

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Make Your Holiday the Best One Yet



By Kerri Sheehan

Snow falls in thick, icy blankets; winter attire adorns every shop window; and a sip of steaming hot chocolate instantly warms you up. All of this can only mean one thing: The holiday season is upon us! CupidsPulse.com has gathered some of our favorite articles from our partners this week to make your winter the best it can be.

1. Laugh a little: Nothing is better than popping in a nice comedy with your significant other on a cold winter's night and having a good laugh. These comedians will tell you just how funny love can be. (YourTango.com)

Related Link: [Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Make Your Long-Term Relationship A Success](#)

2. Cuddle up: One of the best parts about the chilly weather is that you and your guy have all the more reason to stay indoors and snuggle with each other. Here are 47 of the cutest love quotes for that person you just want to 'mush.' (YourTango.com)

3. Get the girls together: Staying in isn't just for you and your man; your girlfriends want in on the fun too! See how Melissa Joan Hart and her closest gal pals celebrated the holiday season with a cute "girls only" get together. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

4. Winterize your skin: Don't stop at a girls' night when it comes to pampering yourself. The icy temperatures are sure to leave your skin screaming for thirst, so here are some ways to get your skin ready for winter. (GalTime.com)

Related Link: [10 Holiday Gift Ideas for That Special Someone](#)

5. Be the best gift giver: Now that you've given yourself a gift (or two), it's time to spread that holiday cheer! Even if you aren't a parent, there are bound to be a child or two on your shopping list. These gender-neutral gifts will have any kid wishing that Santa asked you for gifting advice. (GalTime.com)

What's your best tip for surviving the holiday season? Share below.

Ben Affleck Says Wife Jennifer Garner Is 'the Most Important Person to Me'



By April Littleton

According to [People](#), Ben Affleck only has one person to thank for all of his success – his wife, Jennifer Garner. “She is by leaps and bounds the most important person to me in that respect,” Affleck said in an interview with *Playboy* of Garner’s resolute support. “Over the past 10 years she has allowed me to have a stable home life while accomplishing my professional goals.” The couple married in 2005 and have three children together, son, Samuel, 21 months and daughters Violet, 7 and Seraphina, 4.

What are some ways to show your appreciation for your partner?

Cupid's Advice:

After awhile, it can be hard to find different ways to show your partner you still love and care about them. Sometimes, the smallest gestures can make your loved one feel over the moon. Cupid has some tips:

1. Thank them: The simplest way to show your appreciation for your significant other is just by thanking them often. Does your partner take out the trash everyday? Does he/she cook and clean the most out of the two of you? Sure, a sweet "thank you" will do the trick, but think about giving your partner a nice gift. Surprise your love with a special meal or take them out for a night out.

Related: [Newlyweds Ace Young and Diana DeGarmo Start Holiday Traditions](#)

2. A day out: Plan out a day where you and your partner do everything he/she likes to do. Whether it be going swimming, seeing a movie or simply lounging at home all day – let them pick out the activities for the day. When the day is over, your honey will feel appreciated and know you care about their wants and desires.

Related: [Adele and Boyfriend Flaunt PDA at Lady Gaga Concert](#)

3. Physical contact: Make sure you shower your significant other with hugs and kisses. When your partner does something nice for you, show your love with a sweet kiss and a hug. A little physical contact can mean the world to your love and it will also keep the spark between you and him/her alive.

What are some other ways to show appreciation for your partner? Comment below.

New Couple? Courteney Cox Takes Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid to Jennifer Aniston's Party



By April Littleton

According to UsMagazine.com, Courteney Cox was photographed attending Jennifer Aniston's party with a date Sunday, Dec. 8. Snow Patrol rocker and the former *Friends* actress were spotted driving up to the party together. Cox was previously linked to *Cougar Town* costar Brian Van Holt in June.

How do you introduce your new partner to family and friends?

Cupid's Advice:

Introducing your new boyfriend/girlfriend is a big step in your relationship. Having the person you're dating meet all of your loved ones can be stressful and nerve-racking, especially if you don't set up the meeting in the right way. Don't worry, Cupid is here to help:

1. Baby steps: Don't overwhelm your significant other by introducing them to all of your friends and family at one time. Take it slow. Your new honey will already be pretty nervous as it is. Start off by meeting up with one or two of your closest friends for a nice lunch or dinner. If your partner gets along well with them, introduce him/her to a few of your family members.

Related: [New Couple? Ryan Seacrest Steps Out With Shayna Terese Taylor on Vacation](#)

2. Heads up: Before you set up any meetings between your partner and your loved ones, give both parties a heads up first. Make sure your family and friends are aware of your new relationship. Give them a little bit of information about the person you're dating so they'll have some topics to talk about when they do see each other for the first time. Also, keep your partner's feelings in mind. Give them time to adjust to the idea of meeting your family and friends.

Related: [Kendall Jenner Says She and Harry Styles Are 'Cool'](#)

3. Ground rules: Let your significant other what is and isn't acceptable in your family's household. Make sure your friends are aware of how they should act around your boyfriend/girlfriend. You wouldn't want them to offend your new honey in any way – even if what they do or say was meant as a joke.

What are some other ways to introduce your new partner to family and friends? Comment below.

Single in Stilettos Show: Why Do Men Disappear?



