

SAMPLE MARRIAGE VOWS

Increasingly, couples desire to make their wedding vows their own. On a number of occasions I have been asked what relationship principles might best be described and included in personalized wedding vows. Below I offer some ideas. Feel free to use or modify the content below to suit your individual feelings and circumstances.

I understand that our successful relationship will always be a work in progress and there will be no "finish line." Therefore I promise not to take our relationship for granted and will demand that we both approach this new and exciting chapter of our lives with enthusiasm and a commitment to a process of learning and growth.

I understand that we most successfully generate ideas and solutions to life's challenges when the lines of communication are open. Therefore I promise to be honest with you about my thoughts, feelings, and needs even when I know you might not feel the same way. Our strength will come from negotiating differences immediately, respectfully and clearly, not from ignoring the differences we inevitably will have.

I understand that our finest moments will occur when we revel in the pleasure of each other's company. Therefore I promise to find new and exciting ways to have fun together and to make us laugh as often as possible. Every moment I smile with you, I relax with you, and I laugh with you brings us closer together and cements our bond.

Finally, I understand that love has many dimensions, including passion, trust, and commitment, and that each of these dimensions will change as we evolve as a couple. Therefore I promise to be aware and to remain vigilant of the changes that will occur in how we love each other over the years. This vigilance will also demand that I find new ways to demonstrate my love for you and this will always be foremost in my mind.

...but of course you could decide to go in another direction:

My darling, you have become the person I want to annoy for the rest of my life and consequently, I promise to take you for granted. I promise to physically let myself go and to hide money. As though I could help it, I promise to always be right. I will roll my eyes when you talk, leave the room in a huff if I don't get my own way, and to be as defensive as possible.

Sweetheart, I will fail to grow and evolve. I will insist that things always be done my way. I will engage in bad behaviour with impunity and to believe that a simple apology will be all that is required to get me out of the dog house.

I promise to find fault, to blame, and to never miss an opportunity to describe for you YOUR shortcomings, weaknesses, and failures. I will always exaggerate when we argue, and will revel in telling you why you're always wrong and all the things you should and shouldn't do.

My love, I am happily mired in the past and blinded by ignorance. As such I have no intention of working on our relationship. With these promises I hope to make our lives AND the lives of our unborn children miserable. In so doing I hope to create permanent emotional scars for everyone and to pay divorce lawyers all the money we have saved. Bite me.