



SUMMER
DATE *pack*



SUMMER DATE *pack*

At last: Your schedules are loosening, daylight is stretching, and you can think about long walks on the beach (or at least the neighborhood).

Maybe your marriage could use a tall drink of water, too. Could you use this lull in routine to focus on each other?

To help, we've got

- 10 Creative Ways To Deliver a Love Note (and prompts to write a great one)
- Maybe You Didn't Know This About Me
- Ideas To Stop the Summer Drift
- 12 Easy Summer Date Ideas
- 20 Conversation Starters

Dive in!



10 Creative Ways To Deliver a Love Note

AND PROMPTS TO WRITE A GREAT ONE

1. Create a rebus—

one of those letters that uses pictures (and individual letters) in place of words.

2. Stick your love note in your own mailbox or on his bedside table.

3. Create a word puzzle using an online puzzle maker.

Online word-search makers offer options for your recipient to answer a riddle or question in order to produce the needed clue.

For example, "3 ACROSS. What body feature do I love most about you?"

4. Using notes—even sticky notes—leave your mate a scavenger hunt, leading them to the next note in their day.

If you're feeling bold, leave the notes with with co-workers, friends they'll see, or even one of your more responsible kids. The end of your scavenger hunt can be a special snack, drink, or dinner; a casual date; or even...yourself.

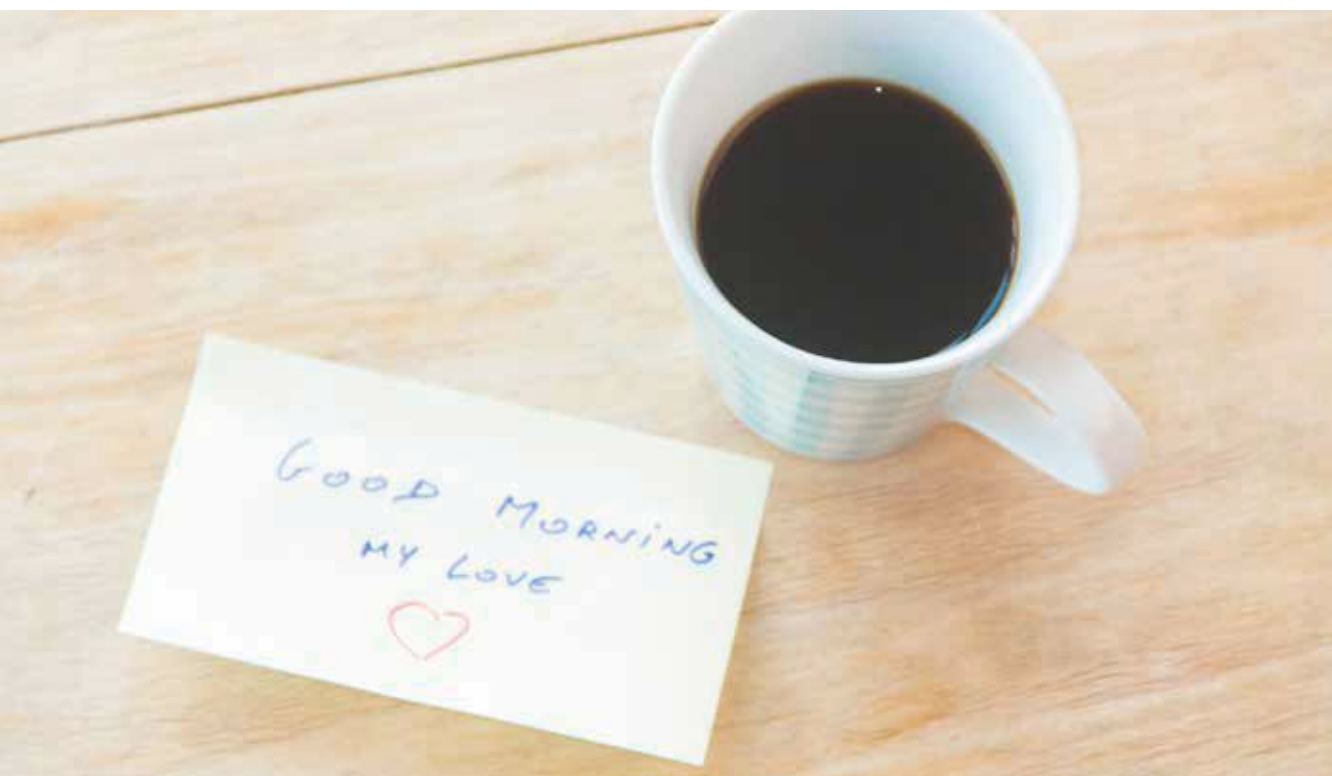
5. Go for more than words.

Use a painting you created, a CD, a card you watercolored yourself, an origami creation to show your spouse how you really feel about them.