In this week's [Single in Stilettos](#) show, Suzanne Oshima and dating and relationship strategist Joe Amoia talk about an age-old question: Why do men just disappear? They discuss the following situations: why men disappear after a few great dates; why men go away for the holidays and never come back; and why men disappear after a traumatic event occurs. Ladies, if you've dealt with a boyfriend who suddenly stops calling or

texting, listen up!

Related Link: [Joe Amoia Talks Dating Red Flags](#)

For more information about Single in Stiletto's shows, click [here](#).

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

How have you handled a man who just disappears? Tell us in the comments below!

How To Plan a Holiday Proposal





By [David Wygant](#)

You're in love. You're thinking, because of all the Zale's diamond commercials on television, that this would be a great time to pop the question to your girl. You're wondering whether you should get her a gift-wrapped Lexus, a red Mercedes, or that sparkly diamond.

Related Link: [The Best Holiday Gift for Your Man](#)

I love how the commercials make you feel like you have to buy her something expensive if you want to be romantic; if you don't spend a fortune on her, she'll reject you. But here's the thing: This time of year is a great time to be engaged, but if you do it wrong, you'll end up looking like a huge cliché.

So if you're planning a holiday proposal, here are a few new ideas to help you blow her away and give her a proposal she'll be telling everyone about for decades!

1. Make sure she's ready. This is the worst time of year to propose if she's not prepared for it. She won't want to break

your heart over Christmas, but if she's not ready to say yes, she may end up breaking up with you simply because she doesn't know exactly what to do next.

If you're going to propose over the holidays, be 100 percent sure that your relationship is on solid ground before you ask. Make sure you've both discussed getting married and that you've heard her talk enthusiastically about becoming your wife. Don't propose to her at this time of year because you think it will save a rocky relationship or stop her from leaving you – I can guarantee that it won't work.

2. Wrap the ring imaginatively. I love the whole idea of gift wrapping a ring, but don't wrap it in something predictable. Instead, make the special present part of a fun day. Maybe go ice skating or check out a local Christmas market, and at the end of the date, say, "I have a great gift for you." Instead of handing her a small box, wrap the ring in a child's toy. Put it in a barrel of monkeys or around the collar of a cuddly toy and wait until she discovers it.

Tell her it's an early Christmas present. Just imagine her face when she opens a fluffy teddy bear with a ring hidden in its neck fur. She will absolutely melt because you're bringing back the little girl inside her, the girl who always felt protected and cared for.

3. Avoid the Jumbotron. Don't do anything at a sports game. Don't plan a crazy night. I think the most romantic holiday proposal is right under your own Christmas tree. Make her feel beautiful. Have Christmas music playing in the background and a fire burning in the fireplace. Cook her favorite meal and enjoy a holiday cocktail together. Just talk, have fun, hang out. And when it feels right, pop the question. A special night in with just the two of you is a perfect way to propose.

Related Link: [Don't Settle: Get Him to Commit](#)

4. Ask Santa. If you're really daring, here's a great idea.

Plan a trip to visit Santa together. Have a quiet word with the man in the red suit beforehand and ask him to give your girlfriend the ring. When you get there, make her sit on his lap. Get down on one knee and ask, "Santa, can I marry her for Christmas?"

Santa, of course, will say yes and hand her the ring. Then, ask her to marry you. People will be taking photos. It's original, it's cute, and it's memorable. Hopefully, this will be the first and last time you get married, so you want to make the proposal special.

Best of luck! Happy holidays!

For more information on David Wygant, click [here](#).

Dr. Barton Goldsmith Discusses How To Become 'The Happy Couple'





By Priyanka Singh

When it comes to being happy in a relationship, Dr. Barton Goldsmith, a multi-award winning psychotherapist, believes that little things can go a long way. In his new book *The Happy Couple: How to Make Happiness a Habit One Little Loving Thing at a Time*, he discusses how couples can transform their bad habits into good ones, just by doing simple tasks such as talking for 20 minutes a day and asking clarifying questions to resolve conflicts. It all boils down to communication. We recently chatted with the author about how to strengthen and rebuild a relationship from the ground up. Here's what he had to say:

How do bad habits start in relationships?

It starts by people being complacent and not really talking about things that are bothering them. Bad habits develop over a period of time, and if someone doesn't say something that makes you aware of it so you can change it, the bad habits continue. They happen within every relationship. You get used to your partner doing something nice for you, like bringing

you a cup of coffee in the morning, and then you forget to thank them for it – that's a bad habit!

Related Link: [Use Your Five Senses For a More Fulfilled Love Life](#)

Do couples take each other for granted after a period of time?

That's something that does happen for many couples and also something that you want to prevent. No one wants to feel that way. You need to be reminded by your partner that you want to be in this relationship every day. That comes from the little things: the hellos, the goodbyes, the kisses, the hugs. All of that's going to make a difference.

What if your partner struggles with communication? How do you get them to open up to you?

I think the thing that I would say to my partner is, "Look, I've read that communication is the most important thing in the relationship, and if we don't get it together, we're going to be in trouble down the road." In the end, communication is all that you have, so I would approach it very seriously and say that we need to work on our communication. We can either do that on our own or with books; we can go to therapy or watch self-help videos on YouTube. There's a lot of things we can do, but we have to start communicating! We can set up our own time to talk about our days – maybe 30 minutes after dinner or even during dinner. Then, you create communication as a habit.

Many women say they have a hard time getting their guys to open up. Why's that?

It's a learned thing. A lot of guys wouldn't know how to respond. Emotional communication is something that takes time to develop. By opening up to her man, a woman is setting the example.

