



Adventures In Romance

**140+ Activities, Explorations,
Ideas, Outings and Adventures,
to Share Romance.**

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ROMANCE SUGGESTIONS

This inspiring, evocative and entertaining eBook is provided to kick-start your mind for ideas on romance with your partner.

Whether you are long-term lovers, or you are about to embark on your first (or second or third) dates, or you are feeling like your marriage relationship has dried up a little, the ideas and suggestions described here that will ignite more passion and romance in your life.

In fact, some of these suggestions are better on your first or second date; some are most definitely for further down the romance road. You'll understand when you get to them.

Remember, this is a starter list, and most of these ideas and activities were gathered from a simple web search. There are a lot of great and useful choices here for romantic adventures, and it may take you some time to work and play with all of them. Once you are done, or before, if you are feeling adventurous, you can do the same yourself, doing your own search out on the World Wide Web.

Several of the suggestions in this document are also mentioned in my book ([50 Ways To Love Your Lover](#), which I trust you already have), however these are generally more detailed, and give you step-by-step tips and instructions.

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Explore and enjoy these suggestions, and then continue to expand your repertoire with your own inspirations. And know, there are even more you will discover, so you will never run out of options to spice up and enliven your love-life.

Have fun on your adventures.

EASY CHOICES

To get things warmed up, here are a few straightforward and more obvious ideas to start. There's a lot more depth ahead.

How about some romantic flowers to show you how much you care? What woman can resist flowers? Hint: Men like them too.

Better yet, while your lover is at work, use your spare key and open their car door to put roses and a card in their driver's seat. This will shock them when he or she sees them and they will come home happy.

Don't *buy* your partner a card. Make them one instead and send it to them in the mail, even if you live together. They'll get the mail one day when you're not home and will love it.

Lingerie can definitely show him or her what is really on your mind, and enliven the steamiest of encounters...I'll leave the rest to your imagination.

Give your lover a small box. On the inside flap write "Just 50 of the many reasons why I love you." Have 50 multi-colored folded strips of paper inside with various phrases...making sure it's personalized with inside secrets.

Hide a card for your loved one in a place where they will find it and be surprised. The card is just a reminder of how much you love them.

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Have at least one conversation a day (on the phone or at home) where you whisper to the other person and let them know you love them and miss them. With a whisper you capture their attention.

Have a fondue party with your lover, using chocolate sauce, strawberries, cherries, and whipped fresh cream. Then smother them with sweet, chocolatey kisses. There's another level of play that you can enjoy with each other. I'll leave that to your imagination!

Cook their favorite meal, with candles and a bottle of their favorite wine, followed by a back and neck massage, and ask for nothing in return. The art is to please your partner.

Run your love a bath, add oil and bubbles and fill the bathroom and bedroom with tea candles on the floor everywhere. Bathe your partner and massage the water and oil into their skin gently and finish off with a heated fluffy bath towel and long kiss while drying them off. Finally, rub your partner down with lotion.

Take a hot bath together and wash your love's hair for them. Gently dry them off with a towel when you are finished.

Write your love a poem that describes how you feel about them; be as detailed as possible.

Send your love a cutesy school Valentine card and then write in elaborate detail what you plan to do to him/her when you next meet.

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Give him or her flowers on your children's birthdays.

Affix a stamp upside down – this is an old custom that lovers use to let their partner know “I love you.” It helps of course, if your partner also knows this.

Make little finger foods and feed them to your lover one by one...making sure to look deeply into their eyes.

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DANCE LESSON

Do you want to get close to your date?

Then explore dancing.

I'm not talking about the freestyle stuff you find at most clubs, but couples' dances like salsa, swing, or the tango. This type of dancing has been coming back lately and can be a lot of fun to learn with the right partner.

A little tip for the guys, you might not understand dancing's appeal and may even choose to fight it, but you'll never change women's love of dance. So you might as well accept it, put in a little time to get competent, maybe even learn to appreciate dancing, and make your partner happy. If you do learn to love it, this is something you can enjoy doing together for a long time. So give it a chance.

The first order of business is deciding whether you want to get a private or group lesson. I recommend private lessons, for the first one at least, because they're flexible and tailored to your needs. For example, if you want to try salsa and tango to see which you prefer, the instructor will be happy to go through the basics of both, while group lessons are dedicated to a certain dance and that's that. Plus you can ask plenty of questions without holding up the rest of the class, and you won't have to switch partners, which is done frequently in group classes.

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Many studios give a first-time discount, some even offering a complimentary lesson, to give you a feel for the dance and figure out how to proceed. Before choosing a studio, take a look at some reviews; yelp.com offers good impartial information that may be helpful in finding the right studio for you.

Salsa, swing, and tango are good choices for couples' dancing, or you could even go for some light fun with a hip-hop class. The one you choose depends on your style; the tango is a serious, sexy dance, while swing is a lighthearted, fun dance and salsa is somewhere in-between. If you like Latin music, salsa is probably the most popular choice for beginners.

Lessons last for an hour and you should wear comfortable clothes, but steer clear of tennis shoes because you'll want ones that slide.

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BIKE RIDE

Get outside and see different things, explore new areas, and experience the freedom and fun of a bike ride. This is a great no-frills date idea where you're just pedaling along, talking about all the different things that pop into view, and learning more about each other.

This would certainly work well on a first or second date, however it adds fun to your romance even if you've been together for years.

Take a few minutes to plan out an interesting trip ahead of time and you should have the makings for a fun day.

When planning your ride, there are two main parts: the route and the destination. In a perfect world, you'd immediately know of a beautiful, scenic ride leading to an amazing restaurant or bakery, but in the real one you may have to fudge it a bit. That's OK. Perfection is overrated and the main point is to be out doing something enjoyable together, the rest is just extra.

To come up with a plan, consider what your area has to offer. Use a little imagination; what would be fun to see up close? Where would you like to go? Some of these thoughts will get the ideas flowing:

- Drive out to a small town and ride bikes through the country until you find a nice hilltop for a picnic.

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- Stay in the city and bike out over a bridge to a trendy new Japanese restaurant.
- Is there a scenic park around? Explore it on your way to a French bakery for coffee and dessert.
- Have you heard about a particular part of town with great architecture? Bike through it and then have lunch at an unusual restaurant.
- Head down to the beach at low tide and cruise along the water's edge until you're ready to take a swim and eat lunch.
- Look up local landmarks or historic spots and bike from place to place, learning new things about your city.

Remember, even with a plan there are no set rules, be flexible enough to change it up and stop anywhere or do anything you like. If you see an arcade and both want to stop for some pinball, then that's the new plan. The key is to focus on enjoyment and to be adaptable. Have fun.

If you are still drawing a blank, contact a local bike shop or bike club for recommendations. Also, focus on routes with little to no traffic, and bike paths if possible.

A call to your city's parks and recreation department should yield a map of local bike paths.

When it comes to bikes, we all know the standard romantic scene where a couple is blissfully riding along

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on a tandem bike, huge smiles on their faces. But in reality, tandems can be a little restricting, especially on a first date. Maybe hold off until the next time you go biking. If you come up short on the bikes, and can't borrow from friends, rent from a local shop.

Rental shops will usually charge you \$30 or so for the day and many times you can buy a bike for not much more than that on craigslist. Plus, some of the ones for sale are these really great old junkers. Keep in mind that your standard 10-speed won't do well on the beach or over uneven surfaces, and beach cruisers aren't good for long distances.

You will need at least one backpack to hold water, food, sunscreen, wallets, maps, makeup, and whatever else. If the plan is to picnic, you may want a second backpack to hold a light blanket.

Bring a few washcloths along to freshen up before lunch or at some point during the ride. Use a little water to dampen the washcloths and wipe down your face, neck, and arms. You will be amazed at how much better you will feel for lunch after this one little thing. Bring a Ziploc bag for used washcloths.

As a last thought, you may also want to build an element of surprise into the date. For example, if your date likes Indian food, find a restaurant with great reviews and end the ride there. Or if they like art, take them on a ride through the city that finishes at an art exhibit that they have wanted to see.

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VOLUNTEER

Why not give a little something back to the community while having a great time on your date? Volunteering offers the opportunity to not only do some good, but also see your date in a different, more serious light at the same time.

It's easy to be charming while racing *Segways* around town or taking a sunset sail, but you may learn a lot more watching them repair trails at a nature preserve or helping animals at the humane society.

There are so many worthy causes that it's difficult to decide which to pursue, but I'm going to start off by offering some practical advice because this is a date idea.

Consider one-day events that don't require any special skills or training, like beach clean-ups and hiking trail repairs. Not just because they're uncomplicated, rather because you'll enjoy plenty of exercise, fresh air, and end the day on a high note, with a sense of accomplishment.

Helping underprivileged children or the elderly is very noble, but these generally require a long-term commitment and, to be honest, may leave you feeling a little down at the end of the day. What's that you say? You're supposed to experience these things in order to grow as a person? That may be true, and I definitely support it for established relationships, but early on

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there's enough pressure just trying to figure out whether you two get along and want to spend more time together without adding the heavy stuff. You may disagree with this advice and be absolutely right for your relationship, but it's something to consider.

Here are some volunteering ideas and how to get involved:

Clean-up Trails, Preserves, Beaches, or other Areas

You might not know it but many outdoor recreation spots are maintained by volunteers; groups like the Audubon Society help maintain local preserves, hiking clubs fix trails, and community groups pick up trash at the beach or clean graffiti from urban areas. These groups always need extra hands to help and there aren't really any skills required, just a desire to make things better. This is also one of those activities where you can go it alone; grab a few trash bags with your date and head out to the beach, park, or any other spot that needs a little freshening up.

Contact: Audubon society, City Parks and Recreation Department, Forest Rangers at a National Park or National Forest, and sites like [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) organize local clean-up efforts.

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Working with Animals

If you have a soul then you must love animals (this has been proven) and it can be extremely rewarding to help out those in need. This might entail working at a weekend adoption event, playing with the animals at a humane society to help socialize them, travelling to foster homes to take photographs, cleaning cages, washing towels and bedding, bathing the animals, or clerical work. The weekend adoption events, usually held in the parking lot of big stores like *Petco* or *PetSmart*, are great opportunities to get your feet wet. You're generally assigned to a dog for the day, or to work in a cat area, and show the pooch off to potential owners, keep them entertained, and do what you can to get them adopted.

