

## How Well Do You Know Your Partner?

From The Gottman Institute

One of the most important features of successful couple relationships is the quality of the friendship. Do you know your partner's inner world? Take the quiz below and find out.

1. I can name my partner's best friends.    Yes    No
2. I know what stresses my partner is currently facing.    Yes    No
3. I know the names of some of the people who have been irritating my partner lately.  
    Yes    No
4. I can tell you some of my partner's life dreams.    Yes    No
5. I can tell you about my partner's basic philosophy of life.    Yes    No
6. I can list the relatives my partner likes the least.    Yes    No
7. I feel that my partner knows me pretty well.    Yes    No
8. When we are apart, I often think fondly of my partner.    Yes    No
9. I often touch or kiss my partner affectionately.    Yes    No
10. My partner really respects me.    Yes    No
11. There is fire and passion in this relationship.    Yes    No
12. Romance is definitely still part of our relationship.    Yes    No
13. My partner appreciates the things I do in this relationship.    Yes    No
14. My partner generally likes my personality.    Yes    No
15. Our sex life is mostly satisfying.    Yes    No
16. At the end of the day my partner is glad to see me.    Yes    No
17. My partner is one of my best friends.    Yes    No
18. We just love talking to each other.    Yes    No
19. There is lots of give and take (both people have influence) in our discussions.  
    Yes    No

20. My partner listens respectfully, even when we disagree. Yes No

21. My partner is usually a great help as a problem solver. Yes No

22. We generally mesh well on basic values and goals in life. Yes No

**Your score:**

**15 or more yes answers:** You have a lot of strength in your relationship. Congratulations!

**8 to 14:** This is a pivotal time in your relationship. There are many strengths you can build upon but there are also some weaknesses that need your attention.

**7 or fewer:** Your relationship may be in serious trouble. If this concerns you, you probably still value the relationship enough to try to get help.

This quiz highlights elements of what Dr. John Gottman refers to as your "love map." In Gottman Method Couples Therapy™ couples learn the step-by-step process of making sure that they nurture their friendship with their partner. In a survey of 200 couples attending a Gottman weekend workshop, Dr. Gottman found that the best predictor of passion and romance in a relationship was the quality of the friendship.

I've been guiding couples through the Gottman Couples Work for since 1998, and find it to be one of the most meaningful parts of my counseling practice. Please call if you're interested in learning more, 206-547-4064.