There's a very simple exercise in the book to teach your partner how to communicate. You ask them a question; they ask you a question; you ask them a question – and you do that for a half an hour. Ask questions like: What's your favorite movie? What's your favorite color? Tell me about the nicest thing your mother ever did for you. If you're not a communicator, it takes a little practice to get there. The first chapter of the book is on communication, so I would say read the chapter together and do the exercise as a couple.

Also in that chapter, it talks about learning how to ask clarifying questions. That's a very important part of communication, especially for guys, because when a woman presents a problem, the guy goes right to solving it. What the guy needs to do is ask clarifying questions to learn more about the problem before he dives right in. A lot of times, a woman doesn't even want the man's solution; she just wants to talk about what's going on. Guys have to learn how to listen.

Related Link: [Five Ways To Get His Undivided Attention](#)

Let's say you have a hard time coming up with creative and fun things to do for and with your partner. What are some go-to suggestions?

If you just put a smile on your face, in the beginning, that's going to make a big difference, and that's a very simple thing. You need to change negative thoughts to positive ones. Take a walk; read a light book; write down your feelings; play with the dog; play with each other; give each other a massage; do something outside of the house, in the house, with the house! Do things that add to your environment. Do things that are light and easy that are going to make what surrounds you better.

One of the things I tell couples that get into a negative feedback loop is to be nice. Remember what it was like when you were dating, when he would pull out the chair and open

doors for you. Go back to that, and do those nice things for each other again. That creates a lot of positivity in a relationship.

Sum up your best relationship advice in one sentence.

Keep it simple: Love each other every day, and don't be afraid of saying "I'm sorry."

To purchase The Happy Couple, check out Amazon or your local bookstore.

Newlyweds Ace Young and Diana DeGarmo Start Holiday Traditions





By April Littleton

American Idol finalists Ace Young and Diana DeGarmo, who have been married for six months are starting off the Christmas holidays together for the first in their relationship. “We’ve already been decorating, and it’s been a lot of fun because we’re creating our own traditions.” Young told [People](#) at Sunday’s annual Hollywood Christmas Parade. “We have a blank slate. It’s kind of weird.”

How do you compromise to start your own holiday traditions with your partner?

Cupid’s Advice:

Is this your first holiday with your loved ones? Are you curious about the ways to begin new traditions with your family? You don’t have to start with a completely blank slate unless you choose to do so. You can always just build on some of the activities you already love. Cupid is here to help:

1. Talk about what’s important: Sit down and have a talk with your significant other about the traditions you would like to

introduce to your new family. You and your partner can incorporate some of the things you did during the holidays along with some of the activities he/she was raised to do. Building on the traditions you already have can make it easier for you and your honey to create new ones.

Related: [Katy Perry and John Mayer Pose for First Portrait Together](#)

2. Make a list: Create a list of some activities and ideas you want to bring into your family traditions this year. Have your companion make a list as well and then compare notes. Only pick the first couple of things you find important and save the rest for next time.

Related: [Maria Bello Reveals She Has a Long-Term Girlfriend](#)

3. Start fresh: Take a chance and do something complete different over the holidays. Bake a special pie or have your family think of a new game all of you can be together for years to come. Traditions start from new beginnings, so think of something your loved ones will enjoy doing time and time again.

How did you compromise to start your own holiday traditions with your partner? Comment below.

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Make Your Long-Term Relationship A Success



By Kerri Sheehan

Longtime relationships aren't for everyone, but for those who have a committed significant other, keeping the spark alive is of the utmost importance. After a few years together, it can be hard to look at your partner like the lovestruck school girl you once resembled. CupidsPulse.com has gathered some of the best tips and advice from our partners – read on to keep your relationship fresh, strong, and loving.

1. DIY Therapy: Any couple will agree that the seas of love aren't always easy to navigate. The best way to revamp your union is to partake in some do-it-yourself relationship therapy. This approach isn't for everyone, but give it a try; it may just work for you! (GalTime.com)

Related Link: [How to Listen to Your Heart and Take Back Control of Your Love Life](#)

2. Weekly Meetings: When you and your significant other have been together for so long, you tend to let the things that bother you simmer rather than addressing them and moving on. You can only begrudgingly wash the dishes so many times before you feel resentment that your guy never takes his turn. Holding weekly meetings where you clear the air and talk about any issues you may have will keep you both happy. (GalTime.com)

3. Express Yourself: Being in love is like winning the lottery; it's exciting and wonderful, and it adds so many new opportunities to your future. However, it can be hard to put these feelings into words. Here are 50 love quotes that say what you can't. (YourTango.com)

4. The Duggar Family: If you're familiar with the reality show *19 Kids and Counting*, then you know that Michelle and Jim Bob Duggar celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary this past October. The mother of 19 shared her top three tips for a successful marriage. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

Related Link: [Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Parenting and Marriage After a Second Baby](#)

5. Expert Advice: Every relationship is different, so it can be hard to give distinct advice without knowing the whole story. Here are the best tips and expert advice around for couples in any situation. (YourTango.com)

What is your best advice for couples in a long-term relationship? Share your thoughts in the comments below.

Josh Brolin and Diane Lane Are Officially Divorced



By April Littleton

According to [People](#), Josh Brolin and Diane Lane have finalized their divorce. The once-happy couple separated earlier this year. Los Angeles County Superior Court documents filed Nov. 27 made the split official. Brolin and Lane married in 2004 during a ceremony at a central California ranch.

