

**1.** List the "Top 10 Reasons I'm the Most Fortunate Husband/Wife in the World." Read them aloud to your spouse.

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**2.** Surprise your mate by doing one of his or her chores. When asked why, give a smooch and say, "Because you are worth it!"

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**3.** Don't just show – tell!  
Say, "I love you."

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**4.** Communicate your plans to each other. On Sunday night, go over your schedules for the coming week.

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**5.** Use the T.H.I.N.K. method to determine whether an issue needs to be brought up. Is it True? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?

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**6.** Plan an appreciation celebration for your mate, complete with his or her favorite meal.

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**7.** Look at your schedule. Make time with your spouse a weekly priority.

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**8.** Bring back those dating days. After picking up the sitter, walk back outside and knock on the door with flowers in your hand.

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**9.** Don't turn on the TV until after dinnertime, if at all. Allow a conversation to break out.

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**10.** Pray together. Thank God for your mate, then pray for his or her needs.

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**11.** On your spouse's birthday, send your in-laws a thank-you card.

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**12.** Set boundaries in outside relationships. Don't let anyone take away too much of the time you spend with your spouse.

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**13.** Are you seeing eye to eye? Experts have found the deeper the love, the more frequent the eye contact.

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**14.** Pull out old love letters, taking turns reading and reminiscing.

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**15.** Take turns reading from the Bible each night.

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**16.** Stretch out birthdays with special activities, fun surprises and a whole lot of hoopla.

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**17.** Be a student of your spouse. Learn what he likes. Learn what she needs.

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**18.** Treat your wife like a lady. Open doors and hold chairs.

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**19.** Throw away fighting words like "You never ..." and "You should ..." Use healing words like "I'm sorry ..." and "You may be right."

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**20.** Make church attendance a joyful priority.

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**21.** Instead of making a joke at your spouse's expense, give a sincere compliment.

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**22.** Create traditions as a couple by budgeting money for special times together.

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**23.** Be affectionate. Back rubs and tender hand-holding communicate love.

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**24.** Choose your battles carefully.

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**25.** Be a person of integrity. Give your spouse no reason to doubt your word or question your commitment.

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**26.** Find ways to declare your love for your mate. Buy a bumper sticker that proclaims: "I love my wife [husband]!"

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**27.** Sit down with your calendar and schedule time to be together.

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**28.** Practice kindness – in your words and in your actions.

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**29.** Discover little-known facts about each other. Share stories from your childhood.

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**30.** Find scripture promises and pray them for your spouse.

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**31.** Instead of making a joke at your spouse's expense, give a sincere compliment.

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**33.** Anyone can remember birthdays and anniversaries, but sweet romance happens when nothing's expected.

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**35.** Sandwich criticism between two positives.

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**37.** Protect your mate. Instead of, "Don't talk to your mother like that," say "Don't talk to my wife like that."

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**39.** Get away with God as a couple. Spend time separately, then come together to share.

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**32.** Be spontaneous. Surprise your mate with a random act of kindness.

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**34.** Guard your time together. Turn off your phone or computer. It tells your mate, "I'm all yours!"

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**36.** Memorize scripture verses together.

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**38.** Go for your Ph.D. in marriage! Read all the books. Attend all the seminars.

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**40.** Pick up some Post-It notes and write short messages to hide everywhere.

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**41.** Come up with a special kiss or secret word that says, "You're the most important thing in my life."

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**43.** Respect one another. Listen to the tone of your voice. Hold hands when "discussing" issues.

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**45.** Accept your spouse as is. Ask about and listen to his or her dreams.

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**47.** Do the unexpected. Slip a rose under his windshield wiper. E-mail or text her a love note.

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**49.** Guard against criticism and negativity. Speak well of each other, and do it often.

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**42.** Take turns planning anniversaries. A little competition creates a definite win-win situation.

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**44.** Husbands, practice loving your wife as Christ loves the church. Wives, submit to God by giving your husband the privilege of the final say.

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**46.** Love on purpose. Don't let time slip away. Daily find new ways to show love to your mate.

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**48.** Let go of grudges – be quick to forgive. Don't rehearse it. Don't nurse it. Let God reverse it.

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**50.** Change your prayer from "Lord, change him/her" to "Lord, change me."

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