6. Take your original note and cut it into pieces like a puzzle.

Deliver the pieces through different avenues (in his briefcase? In the stack of cereal bowls?) throughout the day. (You might put a sticky note on the first one: "Save me! More to come...")

- 7. Use sidewalk chalk—**
or even glow-in-the-dark sidewalk chalk for nighttime.
- 8. Deposit the note in a sealed zip-top plastic bag, and use water to adhere it to the shower wall.**
- 9. Write qualities you love on small slips of paper, and fasten them around his or her favorite candy.**
- 10. Write out 10-12 love notes to be opened every hour upon the hour.**
This is great for a special day, like a birthday or anniversary. Want to bump things up a notch? Have people in your spouse's life deliver them each hour (co-workers, neighbors, etc.).



“But What Should I Write?!”

PROMPTS FOR A KILLER LOVE NOTE

1. Use word pictures.

What’s your spouse—or your relationship—like for you? A sunrise? Flying? Music? *When the chaos at work makes me feel like I’m in a foreign country, you call me, and instantly I’m at home. Or, You’re like a lighthouse to me right now.*

2. What do you feel when you’re with your spouse?

You make me feel completely known and completely loved. Or, Sometimes I feel like I married my superhero.

3. In what new ways does your mate reveal God?

Your compassion and daily faithfulness show me so much of who God is. Or, I see so much of God’s face in how you love our kids.

4. What do you love more than ever?

When we first got married, I loved how we could talk for hours. Now, I see how you listen to everyone around you—and really “see” them. Or, When we first met, your laugh made me feel like I could fly. And now, you know how to pick me up on the worst days better than anyone I’ve ever met.

5. What has your journey added to your love story?

Can you believe those two college kids who got married a decade ago have three kids? Even though we don’t have much more money now than we did then—can you believe how rich we are? Or, When we first got married, I had no way of knowing what we’d walk through together. But there’s no one else I’d rather have holding my hand.

MAYBE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS ABOUT ME

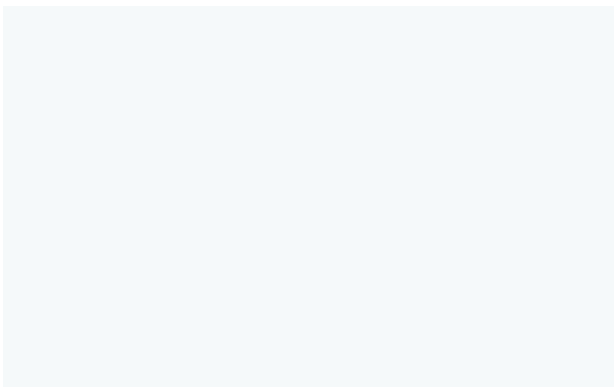
Q1 My first memory is...



Q2 The best year/events of my childhood were...



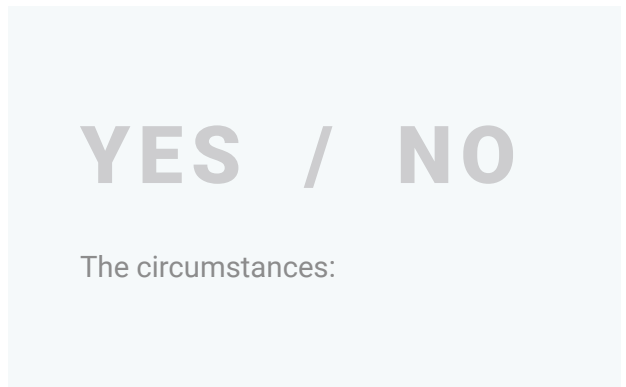
Q3 As a kid I played...



Q4 Have you ever saved someone's life?

YES / NO

The circumstances:



Q5 My irrational fear is...



Q6 If I were in prison my last meal would be...



MAYBE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS ABOUT ME

Q7 My favorite body feature of yours is...

Q8 My favorite body feature I have is...

Q9 My least-favorite body feature is...

Q10 If I could have any superpower I would choose...

Q11 My favorite way to indulge is...

Q12 My idea of a perfect date is...

**MAYBE YOU DIDN'T
KNOW THIS ABOUT ME**

Q13

Before I die, three places I want to visit would be...

Q14

Before I die, I want to accomplish these three things...

Q15

One way I wish our kids weren't like me is...

Q16

One way I'm glad our kids are like me is...

Q17

One way I'm glad our kids are like you is...

Q18

My favorite season of the year is...

MAYBE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS ABOUT ME

Q19

Two love songs that belong on any great playlist are...

Q20

I've always wondered what it's like to be...

Q21

One talent I really wish I had was...

Q22

What I liked most about you when we met is...

Q23

One book I'd like our kids to read is...

Q24

One movie I'd like our kids to watch is...

**MAYBE YOU DIDN'T
KNOW THIS ABOUT ME**

Q25

One thing I love that you do in the bedroom is...

Q26

My favorite Bible verse is... because...

