



Tools For Men

Honey-Do List for Romance

Purpose

To help you discover practical ways to speak your wife's romantic love language and to help her meet yours

Advance Preparation

- Schedule a dinner date, coffee date, or meeting during your lunch hour.
- Each spouse should spend a few minutes making their own list (see reverse side).

During The Date

1. Exchange lists with each other and discuss them together.
2. Avoid the temptation to say "you never do this for me." The purpose of this activity is to give each other practical ideas to communicate your love in coming weeks and months rather than present a list of past failures.
3. Keep in mind that this activity is like requesting a Christmas or birthday gift list. It will help you/your wife give based upon clear needs and likes. Don't treat it like a task list but as an opportunity to find more meaningful ways to express your love.

What Says "I LOVE YOU" to your wife?

Every house demands attention: dirty windows, squeaky doors, broken blinds, and the like. These projects end up on what your wife might label a *honey-do list*: tasks she wants you to handle that may or may not match your own list of priorities. Conflict can emerge when things on her list aren't as important to you as they are to her. In like manner, every husband and wife has a different honey-do list when it comes to romance.

What expressions of love carry the most meaning for your wife? How does her list differ from yours? Things that seem romantic to you may not spark the same feelings in your wife and what might "turn her on" may have little effect on you.

Assignment #1: Take turns identifying "gifts" that make you feel loved.

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| ○ Give me a hug | ○ Bring me flowers |
| ○ Kiss me goodnight | ○ Write me a note |
| ○ Kiss me before work | ○ Take a walk with me |
| ○ Pray with me | ○ Flirt with me |
| ○ Come home on time | ○ Play with the kids |
| ○ Call during the day | ○ Surprise me with a small gift |
| ○ Say you're proud of me | ○ Compliment me |
| ○ Wink/whistle at me | ○ Ignore phone while with me |
| ○ Come to bed when I do | ○ Help me around the house |
| ○ Text you're thinking about me | ○ Nibble my neck |
| ○ Make my favorite meal | ○ Rub my feet |
| ○ Show interest in my work | ○ Hold my hand |

Assignment #2: Take turns identifying the *three* most meaningful expressions of love to add to one another's honey-do lists. Suggestions can come from the above list or not. If your spouse says cleaning a cluttered kitchen shows love, write it down! Keep the short list with you to trigger simple, positive and practical ways of saying "I love you" in the weeks ahead!

Assignment #3: Hold hands and pray this simple prayer together...

Lord, thank you for making us unique. Help us to communicate our love for each other more often and in meaningful ways. As we do, remind us that loving each other is one way that we show our love for you. Amen