How do you move on after a divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

You're finally divorced and now you're wondering if you'll ever be able to move on and be happy again. Divorce isn't

easy. When it finally hits you that you will no longer be waking up to the same person in the morning anymore, you might hit an all-time low. However, this feeling won't last forever. Cupid is here to help:

1. Time: You'll need to give yourself the chance to heal and the only way to do that is by giving yourself the necessary time. You won't be able to get over the lose of your marriage right away and you shouldn't expect yourself to. Don't worry, you will find yourself feeling better about the situation day-by-day. Don't rush yourself into another relationship. Take this opportunity to get to know yourself all over again.

Related: [Malin Akerman and Husband Split Months After Son's Birth](#)

2. Support: You won't be able to get through this all on your own. Keep in close contact with your family members and friends. When you're feeling down, they'll be able to lift you back up and make you see all of the positive things you have to look forward to.

Related: [Minka Kelly and Chris Evans Call It Quits](#)

3. Try something new: Take your mind off of the divorce by digging yourself into some new hobbies. You don't have to do anything too extreme (like skydiving), but if you've always wondered what taking a painting class would be like, sign up for the next one at your nearest recreation center.

How did you move on from a divorce? Share your experience below.

Katy Perry and John Mayer Pose for First Portrait Together



By April Littleton

According to [People](#), John Mayer and Katy Perry posed for professional photos to accompany the release of Mayer's latest album, *Paradise Valley*. Debuting the cover shot on his Instagram, Mayer captioned the image, "Proud of this song, proud of this artwork, proud of this girl." The couple have been in an on-and-off again relationship since the summer of 2012.

What are some ways to showcase your love?

Cupid's Advice:

You're in love and you want everyone to know it! Showing your love someone doesn't necessarily mean spending all of your money or displaying too much public affection. You can just as easily show your partner you care for them with subtle gestures. Cupid has some tips:

1. Quality time: Show your significant other that they're a priority in your life by spending some much needed time together. You don't ignore the person you love, or make excuses to why you can't see them on a regular basis. If that special someone in your life is important to you, show them by making time for them no matter how busy your schedule is.

Related: [Maria Bello Reveals She Has a Long-Term Girlfriend](#)

2. Say it: You don't need any fancy gimmicks to show your partner you care. All you really have to do is say those three magic words. Some couples forget how good it feels to hear and say "I love you." All the gifts in the world couldn't replace hearing your loved one actually tell you how they feel. So, tell your honey you love and them and do so often.

Related: [Jessica Biel Tells Internet to 'Calm Down' After Justin Timberlake's AMA Win](#)

3. Commit to the relationship: Your significant other should be the only special someone in your life. Appreciate them and accept them for all that they are. Nothing shows true love than by staying invested in the relationship you chose to be a part of in the first place.

How do you showcase your love for your partner? Comment below.

Attitude is Key



By Janeen Diamond for [Hope After Divorce](#)

“...laughing is one of my absolute favorite things.”

My husband and I have gone through about a half dozen extremely stressful events this past year. Looking back, it seems amazing we still find the energy to laugh on occasion. But that’s the way life is! And the older we get, the more responsibility we take on, the more children we have, the more complicated our lives become – the more stress we are going to have to deal with.

My kids and I have always tried to find something to laugh about when serious things happen. It’s not always easy, but at least we feel relief a lot more of the time. And hopefully, that’s affecting our health in a positive way.

One of the biggest stressors in our society is the breakup of families. We live in a world where divorce has become the norm, and it's refreshing when I notice couples getting along after a divorce. I was thrilled to see that Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz reunited (along with their new love interests) to celebrate their son's fifth birthday. I can tell you from experience that keeping a friendship with your ex post-divorce is the only way to go. Everyone involved will be happier in the long run.

Related Link: [Exes Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz Reunite for Son Bronx's Birthday](#)

And, just a side note, if your new significant other doesn't agree with that logic, it may be time to get a new significant other!

I think we all believe our trials make us better. They build our character; they solidify who we are as individuals; and they give us perspective. We can all learn to be grateful for those tough times. The key to me is allowing our heartache to strengthen us rather than overtake us and beat us down. Ashlee and Pete seem to have this figured out.

Keep these three little tricks in mind the next time you've lost all hope:

Do one thing you love to do every single day. This doesn't have to be extravagant or complicated. Sure, I'd love to go out and buy a new outfit everyday, but that's simply not going to happen. Simple things that we love make us happy. I might bake chocolate chip cookies one day, or sit by the fire and read a book the next. Sitting in the hot tub before bed makes me happy, and it helps me sleep better. Call a good friend and chat, or meet up with your daughter for lunch. Figure out what you love and do just one of those things every single day.

Make a list of all the things that are creating the stress and see if you can do something to change it. This is a brilliant

plan! When we write things down, it's easier to tackle what we're dealing with. We will be able to see what we can't change, and hopefully, we'll be able to accept those challenges for what they are at that point. Making a list of possible solutions could change your life. Just don't overwhelm yourself with trying to do everything at once.

Call the one person who makes you laugh every time you talk to them. For me, this is my big brother. No matter what either one of us is going through at the time, it is absolutely certain that, before we hang up the phone, we will both be rolling in laughter, sometimes with tears streaming down our cheeks. We share a similar sense of humor, and laughing is one of my absolute favorite things. Just writing this paragraph is reminding me to find more opportunity to laugh every day from here on out!