Q27

I constantly embarrass myself when I...

Q28

One way you've gotten sexier over the years is...

Q29

I feel at home when...

Q30

Three ways I feel closest to you is...

Ideas to Stop the Summer Drift

1. *Read a Book Together*

at night, on vacation, or on a road trip.

2. *pray together.*

If you don't pray together already, try setting aside one night a week to pray together.

3. SIT TOGETHER.

Set aside 10 minutes after work to sit on the porch (or on the sofa?) together. You could have some popsicles, lemonade, or iced tea ready as your together downtime.

4 .

GO TO BED.
WITH LESS
CLOTHES ON.

5. *Enjoy a Walk Together at Sunset.*

If you want, pick some flowers.

6. play with your kids together.

An all-family Nerf war, hide-and-seek or sardines, a water fight, sidewalk chalk, a meal where every person contributes.

7. *Bring home your spouse's favorite snack & your own.*

While you enjoy them, do nothing.

8 .

GIVE YOUR KIDS
A CONSISTENT
BEDTIME, EVEN
IF IT'S LATER.

9. *Shower Together.*

10. *Resist the urge to pack your summer full of activities.*

It's okay for the kids to be bored. It's okay to say no to a few opportunities. Remember: We say "no" so we can say the right "yeses." Let your summer carry a slower pace than the school year.

12 *easy* SUMMER DATES

The kids are home, and everyone's schedule is up in the (occasionally stifling) air. In fact, the heat could be sucking away the last of the energy you were storing up for your spouse. What can you do to prevent yourselves from the summer drift?

Date nights don't have to be complicated to be fun. And summer blows the doors open for a fresh breeze of easy date possibilities

1. **Stoke the flames.**

Make a fire outside. Cuddle under a blanket. Play the guitar if you have one. Make some grown-up form of s'mores of your own, getting creative with some of the ingredients: Nutella? Candy bars? Bacon? Different crackers/cookies, like coconut cookies, sugar cookies, or gingersnaps?

2. **Get starry-eyed.**

Use an online meteor shower calendar to find when they'll be most visible in your area. Grab a blanket or lawn chairs, and head to a spot outside of town, where the shower will be brightest.

3. **Take a hike—**

and up the ante a bit with some romantic gestures. Ask around about hikes with the best views. Bring something dry to sit on (a blanket?), your spouse's favorite drink and snack, and something with a little spark that you'd bring on a romantic picnic (A small volume of poetry? Fixings for a cheese and summer sausage plate? A box of chocolates?). You could even go fishing. And hey—don't forget to check the weather.

4. **Jump in a lake.**

Just the two of you.

5. **Canoe.**

Or paddleboat. Or kayak. Capsizing on purpose is optional.

6.

Get blended.

Grab smoothies, or make some, and go on a walk at sunset.

7.

Get fresh.

Hit the farmer's market, then cook something together. We recommend making your own marinated shish kabobs.

8.

Berrylicious.

Find a u-pick farm in your area for fresh veggies or fruit.

9.

Classic ≠ boring.

Picnics are always in style.

10.

Upgrade your movie night.

Hang up a sheet, grab some cushions and popcorn, and borrow a friend's projector. Bonus: String up lights for extra atmosphere. Ain't nobody got time for that? Look for outdoor movies in your community, or for a local drive-in.

11.

Jump at the chance for a high school do-over.

Not really fond of that time you lost your appetite over the tilt-a-whirl? This is your chance to be forever young with the date you're actually excited about. Depending on where you live, go for the amusement park, bowling, sno-cones, mini-golf, an arcade ... and make sure to throw your head back and laugh.

12.

Dancing in the dark.

Place candles outside, or string lights. Grab a smartphone with your playlist and some speakers (placing your phone in a bowl works in a pinch). Remember how great it feels to slow dance. Shoes optional.

21 conversation STARTERS

What's one of your best memories of us together?

What's one of your favorite ways we relax together?

Name a smell or food that instantly helps you chill.

What do you daydream about?

If you could take a class or learn a skill, what would that class or skill be?

At what times in your life have you felt closest to God, or when do you feel closest to God now?

Who would you list as the top three to five influential people in your life?

What weaknesses frustrate you most about yourself?

What's on your bucket list (your list of things you want to do before you kick the bucket)?

What was one of the best summers you can remember?

Describe your dream vacation.

Describe three things that, when you do them, make you feel instantly “lighter” within.

What kind of activity makes you feel closest to God?

If you could have a cup of coffee with yourself ____ weeks/months/years ago, what advice would you have given yourself?

As a kid, what did you think you'd be when you grew up? What was appealing about that?

What do you pray about (or for) most often?

What job(s) could you do that wouldn't feel like work?

What do you like—or for what are you most grateful—about the way God's made you?

What act of love in your life has been most meaningful?

What's one thing I do that makes you feel really respected, loved, or connected to me?

What's God been doing in you lately?