

Sample Questions (and brief answers) for Journalists

Professional Wedding Master of Ceremonies

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1. HOW DID YOU BECOME A PROFESSIONAL WEDDING MC?

I was searching for ways to earn an income by putting to good use the communication skills I used as an actor.

I was a compere for Westfield Shoppingtown and the Marketing Manager suggested me to her friend who ran functions at one of the large hotels. Originally, I said NO - then I felt guilty because I had never MC'd a wedding before but attended a few weddings that were badly organised and knew I had the skills to pull it off - all it needed was a fair bit of preparation.

2. HOW DID THE BOOK 'You Can Be A Wedding MC' ORIGINALLY COME ABOUT?

It started as a hand-written manual for myself - as no other books on the subject existed.

I then got double-booked and had to lend my scribbled notes to a friend - who liked the format eg word-for-word templates - and he suggested I publish them. The success was instant.

3. CAN ANYONE MC A WEDDING? What special skills do you need?

With the help of a good guide or handbook, anyone can MC if they're willing to first do the preparation. When MCing is done well, it looks incredibly easy - but there has usually been a lot of preparation to make I look spontaneous!

4. WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE MAKE GOOD MCs? Do you need to be good at public speaking?

The skills are the same as public speaking (such as a clear voice and knowledge of your subject) but they're used in a different way. For example, a speaker can take as long as they want to tell a joke but an MC must be very brief.

Also, the roles are reversed: as a speaker, you the star; as an MC, you make others the star; be careful not to confuse them.

5. WHAT ARE 10 TIPS YOU'D GIVE TO SOMEONE ABOUT TO MC FOR THE FIRST TIME?

1. Assume the position as leader of the party. Remind yourself that a leader's role is to serve

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2. Over-prepare - weeks beforehand - by interviewing the bride and groom. Ask them *'What type of wedding reception are you looking for'* and then go about making it happen. Of course, reading the book will help :)
3. Act confident - even though you may not feel it. Fake it if you have to.
4. Warm up your body and voice. This focuses your thinking on the job in front of you and gives you mental strength to eliminate the negative messages and replace them with positive ones.
5. Get to the venue early and introduce yourself as part of the team
6. Don't fight with a dud microphone - you will always lose the battle. Replace it.
7. Use your energy and enthusiasm to get everyone involved in celebrating this great event
8. Avoid letting hecklers win by letting them upset you; just think to yourself that they are jealous of your privileged position - but they couldn't do it themselves if they were asked. Most of all, don't show your anger.
9. Leave alcohol until after you have finished - except some champagne for the toasts.
10. Keep the focus always on the bride and groom.

6. HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH NERVES?

Nerves arrive both physically and mentally.

To get them under control physically, breathe deeply and slowly exhale. Tighten and relax all the major muscle groups. Warm up your voice with exercises such as the [5 EASY STEPS TO A FANTASTIC VOICE](#).

To quote an old advertising rule, turn the negative into a positive.

Thinking nervous creates panic. So simply recognise this excitement as a necessary part of the job you are about to perform. Tell yourself that nerves can be a good friend because they provide the energy needed to give great performance.

7. HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH HECKLERS?

Keep going
Don't get into verbal debate
Never lose temper or show anger otherwise they win.

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Have ready a mild put-down e.g “Can you hear me up the back - cause I can hear you loud and clear!”

8. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST DISASTER YOU’VE EVER HAD?

The nightmare scenario of all MC’s is to mispronounce names
Always refer to notes & try not to wing it.
Other disasters = warm alcohol

9. IN WHAT WAY IS BEING A WEDDING MC DIFFERENT FROM A BUSINESS MC?

A wedding should not resemble a business function - except for efficiency (task management)
One is celebrating love and the other is celebrating profit
Biz celebrates love of profit, the other celebrates profit from love

10. CAN YOU EARN A LOT OF MONEY AS AN MC?

Fees = experience x (demand plus reputation)
From \$600 to \$2500