Socializing the animals at a humane society is another good job, but it's also a popular one and generally requires some advance training and a commitment. You may also decide to volunteer at a pet rescue center or just buy some toys and treats for the animals at the pound to make their day a little better. Always call ahead to see if this is ok, treats may not be allowed. Whatever interests you, every little bit helps.

Contact your local Humane Society, private animal shelters, animal rescue organizations, or pet supply companies for adoption group information.

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Sporting or community services

For example, charity runs, biking, hiking, or swimming event always need volunteers to setup the course, provide directions, signups, helping participants, etc.

Other ideas

- Local theater companies use volunteers to help with the box office or as ushers. The work is easy and once the play starts you generally get to see a free show.
- Blood donation centers and bloodmobiles need people to greet donors, help them fill out forms, and distribute orange juice and cookies afterwards. You can even donate blood yourselves at the end of the day.
- Museums, art galleries, monuments, and botanical gardens have regular volunteer opportunities.
- Help the less fortunate with shelter by spending a day constructing or fixing up homes with Habitat for Humanity.
- Soup kitchens and churches would appreciate your help preparing food, serving, and cleaning up after meals.

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- Food banks and their outlets need people to help stock, organize, and bag groceries.

43 KISSES

You're going to learn all about kissing on this date - new techniques, unusual kisses, and what gets the two of you revved-up. I guarantee you'll discover some likes and dislikes you never knew existed. Plus, can you think of anything you'd rather spend the afternoon practicing?

Don't answer that.

There are 43 different types of kisses to explore on this date, from a standard French kiss to more unusual ones like the Spiderman kiss, nip kiss, and sniff kiss. It's one of those kissing games that will teach you a little bit more about the way your date likes to be kissed, and maybe even the way you like to be kissed.

The adventurous among you will decide to go for it and try them all. That's a lot of kisses, many of which take a few tries to get right. This may be a bit much, so take your time. Scan through the list and pick out 10-15 that you like.

Don't tell your date which kiss you picked, have them close their eyes and find out when you do it.

Most of the kisses include a question or two that will help you communicate opinions about the kisses and your techniques.

Kissing is one of those sensitive topics, so make sure to give feedback in a positive way. For example, instead

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of saying “You kissed me too hard” try “I liked it at the beginning when you were kissing me softly.”
Compliment each other while giving direction.

This brings us to the mood. All of this kissing requires some kind of a mood, right? I can see candles, maybe a fire, a bottle of wine, soft music, and a very romantic evening. But I can also see you going somewhere secluded, lying down on a blanket and having fun drawing a new kiss every few minutes and just enjoying the day. Romantic or casual can both be great, do what feels right for your relationship.

When you’re done, ask which ones were the best. If they know or want any that weren’t covered, I’m sure you would be willing to continue?

And last but not least, with all the kissing involved you may want to bring breath mints, smell amazing, and don’t forget the lip balm.

Happy kissing.

Types of Kisses

Standard Kiss

A simple kiss and a great way to get and give feedback about the kiss you do most often.

French Kiss

Lean together into a simple kiss, open your mouths and touch tongues lightly. Enjoy the feeling of your tongues moving against each other. Important point - do not move too deeply into your partner's mouth.

Sniff Kiss

Popular in Asian nations where public kissing is frowned upon, the sniff-kiss doesn't involve lips at all. Lean into your date and put your nose near their cheek, ear, or neck. Inhale their scent deeply.

Nip Kiss

Instead of kissing with your lips, lean in close and gently bite your date's lower lip, being very careful not to bite too hard.

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Eskimo Kiss

Put your faces close together and gently rub noses back and forth, up and down, or any which way you like.

Butterfly Kiss

Get close to your partner and flutter your eyelids against their cheek, neck, lips, or nose.

Upside-Down Kiss (Spiderman Kiss)

Have your partner lie on their back or sit in a chair and lean their head back. Lean over and give them a kiss with your heads pointed the opposite direction (noses near each other's chins).

Flavored Kiss

Take a bite of strawberry, orange, piece of candy, or anything else and then give your date a French kiss.

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Mystery Kiss

Head to the local supermarket or candy shop and each pick out a bunch of flavors you like – such as root beer barrels, toffee, grapes, strawberries, etc. (jelly bellies work well).

Don't show each other what you bought. Take turns closing your eyes while your partner eats a bite and then gives you a French kiss. See if you can guess the flavor.

Sucking Kiss

When kissing with an open mouth, gently suck on your date's lower lip. Pull away slightly while kissing for that little extra touch, but not too hard.

Vacuum Kiss

When your lips are pressing together, gently suck the air out of your partner's mouth.

Fish Kiss

Suck your cheeks in so that both of you look like fish and try to kiss each other before you burst out laughing. Keep trying until you succeed.

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The Non-Kiss Kiss

Lean in close to your date, until your lips are barely touching. Rub your lips against each other's without puckering.

Lick Kiss

Instead of touching your partner's lips with your own, lean in closely, and gently run your tongue over their lips. End with a light kiss.

Tease Kiss

Lean in until your lips barely graze each other's and pull back slightly. Do this a few times, enjoying the feeling of your partner's breath, before kissing.

Candy Kiss

While French kissing, pass a piece of hard candy or gum between your mouths.

Ice Kiss

While French kissing, pass a small piece of ice between your mouths.

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Capture the Candy Kiss

Put a Skittle, M&M, or other small candy in your partner's mouth and see if you can find it and move it to your mouth. Don't use anything larger than Skittles or M&Ms.

Sliding Kiss

Expose your partner's feet, ankles, legs, stomach, and neck. Have them lie down and gently kiss them on the foot and slide up to the ankle, knee, thigh, stomach, and finally neck. Make sure to slide your lips across the skin between light kisses.

Hickey

Gently, but firmly suck on your partner's skin until the area is pink or red. It may be best to do this in an area that can be covered by clothes.

From Behind Kiss

Hold your date from behind and when they turn their head, move yours around to meet them and kiss.

Slow Motion Kiss

Kiss your date at one-half or one-quarter speed.

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Opposite Kiss

If you usually kiss with your heads tilted to the right, try kissing with them tilted to the left.

Downward Kiss

Starting at the ear, kiss down along your partner's jaw to their neck or collarbone.

Tickle Kiss

Start by giving your partner a normal kiss and then start tickling their ribs, stomach, or underarms at the same time. See how long you can continue while you're both laughing.

No Lips Kiss

Lean in close, open your mouths slightly and touch tongues without touching lips.

Blow Kiss

Give your partner wet kisses on their neck, back, or shoulder (their choice). Pull back slightly and gently blow on the area to give them a cooling sensation.

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Woodpecker Kisses

Have your partner close their eyes and give them short, quick kisses all over their face. See if you can cover their entire face before you burst out laughing.

Lady and the Tramp Kiss

You both hold one end of licorice, taffy, fruit, or whatever in your mouth and eat until you're kissing.

Shocking Kiss

Shuffle around the carpet until you build up an electric charge, lean in close until only your lips meet and give off a spark.

High Low Kiss

Lean in and kiss your partner's upper lip, then pull back slightly and kiss their lower lip.

Kiss on the Hand

Take your partner's hand and give it a light kiss on the top or palm.

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Kiss on the Cheek

Kiss your partner on the cheek.

Kiss on the Neck

Hold your partner from the front or back and kiss them on the neck.

Frog Kiss

Move in close, open your mouths, and touch tongues quickly and briefly, like a frog trying to catch a fly. After about a dozen touches melt in for a long French kiss.

Kiss on the Ear

Lightly kiss your partner's ear, gently nibble or suck on the earlobe. Just once, lightly explore their ear with your tongue, many people don't like this but you never know.

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Kiss on the Back

Ask your partner which part of the back they want kissed. Pull up their shirt and kiss the area gently, rubbing your chin, cheek, and nose across the area.

Kiss on the Foot

Ask your partner where their feet are ticklish. Avoiding those spots, lightly kiss them on the top of the foot, ankle, or toes. Give them a little tickle when you're done.

Kiss on the Navel

Pull up your partner's shirt and gently kiss them on their navel. Use your tongue to explore the area.

Kiss on the Nose

Hug your partner close and give them a soft kiss on the tip of their nose.

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Kiss the Eyes

Ask your partner to close their eyes. Start by lightly kissing the cheekbone once, the eyebrow once, and then very gently kiss your date's closed eyes.

Kiss on the Forehead

Hold your partner close and give them a firm kiss on the forehead.

Switch Kiss

With this kiss you're going to kiss your partner the way they usually kiss you and vice-versa. If they're taller, start by standing on a chair, and use the style they do, kiss the lip they kiss, put your tongue in their mouth if they usually put theirs in yours, hold them the way they hold you, you get the idea.

This can be a real eye-opener

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TOUCHING

We all like to get touched, right?

Well this date has you exploring and learning all the different ways your partner likes to be rubbed, touched, caressed, and fondled, which may come in handy.

After convincing your honey bunny to give the date a try, it's easy as pie to pull off. Each item listed below has a description, which you may want to familiarize yourself with ahead of time, along with reminders to check how your partner is enjoying the touch or would like it improved.

When you choose one of these touches, don't tell them what's going to happen until the touching (or rubbing) begins and perform each one a few times until they say you got it right. Your partner may also like it a few different ways, so make sure they're comfortable enough to speak up.

Some of these options are massage-like, and they are marked as rubs. The others are touches. Some touches also suggest mentioning things you like about the person while rubbing, but this can be ignored if you're not all that fond of them!

Now, about the atmosphere: Try to set up a romantic area that's comfortable for this type of an experience. Open a bottle of wine, light a fire and some candles, put on soft music, and spread a blanket in the middle of the floor. Did I miss anything?

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Nibbles like chocolate, cheese and crackers, or fruit? Whatever you like, you're probably better at this stuff than me anyway.

