

The 5 Love Languages

Gary Chapman's, The Five Love Languages is based on the idea that we each have our own preferred way we express and experience love. In relationships, unhappiness occurs when these ways are different than how our partner is expressing their love. These different ways have been divided into five categories, or languages. Imagine if you and your partner each spoke a different language and were trying to communicate to each other all the reasons you are in love. Some of the message might get through, but the depth of the feelings would get lost. The same thing happens when you speak different love languages. You know your partner cares for you but the depth of their love isn't always felt.

Words of affirmation

- Verbal compliments, words of appreciation, use kind words,
- Example : " You look sharp in the suit" "I appreciate you doing the dishes"
- May not be a primary language
- If this is your spouse's love language, try:
 - Remind yourself: Words are important!
 - Write a love letter
 - Set a goal to compliment you spouse every day for a month

Quality Time

- Togetherness: not just being in the same room but focusing you attention on your spouse
- Quality conversation: two individuals sharing their experiences, thoughts, feelings, and desires in a friendly, uninterrupted context.
- How to use sympathetic listening:
 1. Maintain eye contact when your spouse is talking
 2. Don't listen to your spouse and do something else at the same time
 3. Listen for feelings
 4. Observe body language
 5. Refuse to interrupt
- Quality activities: spend time doing something you enjoy while focusing on each other. These provide a memory bank that a couple can pull from for many years.
- If this is your spouse's love language, try:
 - Talk a walk together through the old neighborhood where one of you grew up. Ask questions about your spouse's childhood
 - Make a luncheon appointment with your spouse
 - Ask your spouse for a list of five activities that they would enjoy doing with you.

Receiving gifts

- Something you can hold in your hand that makes you think "they were thinking about me".

- The gift of self: physical presence in the time of crisis
- If this is your spouse's love language, try"
 - A parade of gifts: leave a box of candy in the morning; have flowers delivered in the afternoon; give a small gift at night.
 - Make a gift
 - Give your spouse a gift everyday for one week
 - Talk about times they need you to be present

Acts of service

- Doing things out of love not due to gender roles or obligation.
- If this is your spouse's love language, try
 - Make a list of all the requests your spouse has made of you over the past few weeks. Select one of these each week and do it as an expression of love.
 - Give your spouse a love not accompanied by the act of service every three days for a month.
 - Get the children to help you with some act of service

Physical Touch

- Holding hands, kissing, embracing, sex.
- Some people feel unloved without physical touch
- If this is your spouse's love language, try
 - As you walk from the car to the shopping mall, reach out and hold their hand
 - When you spouse arrives at home, meet them with a hug
 - Initiate sex through massage.

How do I discover my own love language?

1. What does your spouse do or fail to do that hurts you most deeply? The opposite of what hurts you most is probably your love language
2. What have you most often requested of your spouse? The thing you have most often requested is likely the thing that would make you feel most loved.
3. In what ways do you regularly express love to your spouse? Your method of expressing love may be an indication of something that would make you feel loved.

I recommend Gary Chapman's book, [The Five Love Languages](#). It is written for people who are in relationships and looking to make improvements. He provides real world examples and simple steps that are outlined in each chapter. There are questionnaires that can assist you in determining each other's primary and secondary love languages. You can also visit their website or down load The 5 Love Language App for you mobile device. The App also has questionnaires and will even email you daily/weekly tips on things to try.