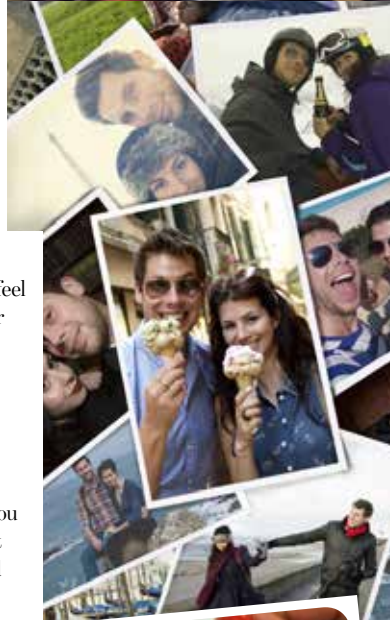


VOWS TO *wow*

Our real bride-to-be, Clemmie, struggles with vow-writing



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“Have you ever tried to write down how you feel about the love of your life? Better yet, have you ever tried to sum up those feelings in a short paragraph? Sound tricky? It is.

At first I was feeling a little bit smug about vow writing. Working for a wedding mag you read enough lovely stuff to get a good idea of what's expected from wedding vows. A short little intro about what he means to you, a few heartfelt promises (perhaps with a little humour thrown in), and one hell of a sign-off that won't leave a dry eye in the house. Boom. Easy.

However, when I sat down to write my vows I got a bit of a shock – I wrote a few lines, I

deleted a few lines. I sat there for a whole 10 minutes just staring at the screen (that darn cursor blinking at me). Trying to write about love is a difficult balance. Of course, you have to talk about emotions, but you don't want your vows to sound trite, sickly sweet or (at the very worst) insincere.

The only advice I can offer is to keep things personal. I found flicking through old photos incredibly helpful – it reminded me of everything we've been through and why our relationship is so special. However, the words only really started to flow when I ditched the template, stopped worrying about the crowd and focused instead on what I wanted to say to my fiancé.

The main focus naturally became partnership, tolerance and love. Sure, they're not particularly funny and I'm not sure everyone will be reaching for the hankies, but they're real and in 10 years time they'll be as relevant as ever, and really, that's what matters. ”💍