

Keeping



the Flame Goes

by Evi Figgat

Dating is all about creating the fire. Marriage is all about keeping the fire going. In my first year of marriage that realization became very clear pretty quickly. It became so easy to say that we were going to sit around in our comfy clothes and stay in. While there is nothing wrong with staying in every now and then, it is important to keep your relationship interesting.

By time that you are married, you most likely know more about your spouse than anyone else—it's okay, it is

natural. However, the important thing to remember is that you have to keep things interesting.

Now, interesting does not have to be expensive. Nor does interesting have to be something crazy that requires a massive amount of planning. Once you get married, who says the excitement has to end? Below I have listed twenty date ideas for married couples that can keep your relationship's excitement going.

The Important Little Things

1. Text each other simple phrases that reminds your spouse that you love each other.
2. Call to just say I love you. Even though you know you love each other, the small reminder in the middle of the day
3. Remember to compliment each other. You should be each other's biggest cheerleaders.
4. Do a secret kind act for your spouse. Clean the dishes when they aren't looking, make the bed before they get the chance to, or leave a sweet note.
5. Buy their favorite treat from the gas station. This treat could be their favorite drink, magazine, or candy.
6. Ask each other's "sweet and sour" at the end of every day. The "sweet" part is the best event in your day and the sour is the worst event in your day. It's a great way to communicate feelings and stay involved in each other's lives no matter what.



For the Homebodies

1. Have a sleepover in your living room. When I say sleepover I mean have a full out sleepover. Pop popcorn, watch your favorite movie, grab every pillow in your home, and drink your favorite soda. This activity allows you to be homebodies, but have fun.
2. Have a romantic dinner night at your own kitchen table. Get dressed up, order pizza, light some candles, and dance to Frank Sinatra once you are done eating. The reason why you have a first dance at your wedding implies that you will have to opportunity to keep dancing.
3. Have a campout. Now obviously most tents will not fit inside the house, but it doesn't mean you

can't have a campout. Make hot dogs and s'mores over the stove. Then complete the night by telling each other ghost stories.

4. If you have a Wii or Kinect, have a game tournament complete with prizes. Loser has to do the dishes next. This activity guarantees giggles and smiles. A little bit of healthy competition never hurt anyone.
5. Buy a season of a television show and have a standing date every night for an episode. It does not take too much time, but it makes all the difference to be able to have an extra and fun thing to talk about.

For the Adventurers

1. Go for a hike. Where there are hills and mountains, there is hiking. Hiking allows for good conversation and endorphins, the chemical that makes you happy. So look up local hikes and get out.
2. Go shooting. Obviously this calls for either a shooting range or wide-open spaces. Girls, this generally makes boys happy. Boys, secretly every girl wants to try shooting a gun once in her life.
3. If you're near a body of water and it is not the middle of winter, then go kayaking. Kayaking is a ton of fun and never fails to allow for teamwork and good conversation.
4. Go for a bike ride, especially if it is sunny. Riding around town can be a lot of fun and if there is ice cream within a bike ride away, then go share some ice cream.
5. Light fireworks. Find your nearest fireworks stand, set your budget, and have a night set apart to light up the sky on your own.

So no matter what, be creative. It is important to remember that loving each other and keeping the relationship fun is what is going to make your love last. Marriage is fun. Remember, while there are a lot of serious things to keep in mind, you are just as much friends as husband and wife.