Related Link: [Lessons from Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck: Don't Take Things Too Seriously](#)

Attitude is everything. I tell my kids that all the time, but sometimes, I have to remind myself as well. How we choose to deal with the stressful times in our lives is up to us. We have to decide how much happiness we want to experience amongst all the grief and upset we sometimes are forced to live with.

Life should be joyful. Make your list right now, and find one thing you can do today that will make a difference in the way you are feeling about your stress. I know I'm going to.

For more information about Hope After Divorce, click [here](#).



Janeen Diamond, author of Save Your Marriage in 30, was a newscaster for KUTV News until 2001. Since that time, she has been actively producing commercials and special programming through her company, Your TV Spot. She has hosted several television and internet productions and has been a spokesperson for several products and companies. She is a leader over the youth in her church and takes a special interest in helping kids stay on track with their lives. Janeen is currently co-creating "Teen Impact TV," a website for high school students to give them a creative and emotional outlet. She is a contributing expert for HopeAfterDivorce.org, DivorceSupportCenter.com, FamilyShare.com, and CupidsPulse.com. Follow her on Twitter @janeendiamond and www.facebook.com/janeen.diamond.

Miranda Kerr and Orlando Bloom Reunite in NYC with Son Flynn





By April Littleton

According to [People](#), Miranda Kerr and Orlando Bloom seem to be getting along just fine despite the fact that they're separated. The pair were spotted in N.Y.C. Saturday with their son, Flynn, who turns 3 in Jan. The couple announced their split in October after three years of marriage. "We love each other. We're a family," Bloom said about Kerr days after their announcement.

What are some ways to keep your post-breakup relationship civil for your children?

Cupid's Advice:

1. Let the relationship go: Many couples try to stay in a dying relationship for the sake of their children not realizing that they're actions are actually making it harder on the family. Put your kids first. Naturally, they would love to see the you and your former partner together, but they also want to see you both happy too – even if that means the two of you aren't an item anymore.

Related: [Malin Akerman and Husband Split Months After Son's Birth](#)

2. Communicate: Your children shouldn't be treated as messengers. If you have anything to say to or about your ex, tell them directly. Your kids don't need to be put in a situation that's already hard for them to understand.

Related: [Exes Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz Reunite for Son Bronx's Birthday](#)

3. Establish a schedule: Set up a schedule that works for both you and your ex. When it comes to visitations, try to be consistent on who gets to see the kids on what days. It's OK if you need to switch it up every now and then as long as your ex agrees on the terms.

What are some other ways to keep your post-breakup relationship civil for your children? Comment below.

What Is the Money Talk? Understanding Why You Should Have It With Your Partner





By Rick Osborn

Being in a relationship is often extremely rewarding, as finding that special someone to share life experiences can make for a more enriched life. However, making a relationship last is hard work and one of the best ways to get off on the right foot is to have the “money talk” with the person you love. It can be difficult to discuss, but it is wholly necessary.

In short, the money talk generally means jointly discussing and agreeing on financial goals to make your life together easier and more fruitful. Start by identifying some areas where you and your partner may not be in agreement or have differing habits – for instance, regarding your respective spending and saving mindsets – and then look at areas where your joint finances need work. Perhaps you can set up a budget, or work together on paying down credit card debt.

If you start your life together without discussing finances, you will do neither yourself nor your partner any favors. But having the discussion early on in your relationship – in an open and frank manner, without judging and without raising

voices – can benefit you two-fold: It helps you to become accustomed to talking about money together, and it allows you to set – and reach – your goals sooner.

Here are three additional benefits of having the money talk:

1. It Helps You Set a Long-Term Plan

The money talk involves a lot more than deciding who will pay the bills, or who will clip coupons to save money on groceries. Among other things, you need to tackle long-term topics, such as retirement savings, creating and stocking an emergency fund, and saving for your children's college expenses.

Related: [Your First Date: What It Will Cost](#)

2. It Reduces Conflict

Although you may be starry-eyed in love, it's an unfortunate fact that arguments will ultimately arise. However, reducing what those arguments are about and how often they occur can also make for a stronger and more trustworthy relationship. Arguing about leaving the toilet seat up is not nearly as unpleasant as the confrontation that might occur after one of you drops hundreds of dollars on a purchase or a night on the town without the other knowing.

Related: [Top 7 Tips to Win the Love of Someone Rich or Famous – When You Are Not!](#)

3. It Helps Your Relationship Blossom

How many couples are able to freely speak about money, you ask? According to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, not many. In a poll released earlier this year, 68 percent of the surveyed couples had negative attitudes about discussing money with each other. However, getting over this discomfort can allow your relationship to blossom and grow.

Once you get it out of the way, you can enjoy each another's company more fully, and experience more mutual trust.

If you hit a snag during your money talk, it never hurts to bring in a professional. Do your research before choosing a certified financial advisor – having assistance can take a lot of the guesswork out of your planning. And if you still experience troubles, never hesitate to partake in professional counseling.

Have you discussed finances with your partner yet?

Rick Osborn lives in Chicago and writes about relationships, lifestyle, and personal finance – including tips for making a budget, finding the best entertainment options, and coming up with great first date ideas. Check out www.moneycrashers.com/inexpensive-things-to-do-on-first-date/.