You'll be using oil for the rubs, so have towels on-hand or lay a sheet over your blanket to keep it clean. Clothing depends on your relationship and could be anything from t-shirts and shorts, to swimwear, underwear, or nothing at all (the room should be warm).

The Touches

Scalp

Have your partner close their eyes and sit on the ground facing away from you. Kneeling behind them, anchor your fingertips along their front hairline. Synchronize your finger movements into small circles (clockwise for right, counter for left) so that the skin is pulled back from the face in the first movement and pushed back toward the center in the second. Remember to move the skin with your fingers, not to move your fingers over the skin.

Do this for 30 seconds and then place your fingers an inch or two back and repeat until you reach the back of the head. When finished, run your fingers through their hair, giving the scalp a light scratching.

Foot Rub

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up. Apply warm oil to their foot and place it in your lap.

Grasp their ankle with one hand and the foot with your other, gently rotating it in clockwise and counter clockwise movements (about 5 times each).

Hold their foot in both hands and begin making small circles over the different areas of the sole with your

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thumbs. Start at the top (toes) and work your way down, using more pressure on areas like the heel and ball of the foot. Ask them about the pressure, speed, and favorite areas as you go along.

Hold the foot with one hand and use a fist to knead into the sole, paying special attention to the arch.

Leg Rub

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up with their legs exposed. Apply warm oil to your hands.

Starting at the knee, move your hands up to the waist and back down the thigh in long strokes, going up in the center and returning down the sides. Do they like the pressure and speed?

Move to one side, grasp the thigh with your hands, and knead them so that your thumbs and fingers come together. Move up and down the thigh. Repeat first two steps on the other leg and have them flip over.

Work the back of the thigh as you did the front.

Grasp the lower leg in your hands and move up the calf, using your thumbs to massage in small circles. Go up to the back of the knee and then back down again.

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Neck Rub

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-down with their shirt off so that their neck and Trapezius are exposed. Apply warm oil to your hands.

Hold their neck with one hand on each side and, starting at the hairline, move down the neck making small circles with your thumbs. End at base of Trapezius and work your way back up.

Sit to one side and hold their neck with your thumbs on one side and fingers on the other. Use a squeezing motion so that your fingers and thumbs come together and go apart. Repeat.

Using the fingers of one hand, slide up one side of the neck from the Trapezius, followed immediately by the other hand, and then the first again in a rotating motion. This hand-over-hand motion will provide continuous upward pressure as you move from the Trapezius to the hairline. Repeat a few times and then do the other side.

Butt Rub

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-down.

Using your fingertips or thumbs, massage both cheeks in small circular motions. Ask about pressure & speed.

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Sitting to the side, grab one cheek with both hands and make squeezing motions up and down the muscle. Now move to sitting on their legs and try kneading both cheeks at once. Did they prefer the up-down or side massage?

Make a fist and knead into each cheek with medium pressure.

Slap or pinch them on the butt (just a little one).

Back Rub

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-down with their back exposed. Apply warm oil to your hands.

Starting at the base of the spine, move your hands up the center of the back to the neck and down again around the outsides in long circular motions. How do they like the speed and pressure?

Slowly trace the spine from the waist to the neck, using your thumbs to massage the muscle on either side of the spine in small circular motions. Repeat using swooping motions.

Massage the shoulder blade areas, giving the shoulders a few good kneads.

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Hand Rub

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up with their palms up. Sit next to them facing their feet with their hand in your lap and apply warm oil. Their fingers should be pointing away from you, make sure they go limp.

Hold their hand between yours and start at the heel near the wrist. Use your thumbs to make short strokes from the heel moving toward the fingers. You will alternate thumb strokes so that they constantly move one over the other. Cover the entire palm in this way.

Back Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-down with their back exposed (unhook bra if necessary). Lightly run your fingertips around the neck, shoulder blades, and upper back. Move to the lower back and sides (may be ticklish).

Vary the pressure and movement (up/down, circles, patterns) and ask which they prefer. Now go over the same areas using your fingernails. Do they like tips or nails better?

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Stomach Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up with their stomach exposed. Start by slowly moving your fingertips in wide circles around their stomach, from the waist around the side and chest.

Vary speed and pressure as you begin making smaller and smaller circles until you end up circling the belly button. Make sure to throw in some swirls to mix up the sensations. Now try the other direction using your fingernails.

Neck Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and either lay face-down or sit facing away from you. If your partner is female have her pull up her hair. Starting at the hairline, begin gently moving your fingertips in random patterns (not just back and forth) around the back of their neck. Explore into the hair, the area near their ears, and down to their shoulders. Vary your speed, pressure, and motions. When finished ask which they liked best. Now repeat using your fingernails.

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Front Leg Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up with their legs exposed. Begin by making long, light strokes with your fingertips from the top of the thighs all the way down to the feet (one or two legs at a time).

Widen and narrow your fingers as you move them down to provide a nice pattern, pausing with the knee under your palm to slowly move your fingertips to the top of the kneecap and back down a few times before proceeding.

Do this a few times using different pressure and speed. Which do they prefer? Try again with fingernails.

Back Leg Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-down with their legs exposed. Begin by making long, light strokes with your fingertips from the bottom of the buttocks all the way down to the ankles (one or two legs at a time).

Widen and narrow your fingers as you move them down to provide a nice pattern, pausing at the back of the knee to make small circles (be careful, many people are ticklish here).

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Vary the speed and pressure while doing this a few times. Repeat with fingernails.

Arm Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up with their arms exposed and palms up. Starting at the top of one shoulder, gently trace a pattern like a skier going down a mountain with your fingertips.

When you get to the hand make light circles and figure 8's on the palm before brushing their fingertips. Vary the speed and pressure while doing this a few times. Did they prefer it on the inside or outside of the arm? Repeat with fingernails.

Face Touch

This one is face-to-face touching only. Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up. Straddling their waist, lean over and place your cheek against theirs. Lightly move toward their ear and trace it with your cheek, nose, or lips.

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Move down around the neck to the other side (kissing is permitted). If you are female and have long hair, lean over your partner and let your hair brush against his face and neck (this may tickle).

Hair Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and sit facing away from you. Starting at their rear hairline, run your fingers up into their hair. Moving gently over the scalp, slowly widen and contract your fingertips. Alternate between fingertips and nails.

Butt Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-down with their rear exposed. Starting at the bottom of their bottom, lightly run your fingers up to the tailbone area and then back down on the sides, making circles with your hands. Slowly tighten the circles until you reach the center of each cheek.

Using your nails, lightly rake their rear from top to bottom, hitting all areas of the cheeks. When you're finished give them a light kiss or gentle bite back there.

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Ear Touch

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up. Straddling their waist, lean down and lightly trace their ears with your fingertips. Concentrate on the outside of the ears and lobes, but explore the backs (where they meet the head) and center to see if they like those spots too.

Ticklishness can be an issue with this one. When finished, turn their head to one side and give their earlobe a little nibble.

Neck (No) Touch - Breath

This is the no-touch touch. Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up. Slowly move your face around their neck, ear, and cheek areas, deeply inhaling their scent. Make sure to exhale firmly (not too hard) so that your breath can be felt on the different areas of their neck, ears, and cheeks. Definitely use a breath mint for this one.

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Stomach Touch - Lips

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-up with tummy exposed. Using only your lips, softly move around the stomach and belly button areas. Your lips don't always have to be in contact with the skin, warm breath can feel nice too. Make sure to breathe gentle, warm air – don't blow on them so that it feels cold.

Back Touch - Lips

Have your partner close their eyes and lay face-down with back exposed. Using only your lips, softly move around all over the back, concentrating on the sensitive lower back. Your lips don't always have to be in contact with the skin, warm breath by itself feels nice too. When using breath, make sure to breathe gentle, warm air – don't blow on them so that it feels cold.

ROMANTIC EVENINGS AT HOME

You can explore some of the previous activities while at home.

Give your partner a massage. Massage is very loving and personal. It can result in a number of things, including a better communication. In the course of a massage, you'll know your partner's body while at the same time providing a very relaxing touch.

Take a warm bath together. You can relax in the tub with your partner. Play your best romantic songs (inspiring and positive, ideally not co-dependent) while you do so. Also make available some great wine or champagne and spend long hours in the tub. This is a great romantic evening idea.

Lie with your sweetheart in front of the fire and kiss each other passionately until you have memorized the shape of each other's lips.

You can just lie with each other on the bed and listen to your best collection of romantic songs (again, no co-dependent ones). Hold each other during the process.

Play a romantic game together. Playing romantic games help couples to know each other better than they already do and help them become closer.

ROMANTIC EVENINGS AWAY FROM HOME

If there is a beach close to where you live, go there. While there, look for a comfortable spot, sit there with your partner and watch the sunset. Take a bottle of wine with you and a warm blanket. Watch the waves and the star-filled sky. If there is no beach, you can go to a rivers shore or to the top of a hill etc.

Go for a walk together with your sweetheart. You can go to a park or a botanic garden. In some towns and cities are walking streets. Hold hands while you walk. Just walk in lighted places.

Take a romantic vacation with your sweetie to one of the best romantic places in your town or city. Renting a cheap or expensive hotel room away from your home, depending on your budget, is a great idea.

Go to a club and have fun with your lover. Holding the love of your life and dancing to the sound and tune of great music is a wonderful thing. You can arrange before hand with the DJ to play a romantic song dedicated to your sweetheart. This should be a surprise to your lover.

Kidnap your sweetie to a motel or any place of your choice. There are many ways of kidnapping the one you love and a motel smells of "mischief" but you will be spending the evening with the one you love.

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PERFECT PICNICS

A romantic picnic is an excellent date idea - a pleasure excursion with your sweetheart in which a delicious meal is eaten outdoors.

It is a unique way of showing your sweetie that you care, for real!

It's also a great idea for a low-key approach - find a scenic spot to enjoy the fresh air and get to know your date. During picnics you're not staring at each other across a table, trying to make conversation through a noisy restaurant while waiters constantly check in.

