. In health, happiness and prosperity I will walk with you; in illness, trouble and poverty I will stand beside you.
- 25** **For an intercultural marriage**  
Our love has opened windows into the worlds in which we lived as children. I have found profound respect for your heritage, even though it is not my own. We have chosen to build our adult lives together, and our marriage will be a new creation. I promise to build bridges of understanding and to share the best of myself with your family, your friends and, above all, with you.
- 26** **Promise to stepchildren**  
\_\_\_\_\_, I love your mother / father as much as you do, and today she / he will become my wife / husband. I also want you to know that I love you. I invite you into my heart, and I promise to care for you as your stepfather / stepmother. Together we will share many years and build a happy, loving family.
- 27** I call upon everyone present to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawfully wedded wife / husband. Day by day, I promise to love and honour you, treasure and respect you, and walk with you in joy and sorrow. Day by day, I promise to hold you in my arms, grow with you in truth, laugh with you and cry with you, and love you with all that I am and all that I will become. I promise this from the depths of my heart, mind and soul for all our life together.



- 28** From this moment, I, \_\_\_\_\_, give myself to you, \_\_\_\_\_, as your husband / wife. I promise to love you unselfishly and to care for you as God has commanded me. I promise to treat you with respect as a son / daughter of God and to appreciate you as God's gift enriching my life.

## Personalised and shared vows

### **P Personalised vow - written by Alan Johnson**

I love you. I pledge to grow in my love for you. I pledge to nurture our love, because loving you nurtures my soul. I pledge to share our love together as one. I love you because you are the only one for me. To know you is to know love - and through you, to know true love.

I love you because you are the one who completes me. I cannot know union without you, because in joining my life to yours I learn about love's union and where it comes from.

I promise to support your growth and share the fullness of myself. I promise to honour you by remaining open to every expression of your inner self. I promise to allow the love we share to become the prayer we live. Above all, I promise to be true to you and to myself so that we may grow in the love that joins us as one.

If the eagle is a symbol of the freedom born from true love, then I am one wing and you are the other. Let us fly together in harmony, and may gentle winds carry us all the way to heaven.

### **E Exchange of vows - submitted by Jeanette Bursey LeBlanc**

Bridegroom:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow and forever. I will trust and honour you, laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. Whatever may come, I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep. So help me God.

Bride:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow and forever. I will trust and honour you, laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. Whatever may come, I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep. So help me God.



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## **U In unison**

Entreat me not to leave you or to turn back from following you. Where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.

## **L Union of Love - submitted by Donna Davis**

We will love one another forever and share our most intimate thoughts. We promise to hold, cherish and value one another. We will live each day as though it were our last and will not go to bed angry. If sorrow enters our lives, as it sometimes does, we pledge that together we will see it through. As we grow older and slowly begin to change, we will look into each other's eyes and know that what we have will never disappear. With every breath we take, our love will grow. These are the words we feel and speak from our hearts.

## Passages by William Shakespeare

**1** Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to remove. O, no! It is an ever-fixed mark that looks on tempests and is never shaken.

**2** So they lov'd, as love in twain had the essence but in one; two distinct, divisions none.

**3** My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep; the more I give to thee, the more I have, for both are infinite.

**4** One half of me is yours, the other half yours - mine own, I would say; but if mine, then yours, and so all yours.

**5** Love comforteth like sunshine after rain. Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.

**6** For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings, that then I scorn to change my state with kings.



## Non-traditional vows

- 1** I come here today, \_\_\_\_\_, to join my life to yours before everyone present. In their presence I pledge to be true to you, to respect you and to grow with you through the years. Time may pass, fortune may smile and trials may come; whatever we encounter, I vow that this love will be my only love. From this day forward, I will make my home in your heart.
- 2** Today, \_\_\_\_\_, I join my life to yours, not only as your husband / wife, but as your friend, lover and confidant. Let me be the shoulder on which you lean, the rock on which you rest and the companion of your life. From this day forward, I will walk my path with you.
- 3** \_\_\_\_\_, with a free and willing heart, I give you all that I am and all that I will become. Take this ring and, with it, my promise of faith, patience and love for the rest of my life.
- 4** What have I to give you, \_\_\_\_\_? The promise to take you as my only love from this day forward; to stand by your side, listen when you speak, comfort you when you cry and join your laughter with my own. Take this ring, and be my husband / wife.
- 5** As freely, \_\_\_\_\_, as God has given me life, I join my life with yours. Wherever you go, I will go; whatever you face, I will face. For good or ill, in happiness or sadness, in riches or poverty, I take you as my husband / wife and will give myself to no other.

**Make a promise for a lifetime together.**

You may shorten, combine or personalise any example in your own words.