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis Step Out After Demi Moore Divorce News





By April Littleton

Two days after Ashton Kutcher's divorce from Demi Moore was finalized on Nov. 29, Mila Kunis and her former *That '70s Show* co-star stepped out together. The couple were spotted getting foot massages together in Los Angeles. Moore and Kutcher announced their separation after infidelity rumors surfaced in 2011. The *Jobs* actor filed for divorce December 2012. Kunis and Kutcher began dating in April of that same year. "They are very much in love," an insider told UsMagazine.com. "They are inseparable and try to spend as much time together [as possible]."

How do you move on after your divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

People don't get married just to get divorced, but sometimes it's the only option for couples who find themselves in a deteriorating relationship. Getting over a divorce can be painful, stressful and challenging. Cupid has some tips:

1. Acceptance: In order to completely move on from your

divorce, you first need to accept the situation. Continuing to harbor feelings for your ex won't help you or him/her get on with their life. Give yourself the chance to start fresh. Sometimes two people aren't meant to be together in the long run. Your marriage ended for a reason. You might not understand or see the positive in the situation just yet, but give yourself some time – don't make the same mistakes twice.

Related: [Mila Kunis Denies Dating Ashton Kutcher](#)

2. Do something for you: Remember that vacation to Jamaica you always wanted to take? Maybe you thought about switching up your hairstyle often but couldn't because of your former flame. Now is the time to do something that will make you happy. Take some time off from work and go see the world, or get a whole new makeover – a new look means a better you.

Related: [Bruce Willis Supports Demi Moore Post-Split With Ashton Kutcher](#)

3. Get back out there: You don't have to start dating right away, but don't be afraid to meet someone new when you feel like you're ready. Most likely, you won't be looking for anything serious for quite awhile, but it's always nice to have someone to talk to and even cuddle with.

How did you move on after your divorce? Share your experience below.

New Couple? Ryan Seacrest Steps Out With Shayna Terese

Taylor on Vacation



By Brittany Stubbs

Ryan Seacrest has some new arm candy! The *American Idol* host was seen on vacation in Uruguay with the beautiful blonde, Shayna Terese Taylor, both a model and personal trainer. UsMagazine.com confirms the two were spotted on Sunday, Nov. 24 smiling and laughing while having lunch at La Huella restaurant. The couple then proceeded to step into the sunshine and head to the beach.

What are some ways to announce your new relationship to family and friends?

Cupid's Advice:

As easy as it is these days to put yourself "in a

relationship” on Facebook and upload some pictures of your significant other, there are more personal ways to introduce and officially announce your new romance to your loved ones:

1. Dinner and drinks: Why not get your family and friends together for dinner to meet your significant other? This way you not only have the opportunity to officially announce you’re dating, but you also give everyone an opportunity to get to know him or her. They’ll share in the joy of your new relationship just as much as you have.

Related: [Julianna Hough Relaxes in Miami One Month After Split From Ryan Seacrest](#)

2. Bring your partner along: If the thought of having a dinner in which your partner and new relationship are the main subjects makes you uncomfortable, consider a more low key way to include and introduce them to your circle. Bringing them along to a friend’s house party, a family birthday, or as your plus-one to a wedding, are opportunities you can casually announce your relationship.

Related: [Julianne Hough and Ryan Seacrest Spend Weekend in Los Cabos](#)

3. Send an email: Not everyone has the luxury of living close to all their family and friends, but it’s important to still keep them updated on your life. Sending them a nice email updating them on what you have going on, including the news of your new relationship, will make your loved ones feel more in the loop despite the distance that separates you. You might even consider including a picture of you and your partner and a little synopsis of how the two of you met.

How have you announced a new relationship to your family and friends? Share your experiences below.

Malin Akerman and Husband Split Months After Son's Birth



By April Littleton

According to [People](#), Malin Akerman and husband Roberto Zincone have decided to end their marriage. The *Trophy Wife* actress, who married Zincone in 2007, gave birth to son Sebastian in April. “[Motherhood is] amazing, the biggest love you have ever felt in your life,” Akerman said after having her baby.

What are some ways to remain civil post-breakup for your

child?

Cupid's Advice:

Breakups are difficult to deal with – especially if children are involved. Maintaining some type of relationship with an ex is crucial if both parents plan on staying in their children's lives. Cupid has some tips:

1. Communicate: You and your ex will be in each other's lives for a long time because of your child, so avoiding each other isn't an option. During the time when you do have to communicate with your former flame, keep things short and simple. Remain respectful of each other's boundaries and only talk about the kids.

Related: [Brody Jenner and Girlfriend Bryana Holly Split After 4-Month Romance](#)

2. Keep negative comments to yourself: Don't talk bad about your ex in front of your children. Keep in mind that your kids love the both of you, so bashing each other around the children will hurt and confuse them. Don't make them choose sides. Keep them out of all of the drama that surrounds you and your ex.

Related: [Richard Gere and Carey Lowell Call It Quits](#)

3. Be the bigger person: Your former partner may be the type of person who wants to make the situation harder on you once the two of you finally decide to call it quits. Keep your cool and walk away from any potential fights that may arise. You need to keep your composure for the sake of your children. If your ex doesn't want to follow suit, maybe he/she shouldn't be involved with the parenting for awhile.

How did you remain civil post-breakup for your child? Share your experience below.

Francesca Eastwood's Marriage to Jonah Hill's Brother Is Being Annulled



By April Littleton

The marriage between Clint Eastwood's daughter, Francesca and Jonah Hill's brother, Jordan Feldstein is in the process of getting annulled. "It was a goof off," a family source told [People](#). The lovebirds received a marriage license from Clark County, Nev., Nov. 17 and married that same weekend.