Instead it's more of a relaxed, natural vibe as you sit there watching the world go by, talking about interests and the scenery, playing cards, or even just laying back to take in the sky. And there's no set routine for the meal either; if you're not clicking then pack it in and head home, but if things are going well, you're free to lounge around for hours. Perfect.

Take a romantic picnic often. Go with him or her to breath-taking landscapes and have the joy of being with your sweetie alone.

Here are most commonly used words and phrases associated with romantic picnics:

Creativity, A very good location, Good food, Good Company, Familiarity with your date, Timing, Simplicity, Wine and Fruits, Lakes, Parks, Beaches,

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Gardens, Festivals, Flavors, romantic picnic ideas, concerts, picnic recipes, romantic recipes etc.

So what makes a perfect picnic?

Is it the right food or location, good weather, things to do, privacy, or peace and quiet? I think it's probably a combination of all that stuff.

Of course good company beats the rest of it, which is your job. I'll just offer some ideas for the other parts and know the company works itself out.

The two big issues for romantic picnic ideas are where to go and what to bring. Let's start with the where.

Where to have a Romantic Picnic?

It depends. Every place can be a romantic place, depending how you see it. But other places are more creative and easily put you on the mood for romance. Romantic picnics take place outdoors so your best bet is to find a very creative place for you and your sweetie alone, free from interference from external negativities.

Here are some suggestions of places you can go on your picnic.

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Picnic with a View

Places with interesting scenery are good choices - they show you're not boring, provide things to talk about, and the setting makes it easier to relax and open up. How about:

- A hilltop where you can see people fly kites, sail, surf, paraglide, fly remote-controlled gliders, or do any other fun-to-watch activities. Avoid noises, things like wave-runners are better from a distance.
- A place to watch sports while you picnic, like a polo field, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, or any other local club sports.
- A view of the city skyline, a bridge, bay or harbor, stadium, or other attractive landmark
- Botanical gardens.
- Historic areas with old buildings and architecture

Back to Nature

Picnics are also great in the woods and forest, where you see only trees and listen to sweet melodies of birds and other forest organisms. Try to find a spot that

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doesn't require too much walking, unless you both like hiking. Speaking of which, keep the meal light if you're hiking in. National or state parks are good places to start and remember that bathrooms can be an issue in the wild.

Options include:

- Along a lake, river, or near a waterfall
- An open meadow
- Hillside looking out across a valley
- Nature preserves
- The desert during more temperate months
- Wooded areas or a forest clearing

The Beach

Beach picnics provide all kinds of fun things to see and do. If crowds are an issue consider going later in the day when families are heading home and remember to bring a beach umbrella or canopy for shade. The biggest issue with picnicking at the beach is sand being blown into your food. I recommend finger foods that can be eaten out of Tupperware containers so that you can keep the food covered while eating.

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When thinking of beach spots, consider:

- Cliffs along the shoreline where you can see miles and miles of coast
- Beaches with built-in barbeque pits for grilling
- Fire pits are a fun way to stay past sunset and roast marshmallows
- If on a lake or other calm body of water, think about small docks
- If you have a lake in your area, could you take a rowboat to a secluded spot?

Parks

Parks are the picnic staple and can be great if you have a well-maintained one nearby.

Look for parks that offer concerts or other productions by talking to your parks department

Investigate parks in surrounding areas by visiting city websites.

Find one with good space and shade so you can get away from the crowds and sun.

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On the Water

Rent a boat or canoe and jump into a river, pond or lake with your sweetheart. You can have a guide with you if you are afraid.

Roof Tops of Great Buildings

Many city dwellers can have picnics on the roof-top of magnificent buildings, with a view of the city.

Your Home's Backyard

Use your home's backyard or garden area for great picnic ideas, if you don't want to go away from home.

Seasonal

Picnics are suited to warmer times of the year but that doesn't mean you can't have one in the dead of winter.

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Enjoy the changing of the seasons by taking a drive to an area where you can experience the brilliant colors of fall. Bring a waterproof blanket, warm clothes and hot food.

Plan a picnic in the snow with hot cider, cocoa, coffee, tea, or mulled wine, along with a big container of hot soup. Bring a waterproof blanket and keep food warm in cooler with heated bricks (see food section below). While you're out there pick a spot to go sledding or build a snowman.

Enjoy the blooming spring flowers by taking a drive to the country and having a picnic in a meadow among the wildflowers. Pick a bouquet to take home and enjoy for the rest of the week. Don't forget a container to keep the flowers watered for the ride home.

What to Bring

Because of the natural issues with picnics, such as bugs, wind, dirt, and food heating issues, keep things very simple with foods that can be eaten by hand, right out of Tupperware containers. The menu choice is up to you, but here are some basic food tips:

- Mayonnaise spoils quickly, keep it refrigerated and add to salads or sandwiches after arrival
- Keep eggs and dairy products well chilled.

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- Keep food cold with frozen bottles of water that you can drink later after they've thawed
- If you're bringing hot food, one trick for keeping it warm is to put a few bricks in the oven at 250 degrees F for 45 minutes or so, and then wrap them in tin foil and place in a cooler on top of a towel (so they don't melt through). This will keep anything you put in the cooler warm for up to an hour.
- Use Ziploc bags to keep food fresh
- Pack soft foods in hard containers so they don't get squished
- Pack food just before leaving for the picnic
- Make sure alcohol is permitted if you plan on bringing it

This is a big list of possible items that may give you ideas or at least keep you from forgetting important things:

- Thick blanket (waterproof if area's damp)
- Small cooler
- Picnic basket or backpack

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- Napkins
- Disposable plates, plastic cups and utensils
- Condiments
- Wet wipes
- One plastic bag for trash and another for used dishware or glasses that you're taking home
- Jug of water and 2 light towels to clean up. Dampen the towels and use to freshen up, remove sunscreen, clean dog paws, etc
- Bug spray (optional)
- Wine glasses (optional)
- Corkscrew (optional)
- Umbrella or canopy for shade (optional)
- Hats or sunscreen (optional)
- Warm clothes if it might cool off (optional)
- Flashlight (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Talcum powder around the outside of the picnic blanket to keep ants away (optional)

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And some romantic items

- Small vase and flowers, picked upon arrival if possible
- Tea-light candles in glass tumblers or large shot glasses, or a solar sun jar if you're staying past sunset
- Music
- A pillow or two, a blanket too

What to do

Sometimes sitting down and getting to know each other is plenty, and other times you'll want to do something besides talk.

How about:

- Flying a kite
- Play games like backgammon, cribbage, or cards
- Throw a Frisbee
- Let your dog(s) enjoy the picnic with you and

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play

- Go swimming
- Play bocce ball or other lawn games
- Go for a hike
- Listen to each other's favorite music
- Bring 5 or 6 types of wine and have your own wine tasting
- Play catch with a football or kick a soccer ball around
- Do a crossword puzzle together
- Lay back and spot cloud shapes
- An after-lunch stroll
- Bring bubbles!

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FLIP A COIN

For this date you're going to throw yourselves at the mercy of chance by letting the flip of a coin decide the course of your date.

Start out by hopping in the car and driving off in any direction. When you approach the first traffic light or stop sign, flip a coin to decide whether you're turning right (heads) or left (tails). Keep going to see where you end up or stop to explore any fun or interesting spots you stumble across. By the way, it might get hectic flipping a coin at every intersection so feel free to go straight until every 2nd or 3rd light.

After finding something to do, you can keep up the flipping fun by letting the coin decide where to eat lunch. Do the coin flip driving trick again until you find a restaurant that looks good and then flip to see if you get to eat there, or if only one of you wants to eat there, flip for it.

You could also decide to flip for every decision that day.

Want to see a movie? Each of you pick one and flip for it.

Hungry for dessert? You know the drill.

COOKING CLASS

What's that old saying, "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach?"

Well, I can tell you from experience that it goes both ways, women love a guy who can cook just as much. So why not spend the evening helping a chef prepare a gourmet meal while you drink wine and learn some useful cooking tips?

You'll get to enjoy the fruits of your labor when it's over and later on take turns impressing each other.

Or maybe at the next date that comes along.

Lessons come in all shapes and sizes, but the important point in my opinion is to find hands-on instruction. Hands-off classes can be very informative, but in some ways they're a little too passive for a date, almost like watching a movie.

With hands-on classes you get to dice ingredients together, sample the dish, talk about what you're doing, is it right, is it wrong, and the like, rather than just watching and taking notes.

Sushi is one example of a fun hands-on class; when watching you don't realize just how sticky the rice gets or the correct pressure to use on rolls, but in a hands-on class you're facing those issues with an instructor right there to offer advice and answer questions.

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Intimate classes in the 8-10 person range are ideal, but not always realistic, try to find one with fewer than 25 people. Classes usually last between 2 1/2 - 3 hours.

Classes are held at a number of different venues: cooking schools, community colleges (continuing education), local restaurants, cookware shops, or even in your own home.

The hands-down best way to find good classes is to search through your regional Yelp or Chowhound message boards for recommendations. This is where you'll find a lot of foodies who have tried classes around town and have great advice to offer. If there aren't any recent threads, post a question of your own asking for suggestions.

Another good resource is cookware shops, like Williams-Sonoma, Sur La Table, and even Macy's. The counter people or managers should have a handle on the local cooking scene, and may even offer classes in that very store. Also consider the food section of your local newspaper, or the 'classes' section on craigslist.

If you have a large, well-equipped kitchen, you may consider hiring a chef for a personal lesson. Get together a bunch of friends to share the cost and have a blast.

DRINKS WITH A VIEW

I'm all for casual first dates. Things like grabbing a cup of coffee at a local shop or having a drink together are perfect because you can break the ice in a low-pressure setting and no one's getting stuck somewhere they don't want to be.

Is your date creepy? No problem. Throw out a "Nice to meet you" and head for the car.

But even though I really like these ideas in principle, I have to admit that they don't exactly rate high for creativity or excitement. Why not dress it up a little bit and keep all the benefits while adding some oomph?

That's right, oomph. It's a word. Instead of the local coffee shop, have that same drink overlooking the bay, or while watching a local club sport, or at a dog park with the pooches playing all around you. You see where I'm going with this?

