

A Guide To Thank You Notes

There is no feeling like receiving a handwritten letter or thank you note in the mail, even if we are in 2017 already...

Origins

For centuries - specific date unknown - people have resorted to writing thank you notes or letters to show their deepest appreciation towards others' acts of love and kindness. At that specific point in time, it was customary for a bride to send out personal, handwritten thank you notes to those who have attended the wedding, who gave gifts and who helped out in making her day a success.

Writing Your Template Note


Even if you are experiencing a bad case of writer's block, you might want to start writing your notes sooner rather than later. Not just because you might forget, but because it is in very poor taste to put it off until it is almost too late.

Your first step towards writing notes is by sitting down and making a list of all the people you want to write a note to. Back in the day, the bride wrote notes or letters to everyone, not just those who gave gifts. This is really up to you.

Make a list of the recipients, and write the gift they gave next to their name. Also write a postal address if you have one. If you don't, well let's get to that in just a moment...

After you have made your list, start compiling a template note from which you will write everyone's thank you notes.

This is not going to be a "copy-paste-note" where you are simply going to change the name of each person, no. That's very impersonal, and considered one of the worst forms of a bad note.

The template note gives you options for what you can write for each person. I would suggest five options per section of your note. See the following example... 

#1 | Greeting

The greeting is how you open your letter or note. This is addressed to a specific person. Make sure of the spelling of different names to avoid embarrassment.

Dear Margareth

Dearest Peter

My Dear Aunt Pauline

#2 | Opening Line

In the opening line – the first sentence if you will – you open by saying thank you. Elaborate on what you are saying thank you for. If possible, be very specific.

Thank You for the wonderful gift.

Thanks for attending our
special day with us.

Thank You for the beautiful, gold cutlery set.

#3 | Body

The body of your letter or note should be filled up with more detail of your well-meant appreciation. In this part, elaborate on how you will use their gift, or how much it meant to you to have them at your wedding. Mention special moments of the day where they were present.

We can't wait to show it off in our home.

It meant the world to us that you were there.

We can't wait to have our first formal dinner with it.

#4 | Mention the Future

Where to from here? If you already know when you're seeing this person again, mention how you look forward to hanging out with them again. If you are unsure when you will meet again, simply wish them well.

*We are looking forward to seeing you
at Annie's 3rd Birthday Party.*

*We can't wait to see you
at Christmas!*

*Hope you are doing superb and we think of you
very often.*

#5 | Say Thank You Again

Mention the gift and your appreciation for it again, or how happy you were to see them at your wedding. Whatever your reason for writing is, make it clear by mentioning it again.

Again, thank you so much for the amazing gift! It's stunning!

Thank you again for making our day so very special. We'll keep in touch.

Thanks again for the gorgeous gift!

#6 | Closing

If you feel you've out done yourself with the rest of the letter, you can end it off with a simple "yours faithfully" .

With Love, Dianne

Yours Truly, Dianne

Kind/Warm Regards, Dianne

Compiling Your Letter

This is the fun part after all the brainstorming of what to write. Find yourself a quiet place, preferable at a non-cluttered desk. Have your hand-selected stationery ready and waiting.

Use special paper with matching envelopes to write on. Don't use school-project stationery like glitter, colored pens and markers for this. Also, don't use pencil! It give the idea that the appreciation or thought is temporary...

Rather use a special pen like a fountain or calligraphy pen or a fineliner. Practice on scrap paper or even check online for tutorials on handwriting like a pro. This brings me to another direction...

Online

The act of letter writing is fading a little bit more each day. It is becoming one of the "lost arts", along with the telephone and developing film negatives, oh, and knowing where people live.

Back in the day, I remember visiting my friends at their houses and playing there the entire afternoon until the street lamps turn on (that was the rule). How foreign is that now? A lot of friends never see the inside of each others' houses. They simply meet for drinks and go shopping together. All thanks to social media. So, chances are, you don't even have half of the people's addresses to which you're writing to.

Now what? Well, you can simply write (type) a thank you note to this person on Facebook or WhatsApp. Or you can make it more special by designing a cute thank you note in Photoshop and e-mail it to them.

Dear Stephanie

*Thank you so much for attending our
special day with us.*

*It meant the world to us that you
made the effort to be there.*



*We can't wait to see you at Christmas!
Thank you again for making our
day so very special. Be blessed!*

*Kind Regards,
Tanya*

Sending Your Note

Make sure that you have the correct address written next to each recipients name before addressing the envelopes and placing the letters inside. For electronic notes or letters, make sure you have the correct person's details written down or saved somewhere. Remember to keep track of who you sent those notes to already!

This should be last wedding expense that you have to pay. Unless you took out a loan to get married, which you have to pay off afterwards...