What do you do if you realize your marriage was a mistake?

Cupid's Advice:

Unfortunately, every marriage isn't meant to work out. Only a strong person can admit to themselves and to their partner that their relationship just isn't what they hoped it would be. No matter how much it hurts you and the one you love, you don't have to feel obligated to stick by someone when you know in your heart it isn't what you want. Cupid is here to help:

1. Talk it out with your partner: You need to have a conversation with your significant other if you're having doubts about your relationship. Your partner might be feeling the same way as you. You'll never know until you speak up. Don't hide from the situation, you'll only make matter worse the longer you wait.

Related: [Doug Hutchinson and Teen Bride Courtney Stodden Separate](#)

2. Give it some time: Give the marriage a fair chance if you and your new spouse are just starting out as a couple. This doesn't mean you have to wait months or years to see a change in the relationship, but you shouldn't end things so quickly if you're unsure about your feelings for your partner.

Related: [Jennifer Morrison and Sebastian Stan Call It Quits](#)

3. Divorce: Some relationships don't work out – no matter how much work and communication is put into it. If two people aren't right for each other, they shouldn't be forced to feel something they don't. Divorce doesn't have to be ugly and the friendship you may have created with your partner doesn't have to end. Think of it this way, you're doing what's best for the both of you in the long run.

What did you do when you realized your marriage was a mistake? Share your experience below.

Lady Gaga Says Boyfriend Taylor Kinney Is a Weirdo Like Her



By April Littleton

According to UsMagazine.com, Lady Gaga is finally spilling the beans about her boyfriend, Taylor Kinney. During an interview on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, the *Applause* singer revealed that her and her beau have similar personalities. "He is extremely strange, actually, and we complement each other's weirdness," Gaga said to DeGeneres. The episode is set to aired Monday, Nov. 25.

What are some important things to have in common with your partner?

Cupid's Advice:

Everyone's heard the saying 'opposites attract,' but it doesn't hurt to have a thing or two in common with the person you love – especially if you plan on spending a lifetime together. Cupid is here to help:

1. Long-term goals: You may not know how you want your life to be like in the next few years, but you should at least have an idea. Do you want kids? A house of your own? Do you plan on moving for the sake of a new job? All of these things are important to discuss with your significant other because what they want in the future might not be what you're hoping for. When it comes to your relationship, the two of you should be in sync with each other and know what the other is looking for in the long run.

Related: [Lady Gaga Confesses Her Soccer Mom Dreams to Oprah](#)

2. Similar interests: If you and your honey don't have at least a few common hobbies, there won't be much for you to talk about or agree on when it comes to dates. If your boyfriend/girlfriend is a movie junkie, rent a few of their favorite movies and spend the night cuddling on the couch. If you prefer to do something that gets your adrenaline pumping, maybe you and your partner can try water skiing or hiking – just make sure it's something both you and your loved one can enjoy together.

Related: [Lady Gaga and Taylor Kinney Split](#)

3. The feelings you have for each other: You shouldn't be in a relationship with someone if they don't share the same feelings as you. If you're not sure how your partner feels, ask them. If it's obvious that they don't feel the way that

you do, then you need to take a step back before you end up getting hurt.

What are some other things you should have in common with your partner? Comment below.

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Parenting and Marriage After a Second Baby



By Kerri Sheehan

Being a new parent can be difficult, but adding a second or even third child to the family adds a new dynamic to the already-established way of doing things. Most couples don't realize that expanding a household can lead to sibling rivalry, loss of patience, and, for many, marital turbulence. CupidsPulse.com has gathered some of the best tips and advice from our partners to help you out when it comes to that cute little addition:

1. Siblings: If your son or daughter is accustomed to being an only child, there could be a slight shift in personality when baby number two comes along. Make sure to prepare your other children for their new brother or sister so that they will feel just as happy and eager as you do when the baby comes home. (GalTime.com)

Related Link: [Kristin Cavallari Confirms Second Pregnancy with Jay Cutler](#)

2. Parenting Style: It's important to remember that every child is different. What worked for your oldest son Johnny may not work for little Ava. Be flexible. *Rules of Engagement* star Megyn Price recently dished that her daughter Grace is so unique that she has to be spontaneous when parenting. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

3. Work Together: Nobody said it was easy raising children, but when two parents share or take turns getting up in the middle of the night, driving the kids to school, making dinner, and cleaning the house, it can be much easier to handle. Find out if the division of labor in your house is equal. (GalTime.com)

4. Just Because: It can be easy to forget about your partner once you add children into the mix. What better way to make your man feel important than getting him an unexpected present? Here are ten gift ideas for even the pickiest of guys. (YourTango.com)

Related Link: [Kanye West Displays His Love for Kim Kardashian](#)

5. Say How You Feel: In the midst of providing your children with the care and protection that they need, it's easy to forget to say those three little words that brought you together in the first place. Here are 20 inspirational ways to say "I love you." (YourTango.com)

What are your best parenting tips? Share below.

5 Tips for Enjoying the Holiday Season



By Dr. Tranquility – [Lydia Belton](#), PhD, Ct. H.A.