Let's start off with a few suggestions for places to go.

Out-of-the-way spots can be great ideas if you're comfortable with the person, but if this is an ice breaking first date you should keep it public and fairly easy to reach. And remember, don't get caught trying too hard on a first date; you may have what seems like a perfect idea but the ones that take a lot of work just never seem to go over well.

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Think of spots like:

- A hilltop where you can watch people fly kites, sail, paraglide, fly remote-controlled gliders, surf, or do other interesting activities.
- An area to see water polo, lawn bowling, rugby, or any other unusual sports you can find. Have fun commentating on the action and trying to figure out the rules.
- Overlooking landmarks like a bridge, harbor, or a good view of the city skyline. Maybe you know an accessible rooftop where you can look out over the city.
- Animal lovers can enjoy watching the dogs play at a dog park or beach.
- A park where you can relax while people play catch and do “parky” things around you.
- Near the water on a small lakeside dock, a bench overlooking the ocean, or a riverbank.
- A botanical garden.

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With any spot you should be able to show up, quickly find a bench or table, or pull out a blanket or a few folding chairs. Think quick and easy. Another plus about choosing a spot with a view is that having things to partially occupy your attention and talk about on a first date isn't the worst thing in the world.

Keeping with the theme of 'simple is better', go for food and drinks that impress with minimal effort. Drinks can be alcoholic or not, depending on your preference, so ask your date what they like and go from there.

Food is very optional. It's nice to bring something to snack on as long as you don't get complicated. Simple stuff like:

- Chips with fresh guacamole or salsa (good with margaritas or Mexican beer)
- Baguette or French bread with artichoke dip or hummus
- Cheese and crackers – something like Brie and grainy crackers
- Olives and bread or crackers
- Fresh veggies with a dip
- Dark chocolate (always a hit in my book)

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SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

Are you ready to hear some funny, embarrassing, and touching stories about your date? Well then you'd better be willing to share a few of your own because this is a two-person game.

This is how it works: you are each going to think of 5 interesting questions to ask the other person and the rule is they have to answer. Use your imagination because the questions can be about anything. But there's a catch.

You're also going to be answering every question you ask. And that doesn't mean throwing yourself softballs, use this opportunity to open up and share things that are important to you.

This date is best done in a nice, relaxed setting. Think about somewhere secluded, a place with no distractions where you can be next to each other, look up at the sky, and talk.

Maybe lying in a hammock together, putting down a blanket in an empty field, sitting on the couch in front of a fire, going to the beach, or wherever else you feel relaxed and comfortable sharing.

Music and a little wine might help you get into the spirit of the date and make it a more entertaining experience.

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This should be a low-pressure date, so when it's your turn to answer a question take time to relax for a bit and think of your answer. Just feel the breeze and enjoy being with your date while you sift through memories for something significant. The questions can be as heavy or light as you like.

Here are a few ideas:

- When was the first time you kissed someone, and what was it like?
- Have you ever had any brushes with death?
- What is the weirdest thing about you, or what are your biggest quirks?
- Where would you like to travel, and why?
- If you could live in any spot, where would it be, and why?
- What is the craziest thing you've done, or would like to do?
- What is the most frightened you've ever been, and why?
- Do you believe in ghosts, and have you ever seen one?
- Do you have any regrets, and what is your biggest one?

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- What accomplishments are you most proud of?
- Who is your favorite relative and why?
(grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin – no parents or siblings)
- What was your favorite pet, and why?
- What was your favorite sports moment?
- What's the best concert you've ever seen, and why?
- Who has been the most influential person in your life, and why?
- What is your favorite meal, and why?
- What is your favorite movie, and why?
- What instrument would you like to learn how to play, and why?
- What is the dumbest thing you've ever done?
- What is the most embarrassing moment of your life?
- Which story do your relatives always tell about you when they get together?
- What is the funniest moment of your life?
- What is your favorite vehicle ever, and why?

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(bicycle, tricycle, wagon, car, motorcycle, big wheel, skateboard, scooter)

CHINESE LANTERN PICNIC

The idea for this date is to have a nighttime picnic in a secluded, romantic spot with the soft glow of Chinese paper lanterns and candlelight. This is one of those unique date ideas that, if done well, won't ever be forgotten by your date. A quiet picnic is also the perfect opportunity for two people to learn about each other. At first glance the idea may sound complicated, but read along and you'll see that it's actually very quick and easy.

First off, you need to decide how many lanterns you want. Have one larger lantern hanging, say 12"-16" across, bookended by two smaller lanterns, like an 8" and a 6" size. Hang them at different heights for best effect.

Other options are two larger lanterns, a number of smaller lanterns, or just one large one. When shopping for lanterns you will find the cheaper, standard paper lanterns and more expensive nylon or silk ones.

The paper lanterns can be used once or twice and thrown away, but you may want to consider buying a good silk lantern for the larger lantern and giving it to your date as a gift or hanging it in your place as a reminder of a great night together.

Once you decide how many lanterns and what sizes you'll need, do some shopping online, and search for chinese lanterns. If you buy inexpensive paper lanterns,

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it may be a good idea to buy a spare or two for future use or in case of problems.

There's no perfect solution for lighting the lanterns in a secluded spot, however candles are the most cost-effective and versatile. Tea light candles are ideal because they are cheap, very small, and generally burn for only a few hours. Plus they're light, so they can easily be placed in the lanterns without weighing them down, and are sold in quantity so you will be able to place extras around the blanket for more light.

The most important thing about using candles is to *make sure they are secured*. This is critical because you have an exposed flame in a lantern made out of paper, right under a tree. If the wind picks up and rocks the lanterns it can be a real problem. The fix for this is to make sure you secure the candles very well to the bottom of the lanterns using glue, melted wax, or whatever else you have at hand, and hang the lanterns far enough below the branches to minimize the risk.

Make sure you give them a test run by affixing them to the lanterns before your date and testing out the brightness in a dark room and how well they stay in place with vigorous shaking. Smaller lanterns only need one candle, while you may want to place a cluster of two or three in the bigger ones.

If you want to place candles in lanterns around your picnic blanket, an easy (and cheap) method is using small paper bags (white ideally) with sand or dirt to weigh the lanterns down so they stay put.

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Alternatives to candles are 3 or 12-LED battery-operated lights that can be found on most of the lantern sites. They're safer than candles but provide a colder, less romantic light and what will you ever use them for besides a Chinese lantern?

An alternative to this is the do-it-yourself option of hanging a flashlight in the lantern. If it creates too much of a spotlight effect on the lower part of the lantern, try making a small cone out of white paper, about the size of the beam's diameter, and resting it on the bottom to redirect light around the lantern.

The paper lanterns generally only come with a hook, so you will need twine, string, or wire to hang them from the branches. Figure 3 feet for each lantern will be plenty.

Now you need to think of a nice, secluded spot for a picnic at night. Ideally it will have trees you can use to hang the lanterns, but if you have a great place in mind that doesn't have trees, like the beach, you can substitute poles (tent, broom handle) or sticks. The lanterns are extremely light; you should be able to suspend them by wedging a few sticks into the ground. Think wilderness areas, parks, and beaches.

A fun build-up to this idea is to have everything prepared ahead of time and surprise your date with the lit picnic when you get there. To do this, tie the twine to the lanterns ahead of time, make sure the candles are set in place, and store it all in the trunk of your car for the drive over.

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Ask your date to stay in the car and close their eyes for a few minutes while you run over to the spot, spread the blanket, quickly tie the lanterns, and light candles. With your date's eyes still closed, lead them near the spot, but not too close, and have them open their eyes. This should produce a good reaction. Now it's time for the fun part. Enjoy.

When you're done with the picnic, blow out the candles, lie back, and take in the night sky.

MYSTERY DATE

OK, so this date idea doesn't really have anything to do with solving a mystery, it's more about providing your date with a fun and unique path to find you. In essence, you will creatively lead them to a few items that hint at what you will be doing that evening, with a bottle of wine and dessert, before they find you to enjoy the sunset together. This is one of those dates that can be very basic or over-the-top, it depends on what feels right for you and your relationship. And this is definitely not suggested for your *first* date. Save this for a few dates down the road.

Feel free to take or leave any pieces, and add your own.

The Setup

This is where you provide maps for your date so they won't get lost.

First you need to think of a nice, scenic place, like the beach or a hillside, where you can put down a blanket and watch the sunset.

After that, find a local wine store and dessert shop that are not too far away from where you'll be spending the evening. Call the wine store and explain to the

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manager that you'd like to buy a bottle of wine and leave it, along with a card, for someone to pick up (on your date day) and you wanted to make sure that was OK.

Do the same for the dessert shop, and don't forget to make sure they'll both be open when your date goes by. Write down the addresses of these shops. Now you have everything you need for the maps.

Go to Google Maps (if you use a different maps website, the instructions will differ slightly), type the address of the wine shop into the box and click the "Search Maps" button. When the map comes up, click the "Link" link above the upper right corner of the map, highlight the text in the "Paste link in email or IM", then right-click and select "Copy". Paste it into a Word document, email it to yourself, or save it some other way. This is the link you will email to your date along with the street address. First step done.

On the same page, click "Get Directions" under the Google logo. Type the address of the wine store in the start (top) box and the address of dessert shop in the end (bottom) box and click the "Get Directions" button. When the map comes up, click the "Print" link above the upper right corner of the map to open the Print window. At the top of the page, check "Include large map" and then rollover the destination address (last in the numbered list) at the bottom and select "Map" (next to Text only). Print. Second step done.

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Close the print window and enter the address of the dessert shop in the box to the RIGHT of the Google logo, click the “Search Maps” button. This gives you the start point from the dessert shop to the final stop. Now you will locate the final destination on the map. Do this by clicking and dragging the map, zooming in or out, and using the satellite or map buttons to spot landmarks. When you find the spot on the map, RIGHT-click it and select “Get directions to here”. Print out the directions as you did in the last step. If your final destination is far away from the road, be sure to circle it on your printed map. Done.

Ok, that seemed more complicated than it is, but printing the maps will really only take a few minutes.

