

Shared Meanings Questionnaire

Honoring Each Other's Dreams

Think about how well you and your partner have been able to create a sense of shared meaning in your lives together. When people become partnered, they create a new culture, and some relationships also involve the union of two very different cultures. Even if two people are coming from the same regional, cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, they will have been raised in two very different families, and their merging involves the creation of a new culture.

YOUR RITUALS	TRUE	FALSE
1. We see eye-to-eye about the rituals that involve dinner times in our home.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Holiday meals (such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Passover) are very special and happy times for us.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Reunions at the end of each day in our home are generally special times in my day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. We see eye-to-eye about the role of TV in our home.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Bedtimes are generally good times for being close.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. During weekends, we do a lot of things together that we enjoy and value.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. We have the same values about entertaining in our home (having friends over, parties, etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. We both value special celebrations (such as birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. When I become sick, I feel taken care of and loved by my partner.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. I really look forward to and enjoy our vacations and the travel we do together.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. The mornings together are special times for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. When we do errands together, we generally have a good time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. We have ways of becoming renewed and refreshed when we are burned out or fatigued.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. We share many similar values in our roles as partners.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. We share many similar values in our roles as parents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. We have many similar views about what it means to be a good friend to others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. My partner and I have compatible views about the role of work in one's life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. My partner and I have similar philosophies about balancing work and family life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. My partner supports what I would see as my basic mission in life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

YOUR GOALS	TRUE	FALSE
20. My partner shares my views on the importance of family and kin (sisters, brothers, moms, dads) in our life together.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. We share many of the same goals in our life together.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. If I were to look back on my life in very old age, I think I would see that our paths in life had meshed very well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. My partner values my own accomplishments.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. My partner honors my own very personal goals, unrelated to my relationship.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25. We share many of the same goals for others who are important to us (children, kin, friends and community).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26. We have very similar financial goals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. We tend to have compatible financial disaster scenarios (ones we both want to avoid).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28. Our hopes and aspirations, as individuals and together, for our children, for our life in general, and for our old age are quite compatible.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29. Our life dreams tend to be similar or compatible.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30. Even when different, we have been able to find a way to honor our life dreams.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

YOUR ROLES	TRUE	FALSE
31. We share many similar values in our roles as lovers and partners.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32. My partner and I have compatible views about the role of work in one's life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33. My partner and I have similar philosophies about balancing work and family life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
34. My partner supports what I would see as my basic mission in life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
35. My partner shares my views on the importance of family and kin (sisters, brothers, moms, dads) in our life together.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

YOUR SYMBOLS	TRUE	FALSE
36. We see eye-to-eye about what "home" means.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
37. Our philosophies of what love ought to be are quite compatible.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
38. We have similar values about the importance of "peacefulness" in our lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
39. We have similar views about the meaning of "family."	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
40. We have similar views about the role of sex in our lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
41. We have similar views about the role of love and affection in our lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
42. We have similar values about the meaning of being partnered.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
43. We have similar values about the importance and meaning of money in our lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
44. We have similar values about the importance of education in our lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
45. We have similar values about the importance of "fun" and "play" in our lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
46. We have similar values about the significance of adventure.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
47. We have similar values about "trust."	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
48. We have similar values about personal "freedom."	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
49. We have similar values about "autonomy" and "independence."	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
50. We have similar values about sharing "power" in our relationship.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
51. We have similar values about being "interdependent," of being a "we."	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
52. We have similar values about the meaning of "having possessions," of "owning things" (like cars, nice clothes, books, music, a house and land).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
53. We have similar values about the meaning of "nature," and of our relationship to the seasons.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
54. We are both sentimental and tend to reminisce about things in our past.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
55. We have similar views about what we want in retirement and old age.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>