

Date Idea: Be a “Cheap” Date



By Kristin Mattern

You and your sweetie are sick of the same old Valentine's Day traditions, or maybe you're both convinced it's just a day made up by the card companies. Perhaps your pockets are just little lighter this year and you're looking for ways to save money. Whatever your reason, this Valentine's Day is a great time to have a cheap date to celebrate your love together.

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Get crafty this weekend and make your own cards. Cut out hearts from red and pink construction paper and use paper lace doilies and glitter to decorate. Write cute and corny lines to put a smile on each other's faces. For a longer-lasting idea, cut photographs into heart shapes and make a collage you can

enjoy for years to come. If you're not the most artistic person, print images and cut them out to create an easy but still sentimental card for your honey.

To exchange gifts and not burn a hole in your pocket, agree to set a price cap with your significant other. This way, you can both give each other a little something special, but you aren't going overboard. Or stick with the homemade route and get creative. If you've been dying for your man to surprise you with breakfast in bed or cook a candlelit dinner, let that be his gift to you! If you're a guy, maybe you dream of your girlfriend making a batch of your favorite cookies, or you really want her to crochet you a scarf in your favorite football team's colors. Just ask her. Think outside the chocolate box and do something unique.

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Another idea is to make dinner with what you have in the fridge, or order Italian if the two of you are feeling like you want to be pampered a little. Watch romantic and fun movies like *50 First Dates* or the ever-classic *Casablanca*. Whatever you decide to pop in the DVD player, you and your sweetheart are sure to have a lovely ending to your non-traditional V-day all on the cheap!

Have you ever gone beyond giving roses on Valentine's Day? Tell us in the comments below!