Fold up the directions from the wine store to the dessert shop and place them in an envelope along with a note listing only the address of the dessert shop and a message like “Something will be waiting for you”. It’s also nice to include a personal note like “P.S. I can’t wait to see you,” “P.S. You are so beautiful (or handsome),” or “Ready to have fun?” Do the same for the envelope you’ll be leaving at the dessert shop.

That’s it. The preparations are done.

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The Date

The day of the date, stop by the dessert shop and select something sweet for later, maybe a piece of cake to share or even two. Pay for the dessert, have them put it in a box and leave the envelope, making sure they understand your directions, i.e. "Give to a guy named Mike when he asks." Do the same for the wine store.

Email your date (or text it if you are more smart phone savvy) with the Google map link, address, and a note that says something like "Be here at 6:30pm, there will be something waiting for you." If you want them to get there at a certain time, say 30 minutes before sunset, make sure you add in some drive-time. Head to the location with your blanket, wine glasses, and a light dinner or anything else you want to bring. Make sure you each have phones in case your date gets lost.

Suggestions

Guys can make it even more romantic by including a poem with each note. It's one of those times where expressing your emotions and showing a little extra thought can go a long way toward winning a girl over. A word of caution though, if you haven't been dating long, you may want to stick with a personal thought like "I'll see you soon" instead of the full-blown love poem.

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Perhaps have your date pick up marshmallows and wine before leading them to the beach where you're waiting with a fire. Or have your date pick up candles and massage oil before sending them over to your place for a massage.

Let your imagination have fun with this.

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I KNOW YOU!

Do you know your date? No, I mean do you really know them?

Have you been paying attention? Have you picked up on their interests and tastes, their hopes and dreams? The things they've always wanted to do and the things they say they want to do but really don't?

Do you remember the time they said "I've always thought that would be fun" but never really got around to it? Well then this is your time to shine.

This is when you knock their socks off by surprising them not only with a date they want but a date they don't know you know they want.

Got it? Okay, let's go.

For this date you will be figuring out an activity, a meal, a dessert, and a gift that your date has wanted but not gotten, at least for a while. That's pretty easy, right?

First off, write down all of the fun things they've talked about doing but haven't. This shouldn't be anything you've done before, that's too easy.

Make it completely new based on your conversations. Now write down the foods they like, the restaurants they've brought up, and the types of foods they've thought about trying, including desserts. Great, now

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make one last list of little (or not so little) gifts you know they want.

Once you've put all the lists together, start by deciding which activity they would really enjoy. Don't think about how much you'd like it or trying to knock their socks off, just something they would truly enjoy doing. After you figure this out, it should make choosing the food a bit easier, and then pick a good gift.

Hopefully that was quick and fun. Now plan the time with your date and tell them not to ask questions -- it's a surprise. Just say you've figured out a date they'll like and they need to trust you. They can't make any suggestions during the date; this is all about you figuring it out for them.

If you're eating at a restaurant, even try to guess which meal they'll want to eat and if your guess is right, order for them. Of course, you don't want them to suffer through the wrong meal just to please you, let them know it's okay to order something different if you blow it. And when the date is all over, find out how well you did.

Ask your date to be honest – you're going to be when it's your turn.

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The Activity

This doesn't have to be something amazing like sky-diving, the plan is to wow them with your knowledge. Here are some ideas that may help you get started.

Has she told stories about riding horses as a kid? Or mentioned that horses are her favorite animal? Maybe you should take her riding, schedule a lesson, or take her to a horse show or the races.

Is he hiking with friends in most of his photos? Has he complained that there's no place to get out and breathe in the city? Research some really great hiking spots within a few hours' drive and take him back to nature.

Is the heat getting to her? Has she ever wondered what it's like to shoot the rapids? Find a nearby river and go whitewater rafting for the day, or even just float down on inner tubes. Maybe she likes a little risk and would enjoy sneaking into a 4-star hotel pool, or perhaps an hour on that slip-n-slide she used to have as a kid, would make her day.

Does he drool when he sees a '68 Corvette or an Aston Martin go by? Check to see if there's a car show in town or even think about renting a high-end car and driving up the coast or into the mountains for the day.

Has she mentioned a few times that she almost went surfing on vacation but it didn't work out? Maybe it's time for a surf lesson, or if you aren't near the ocean perhaps surfing down sand dunes will work.

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And the list goes on: off-roading, zip-lining, parachuting, dance lessons, live music, concerts, live theater, ballet, opera, a day at the spa, cooking class, helicopter ride, you name it.

The Meal

This could be as simple as some of her special dishes for a picnic, his favorite food, or a night at that French restaurant she heard was amazing. Get in the right frame of mind and consider matching the meal with the activity.

Things to consider:

- Should it be casual or dressy? Which do they prefer?
- Have they mentioned wanting to try a certain type of food like Indian, Thai, or sushi?
- Is there a food they haven't tried but are interested in checking out?

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Dessert

This is the same idea as the meal-- get in their shoes and figure out if they'll be in the mood for cake and coffee or a scoop of ice cream at the beach.

Would they like:

- A cold dessert like a huge ice cream sundae or a thick milkshake?
- Light and healthy like berries and cream?
- Something chocolaty like a flourless chocolate cake?
- Maybe something more exotic like a Napoleon, Crème Brulee, or Tiramisu with a cappuccino?

The Gift

As with the event, the point here is not to wow them with an extravagant gift, but to show them that you've been listening.

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Do they want:

- A book she's always loved or has been thinking about reading?
- His favorite movie on DVD or a new CD he's interested in?
- A box of her favorite chocolates?
- Vintage candy he used to eat like Pez or Pop Rocks?
- A bouquet of her #1 flowers in the world?

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NOW I KNOW MY ABCs!

Are you imaginative? Great! You'll need to be as you work your way through 26 spontaneous, fun, and silly activities all on one date.

Why 26, you ask? Well, that's the number of letters in the alphabet and your job is to figure out something to do for each one.

So this is how it works, over the course of the date you'll each take turns picking things to do for the letters A thru Z. For example, if you pick being **A**crobat for "A", then it's your date's turn to choose something for "B" like **B**reak-dancing or a water **B**alloon fight. Get it?

Besides that there aren't really any rules to this thing, you can go anywhere and do anything, be it a simple **H**ug for "H" or trying to sneak onto a **R**ooftop for "R". Which brings up a good point, not every letter has to be a big, spectacular event. You won't have time for that anyway. No, some of the best ones can simply be **H**olding **H**ands or talking about your **D**reams for the future.

Here are some random examples for the first few letters:

- **A** = be **A**crobat, make some **A**rt, pet an **A**nimal, look at a photograph by Ansel Adams, drink **A**pple juice, act like **A**pes.

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- **B** = Break-dance, ride Bikes, Boil an egg, Build a fort, Blow up a Balloon, play Basketball, see who can Bark like a dog.
- **C** = Climb a tree, bake Cookies, make a Crank Call, sing Christmas Carols, Clap your hands, play Cards.
- **D** = name the 7 Dwarves, play Darts, kiss behind the Drapes, take a Dip in the pool, talk about your Dreams, take a Door off its hinges.
- **E** = ride in an Elevator, read an Excerpt from your favorite book, Enter a contest, see who can list the most famous people whose name starts with an "E", learn how to say "Hello" in Egyptian.

If you get stumped think of general activities like music (listen to or sing favorite songs), travel (to streets or stores), eating, and playing sports.

There are also some fun variations to the game, one being that the person who doesn't pick the activity has to do it, which can make for some interesting situations. And then there's the one I like where you still work together, but each get 3 passes for activities you don't want to do. What happens is that you still alternate letters, but after the activity is picked you each have the option of saying "Pass!" which means the other person has to do that one by themselves.

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It's fun when one person says "For the letter S I choose **Striptease**" (it'll be the guy), and you see who can "Pass" the fastest because only one person can pass on each letter. But remember, you only get 3 Passes for the entire alphabet, so don't waste them as you'd be a little stuck at the end of the date trying to pet a **Zebra**.

The sexy version of this game can be a lot of fun, but I'll leave that to your imagination.

SURPRISE MESSAGE

This is a great idea for couples that are on fairly intimate terms, but probably not something you want to pull out on a second or third date. That is unless you don't want a third or fourth.

The basic idea is to invite your date over for something boring, like a movie, and then surprise them with a candlelit massage, nice music, and maybe even strawberries, chocolate, or champagne.

To get things set up, place some candles around the room, lay a sheet out on the floor or bed (have an extra nearby), wash the strawberries and put them in a bowl, and make sure the room is warm. You may also want to light a scented candle or two for that little extra touch.

When your date arrives, ask them to help you out with something in the other room for a minute. They should crack a big smile when they see the candles burning and hear the real plan for the evening. Give them a big kiss, the fun's about to begin.

This brings us to the one iffy part of the date - undressing for the massage. Your date will need to at least strip down to their underwear and it's up to you how they get there. The safe approach is to leave the room so that they can freshen up, undress, and be waiting under the sheet when you get back.

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But how fun is safe? If you're up to the risk, just smile and start undressing them yourself. But remember that not everyone is comfortable with his or her body in a lit room, so think about it before you start tearing clothes off.

Oh yeah, turn off the phones.

The massage is great by itself, but can be even more fun if you get into the surprise aspect of it.

Here are some ideas:

- Drop off a box at their work the day of your date with just one strawberry or piece of chocolate and a simple note like "See you at 7:00". Don't mention big surprises or what a great night you have planned because you're only watching a movie, right?
This will probably get them wondering and they may ask why you sent the gift, but be dodgy and respond with something like "You don't like strawberries?" Let them wonder what's happening. If you can't send or drop something off, try emailing them your note with an image. It's not as romantic, but everyone gets busy and it's better than nothing.
- Greet your date at the door by putting a finger to their lips, leaning in close and whispering "Shhhh" in their ear, then lead them to the room.

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Don't spoil the silence by talking; when they see the setup lean in close and whisper into their ear "Have a drink/strawberry, get undressed and lie under the sheet, I'll be back in 5 minutes."

