

Step Two. **Play the Matching Game.**

If you are in a relationship with someone, you need to seriously consider the 16 areas on the list below and find that you have quite a few good matches. Put a checkmark beside those where you and your partner match. If you are not in a relationship right now, put a check mark beside those where it's important to you that you and your future mate match. Then, remember these things when you begin "looking."

- **Intellect.** We are at the same intellectual level. Meaning, we both have a similar ability to comprehend or understand things.
- **Energy.** Our energy levels match. For example, we both like to keep busy or we both are laid back.
- **Spirituality.** Our faith is the same. We believe the same things regarding God, prayer, church, etc.
- **Education.** We both have the same level of education. For example, we both graduated from high school or we both dropped out of high school.
- **Physical Appearance.** Our appearances are about the same. For example, on a scale of 1-10 we would both be close to the same number.
- **Sense of Humor.** We both find humor in the same things.
- **Mood Management.** Our moods are basically the same. One of us doesn't have wide mood fluctuations; or if one does, the other is tolerant of it.
- **How You Live Life.** We both approach life the same way. We both like to plan everything or we both just like to "go with the flow."
- **Ambition.** We have approximately the same amount of life ambition. For example, we both have dreams and goals that we want to pursue or neither one of us is too ambitious about life.
- **Chemistry.** We have good chemistry. If we were married, there would be great sexual passion.
- **Artistic Passion.** We have similar interests like art, reading, music, and entertainment.
- **Values.** We care about the same social issues (world hunger, AIDS, abortion), political issues (Republican, Democrat, Independent), and environmental issues.
- **Work.** We are both hard workers. Or, we both don't like to work too hard.
- **Curiosity.** We both "need to know more" about the world or we both are fine with little information.
- **Vitality and Security.**
Girls answer this: This guy can provide me with money and security.
Guys answer this: This girl is healthy and strong enough to have my child.
- **Loner vs. Can't Be Separated.** We both like our space or we both are "attached at the hip."

If you are in a relationship now and did not have a lot of matches, list the matches that are the most important:

If you are currently not in a relationship, now is the perfect time to figure out what you are looking for in a spouse. Rank each area above according to your most important matches. (1= Most Important)

Ingredients for Successful Relationships

After completing Step Three, what area(s) stand out as the ones where your relationship needs the most work?

In which area are you simply not willing to settle for less than the best?

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