- Get a little edgier by leading your date to the room so that they can see the candles and what you have in store, and then put a blindfold or sleeping mask on them. Now you can feed your date strawberries, chocolate, or champagne, and undress them yourself. When blindfolded, your date's other senses will be heightened; try lightly rubbing their body with a rose. Let them smell it by slowly moving the rose over their lips. The blindfold version requires a lot of trust, don't do anything weird.

The Massage

To keep your date from getting cold, make sure the sheet is covering the parts you're not working on. A good massage lasts about an hour and your hands should be nice and soft. Groom your nails, and if your hands feel a little rough, soak them in warm water for a few minutes. Afterward do a light scrubbing with a mixture of sugar and cooking oil until they feel soft, and then wash and apply lotion.

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Remember that you don't have to give a perfect massage, your date should enjoy it regardless, but try to have a few basics down. Practice by closing your eyes and massaging your own neck, shoulders, arms, and legs. Find a strength that feels good and then focus on how you're using your hands to get that amount of pressure. Also, remember that not everyone enjoys the same style, so ask them a few times towards the beginning if they like it harder or softer.

Don't worry about memorizing everything, if you get lost just start at the head and work your way down to the feet, flip them over and go back up to the head. When you see a muscle group, rub and knead it a bit. After you've finished, gently remove the oil with a soft towel.

As for the strawberries, chocolate, or whatever you choose - be sparing.

Throughout the experience, they'll be relaxing on their stomach or back, neither of which are great for eating or drinking. The point is not to feed the person a meal, but to keep a nice flavor in their mouth. Give them one or two pieces before you start, when they flip over, and maybe one or two other times during the massage.

A DINNER TO REMEMBER

When it comes to dating, memorable is good. Not the “Yeah, we had lobster” kind of memorable, but the “You wouldn’t believe the amazing night I had” kind of memorable.

Think about it, what sounds more fun, eating pasta at Olive Garden or having a meal by candlelight on that dock over there to the right? Take your time...there’s no hurry...okay, if you chose the candlelit dinner, please read on, otherwise enjoy your evening at Olive Garden. I recommend the linguini.

So what are some of these “amazing” places to have a romantic dinner? Here are just a few ideas (some also work for picnics mentioned earlier):

Overlooking the City

Can you think of a spot with views of a beautiful landmark, like a bridge, or a hilltop where you can watch the city lights twinkle as the sun goes down?

On the Water

The sights and sounds of water always provide a romantic setting; this includes the ocean, lakes, rivers, streams, or a nice waterfall. A note of caution – the

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beach is a great spot, but the wind can start blowing around sunset and kick sand up into your perfect meal.

Public Buildings

There are tons of large public buildings with beautiful courtyards, gardens, and side walkways where you can have dinner. Think about museums, libraries, and other places with great architecture that close early. Call ahead to make sure you won't get ejected by security.

Rooftop

If you live in the city it may be possible to set up a table on either your rooftop or a friend's. These are ideal spots because they're secluded, have nice views, and don't require the travel that some of the others do.

On Stage

Dinner on the stage of a nice open-air theater is very romantic; something about the open space and architecture I think. If you have one nearby, check to see when it's not in use and if it's possible to access the stage after hours.

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Art Gallery

There are tons of small art galleries that would be happy to rent space out for an hour or so after closing. The setting is romantic, there's no worry about weather, and they will probably have a sound system you can use.

Find one you like and ask what it would cost for them to stay a little late one night and work on the books while you eat. You can even offer to bring extra for them.

Parks, meadows, and other outdoor areas

These are just a few of the romantic places you can choose, use your imagination to think of other spots that provide great views of the sunset while you enjoy each other's company.

At first blush this may sound like a complicated date, but I promise that it's a snap to pull off with a little preparation. Let's start with the basics. You'll need a small table and chairs - folding ones are good choices if they need to be transported by car, a tablecloth is a must, and I highly recommend breaking out the linen napkins.

Carefully pack a set of plates, bowls, glasses, utensils, and whatever else you need in a bag, taking care to protect dishware from chipping or breaking. For a little extra ambiance, consider bringing along some candles

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(with hurricane candle holders if wind is an issue) and a music player. Don't forget a bag or two for cleanup, matches for the candles, and a flashlight for getting back to the car. That's it.

As far as the food is concerned, you know your date a lot better than I do so go with your gut. Choose anything from a home-cooked meal, take-out from a nice restaurant, or even something simple like pizza.

You're thinking "All this work for pizza?" but your date will be so impressed by what you've planned that something simple like you ordering their favorite pizza can come off as very charming. Also consider cold dinners like sushi because they're easy to store and transport.

If you decide on a hot meal, use the trick mentioned before for keeping it warm - put a few bricks in the oven at 250 degrees F for 45 minutes or so, and then wrap them in tin foil and place in a cooler on top of a towel (so they don't melt through). This will keep anything you put in the cooler warm for up to an hour.

Setting it Up

In a perfect world you'd set everything up in advance, go pick up your date, and return together with the meal. Unfortunately, unless you're going for the rooftop location, if you were to actually do this I fear that some of your stuff would be missing by the time you got back.

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Think about setting up the table and chairs ahead of time, leaving a “Back in 10 minutes” note, and then when you arrive having your date close their eyes while you put out the tablecloth and dinnerware. Or you could forgo it and simply have your date close their eyes while you put the entire thing together. Remember that if you’re bringing a hot meal your date will probably be able to smell it from the trunk, so maybe a simple “It’s a surprise” will suffice?

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TREASURE HUNT

Who doesn't enjoy the thrill of the hunt, the mystery of a good puzzle, and the excitement of finding hidden treasure?

Not only are treasure hunts fun, but coming up with a good one demonstrates creativity, and promises more than an endless string of TV shows on the couch for your date. Hunts come in all shapes and sizes: short, long, simple, and complex. Some end with a gift, while others end with an event, but the one constant is that a good treasure hunt always has a prize. Maybe it's a nice meal with you, a bar of their favorite chocolate, a picnic at the beach, tickets to a game, or a romantic night together. Whatever it is, your date will love it.

Here are some treasure hunt ideas that you can customize for your date:

The Map

This is a fun way to surprise your date with two gifts; one at the end of the hunt and the hunt itself! Okay, so the basic plan is to be out together and "stumble" across a map or clue that leads to hidden treasure. This map is one you will have hidden earlier, it's just a matter of getting them to find it.

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For example:

While hiking, take a break near the first clue. If your date doesn't notice it, say "Hey, what's that?" and let them take a look. Inside they'll find a note with an intro like "The Treasure of the Best Guy in Yourtown", along with a clue to the next one.

A good type of clue for this one is to write descriptions of things that can be seen from where you're standing, i.e. "Look to the tallest tree, at its base, that's where I'll be", and maybe even insert a riddle or two. Try to keep the clues to no more than 4 or 5 with a total hunt time of 30 minutes or so, that way it's fun without getting tedious.

Or

Head down to the beach and set up your towels where you've buried a bottle containing the first clue. Beaches can be heavily trafficked and you don't want someone to find your bottle, so bury it the night before (or that morning), and mark it with rocks so you can find it easily without others doing so first.

Try to set up your date's towel so that they find it themselves, but you can find it for them at any time during the day if you want to have lunch or go swimming first.

Light-colored bottles make it easy to see the message inside, and be sure to scrub any labels off. Wine bottles are nice but may be too big, while soda or beer bottles also work and can be corked to seal. Descriptive clues

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are good for this one too, and if you're worried about someone finding the treasure before your date does, the last clue can always be something like "Give your favorite guy a kiss on the cheek, he may have something for you."

The only setup required is for you to visit the spot ahead of time, using your imagination to plan a fun trail, and hide the clues. Remember to bring along a pen, paper, and maybe some tape, along with small containers or baggies if you think the clues may get wet.

Scavenger hunt

Scavenger hunts are fun in a different way than regular treasure hunts because even though they don't have clues or riddles, it can be more exciting racing against the clock. To start, go somewhere interesting like a good part of the city, a wharf, the beach, a shopping center, or anywhere else with lots of things, and write down all kinds of objects for your list, making it a mix of easy and difficult stuff.

Surprise hunts are the best and you can pull it off in a few ways; first, have them meet you in a certain area and when they get there (you are hiding nearby) call or text with instructions on where to find the list.

For example, text "Look under the mailbox" or "Ask the manager at Starbucks for an envelope" and "Have fun!" You could also just be out together and when you get

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to the starting spot, ask them the time, hand them an envelope, and say “Good luck!”

The list should have an introduction and rules, such as “Photograph all the items you can within 30 minutes and meet me at the coffee shop. Don’t be late, every minute over is -1 point.”

It should also tell them what they’re playing for, i.e. 1-10 items = a kiss, 10-20 = you take them to any movie they want tonight, 21-30 = they get dessert after the movie, 31-40 = they get a massage after dessert, etc.

It’s fun to see your date run around. Think about a place where you can sit off to the side and watch the show. If they like riddles, you can work those into the list by including items like oranges as “I’m round, love the letter C, and come from Florida.” Whatever variations you use, just make sure they know how to use the camera on their phone or give them one at the start of the hunt.

Scavenger hunts can also be a fun double date. Each couple works up a list of 100 or so items for the other and whichever team photographs the most gets free lunch on the other.

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Photographs

This hunt uses photographs to guide your date from clue to clue until they find the treasure, which is you!

Each set of photos should include a distinctive one of the feature they will recognize, like a building, unusual tree, parking lot, or playground, along with a close-up of the area in which the clue is hidden.

Take the tree example, you might include a large photo of the tree where you first kissed and then another of a nearby rock or bush where the next set of photos is hidden. You could also give them a written clue or address and then a close-up photo of some physical feature.

The last clue will be to a restaurant where you're waiting for lunch, a picnic at the beach, a cafe for coffee and dessert, or even their place where you're waiting with a movie, a massage, or more.

Kidnapping

For this idea, something special to your date has been kidnapped and they must meet a list of demands to get it back. The something special can be a pet, favorite hat, stuffed animal, t-shirt, or even you. Be conscious of the risk factor. The goal is to have fun and titillation, not panic or upset. Approach this choice accordingly.

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Start off by making a ransom note out of cut-out magazine or newspaper letters that tells them what's been kidnapped and if they ever want to see it again they'll follow your instructions. Cutting and pasting the letters for the note will take a while so try to keep it brief, but it's a good touch that your date will appreciate (busy people can use this [ransom note generator](#)). If they're coming over you could leave the note in an envelope on the front door, or go to their place and put it on their windshield or front door.

The kidnapers have stolen your phone and will only use text messages to direct your date along the trail. The path you choose depends on what you want to do that night; it can be as simple as sending them to buy popcorn and soda for the movie you rented or more risqué like candles and massage oil for a full body rubdown. Good items could be berries or grapes, dessert, champagne or wine, candles, massage oil, bubble bath, incense, a flower, a blindfold, or whatever else comes to mind.

Part of the fun is giving them hints about what's to come while not making it too obvious, so make them pick up some random items along the way too. When they're buying that bottle of wine, you might as well have them grab a pencil or lip-balm too. Remember to stay in character; reply to their first text with something like "Go to the liquor store on the corner of 1st and 2nd Street. Text when you arrive and wait for instructions." And don't answer their phone calls.

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After sending them around to a few spots, lead them to the final location, which can be your place, a hotel room, an outdoor location, or whatever. Have a good time and take it as far as you like. When they finally arrive, you can be blindfolded with a note that says “It takes one good kiss to free me” or maybe you go a little farther and are tied up in bed with candles lit and a note on the door that says “Do whatever you want with the person inside”, signed “The Kidnapper.”

Treasure Hunt Clues

Clues to lead your date along the trail can come in all forms, from riddles to instructions (take 15 paces from the big rock to the waterfall), maps, or photos. You could also put together a code and switch out every letter of the alphabet with a number and give the key to your date. Then you can write messages in plain sight, using something like chalk, without anyone else understanding.

Treasure Hunt Gifts

Most of a treasure hunt’s fun is in the journey; so simple gifts like a piece of your date’s favorite chocolate, a flower, or poem are all great rewards. Other gift ideas are tickets to a game or concert, perfume, jewelry, a massage, or letting your date choose that night’s movie or restaurant. Another thought is to include little notes with every clue, things

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you admire about your date, shared memories, or reasons you love them.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Take any old date idea, add this twist, and watch your date's interest skyrocket as they try to figure out what you're up to.

So what's the twist? It's pretty simple really: you're going to let them make all the decisions for your next date together, and they'll have absolutely no idea what to expect.

Confused? Good. It will confuse them too and they'll love it.

Ok, so what am I talking about exactly? In a nutshell, you'll send some very simple, seemingly random questions that are tied to a whole list of things you've planned for the date: activities, food, drinks, music, your clothes, a gift, or whatever. Let's say you're doing something together on Saturday; you can send a message on Wednesday that says:

"We're going to play a little game this week. I'll email you some questions and your answers will decide all of the things we do on Saturday. Don't ask any questions, just answer them. What do you prefer, fast or slow?"

At this point their mind should be thinking "Wha...?" because not only do they have no idea what you're talking about, but also the question could mean anything from fast food vs. a slow dinner to go karts vs. mini golf or mountain biking vs. hiking.

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You've already decided it will be either a day at the horse races or watching a golf tournament, but they have no way of knowing that. You can make this simple and only ask a few questions for an activity, meal, and maybe dessert, or go crazy and have it determine the color of the outfit you wear, the type of drinks, style of music, your perfume or cologne, whether it's a day or night date, and so on. Have fun with it.

To start off, you need to figure out two activities you'll both enjoy. They don't have to be earth-shattering events, they can be simple things like a picnic, hiking, a concert, kayaking, bowling, a beach bonfire, or whatever. Write them down.

Now think of very simple adjectives that could describe them and turn it into a question:

- Rock climbing or scuba diving – “High or low?”
- Relaxing in a hammock or hiking a mountain – “Easy or tough?”
- Daytime or nighttime date – “White or black?”
- Ride Segways or go mountain-biking – “Man-made or natural?”
- Share a Jacuzzi or swim in the lake – “Hot or cold?”

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Once they answer this first question, you can figure out all the other ones and send them over as the week goes by. If you're worried about giving it away on the first question, start with an unrelated one like a gift. Ask if they like *"Hard or soft?"* and then buy chocolates with nuts or a soft creme filling.

Another thing that adds some fun to the idea is, instead of just sending over an email asking *"Hard or soft?"* add a weird fact that relates to the question but not the activity.

For example:

"Did you know that diamonds are no longer the hardest material on Earth? No kidding! Now it's these man-made things called carbon nano-tubes. What about you, do you like it hard or soft?"

It's a little more work, but the added weirdness makes it a little more fun too. You can find out all kinds of bizarre things by doing a search for odd, random facts and whatever adjective you're using. Another idea is to opt for foods instead of adjectives, like soup or sandwich (*"wet or dry"*), salsa or ketchup (*"spicy or mild"*), beef jerky or marshmallows (*"tough or soft"*).

The fun is in the mystery, so don't let them know what they've chosen until the date unfolds. I mean, give them fair warning if they need to wear shorts or a suit, but pull the decisions out slowly. If the question was *"Blue or green?"* (swimming or tennis) and your date picked blue, say *"So I hear you like blue. Ok. Let's go find you some blue."*

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Some more sample questions with weird facts:

- “Did you know there’s constantly enough water in the atmosphere to produce 2.5” of rain over the entire surface of the Earth? Tell me, do you like it wet or dry?”
- “The Carolina Reaper is the spiciest pepper in the world, registering up to 2,000,000 Scoville heat units. That’s up to 550 times as spicy as a jalapeno! What’s your favorite, spicy or mild?”
- “Did you know that ‘Go.’ is the shortest complete sentence in the English language? What’s your preference, short or long?”
- “Did you know that a hummingbird’s wings beat at the amazingly fast rate of 70 times per second? Tell me, do you like it fast or slow?”
- “Get this, more people die each year from falling coconuts than shark attacks! What about you, do you like to rise or fall?”

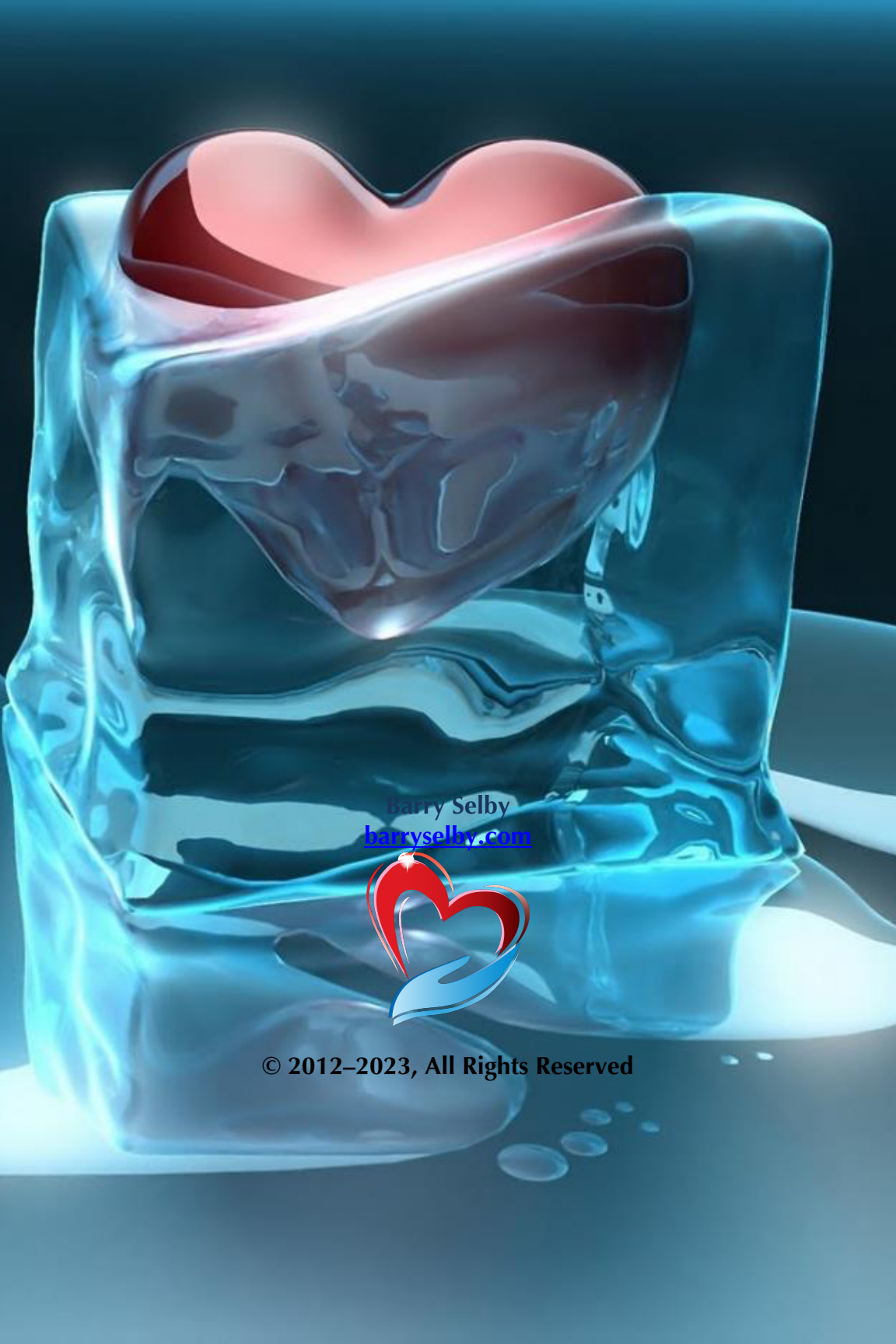
THE REST IS UP TO YOU

I trust you found some enjoyable and entertaining options here, and that you will explore even more ideas of your own in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Embrace romance, it enlivens your heart, stimulates your life and feeds your soul.

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