As someone who's dating and marriage history would make the United Nations proud, I am all too aware that the holidays can add additional stressors to one's search for love. You have to consider the integration of cultural differences as well as contrasting religious belief systems and traditions. After all, Christmas, Chanukah (Hanukkah), Kwanzaa, and many more important days overlap. It's no surprise, then, that "the most wonderful time" is a great opportunity to create new memories and do some good for others. Whether you're single, dating, or happily married, here are some basic tips for a happy holiday season:

Related Link: [10 Holiday Gift Ideas for That Special Someone](#)

1. Don't sweat the small stuff: This time of year means that your friends and family (in-laws included) often want to visit. If you're single, it's a great time to travel and enjoy new cultural experiences. Or perhaps you want stay home and host your own celebration instead. No matter how you decide to spend the holidays, remember that we always stress less when we enjoy each other's company.

2. Get ready for family time: As noted above, the holidays mean traveling for many people (celebrities included – Jessica Simpson and Eric Johnson will be splitting their time between Dallas and Boston this year), which allows for extra bonding time. Know that there will most likely be holiday traffic, so don't forget to load up your computer or tablet with your favorite books, games, and movies. Family gatherings are also a great time to learn more about your partner. Relatives won't shy away from telling stories about your significant other's childhood, even those that they would prefer be forgotten. Utilize your finely-honed listening skills and fall even more love with your beau.

3. Enjoy the ride: Do your holiday shopping together and take in the holiday decorations of your city. For a more charitable

approach, volunteer at a local soup kitchen and drop-off toys for patients in a pediatric ward. Giving back always feels good, and what you receive in return just might surprise you.

4. Take advantage of being single: Now is the opportunity to *enjoy* being single! You can experience the usual party circuit or step out of your comfort zone and volunteer at a homeless shelter; either way, you'll have the chance to bond with old friends and meet new people. Plus, the start of another year is a great time to meet someone special, so keep an open mind and an open heart.

Related Link: [Three Tips to Stress-Free Holiday Dating](#)

5. Give thanks: As the year draws to a close, take a moment to appreciate your life and prepare for a wonderful year ahead. Have fun with your loved ones, old and new. Set your desires and intentions for the next twelve months, and visualize what you want. When we least worry about things, they tend to fall into place.

Follow these tips, and you are on your way to a stress-free holiday. Happy holidays to all of you from Dr. Tranquility!

For more information about Dr. Tranquility, click [here](#).

Ginnifer Goodwin Is Expecting a Baby with Co-Star Josh Dallas



By Brittany Stubbs

Ginnifer Goodwin is pregnant! The actress is expecting her first child with her co-star and fiancé Josh Dallas. No details have been confirmed regarding the baby's due date. Goodwin's pregnancy is not the only big news the couple has had this season. They also confirmed their engagement to [People](#) in October, including their excitement to "celebrate with our friends and family."

What are some ways to prepare your relationship for a child?

Cupid's Advice:

Whether you're newly engaged or have been with your partner for several years, having a child is a huge step in any relationship. Though beautiful creatures, a child will challenge and push you to your limits. The best thing you can

do for your relationship when expecting a child is knowing what's ahead and preparing yourself for the future.

1. Expect change: It's no longer just you and your significant other; you have a new family member to take care of and think about. And this member doesn't care how much sleep you got before, how you gave up your home office for a nursery, or the weekend getaways you can no longer go on. Accepting early on that there will be changes in your lifestyle will make the transition easier.

Related: [Ginnifer Goodwin and Fiancé Joey Kern Break Off Engagement](#)

2. Prepare yourself for the worst: Being a parent is difficult, especially in the beginning. You'll often feel over-worked, sleep deprived, and helpless at times. This can lead to fighting and even feeling disconnected from your partner. Knowing that this is normal and just a phase, can keep you from over-analyzing it, adding to your stress.

Related: [Something Borrowed with Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin, John Krasinski and Colin Egglesfield](#)

3. Budget for your baby: Setting financial boundaries ahead of time can prepare you for the costly reality of a child. Discussing specific sacrifices you each will make – whether it be giving up trips to the nail salon or a membership at the golf club – can reduce financial worries for both of you.

How would you prepare your relationship for a child? Share your thoughts below.

How to Help Your Partner Through A Crisis



By [Melanie Mar](#)

During any long-term relationship, it's inevitable that you will eventually experience some form of crisis together. Whether it's a loss of a job leading to financial difficulties, the passing of a loved one causing immense sadness, or some form of addiction that is creating friction, life is challenging, and the stresses that occur can certainly take a toll. During these times, the only choice you have is to pull together or fall apart. So how can you ensure that, while enduring a conflict, your partnership remains resilient and you strengthen your love as a couple? Below are my top recommendations for supporting your partner through a crisis:

1. Communicate. Communicate. Communicate: I cannot stress enough how important it is to communicate. The art of verbally expressing one's thoughts and feelings is becoming less frequent as texting and emailing is becoming rampant – to the point of compulsion. This way of relating is not an adequate way of articulating your needs and wants, so keep your “conversations” via typing to an absolute minimum when handling important matters within your relationship.

Related Link: [How to Communicate to Get What You Need](#)

2. Pay Attention to Body Language: With 85 percent of communication being non-verbal, it's important to be aware of your facial expressions, posturing, and gesturing when expressing yourself in conflict. Understanding how the brain works with verbal communication will help you stay focused on the issues you're trying to resolve. Always talk to your partner from your left lobe, which is used for thinking, acting, and doing. Recognize that your right lobe is responsible for being sensitive and emotional, and know that feelings are non-negotiable and will not assist you in solving your issues in a logical manner.

3. Make Your Commitment Clear: It's easy to love someone when everything is easy; the true test of strength in your relationship is when times are tough. It's paramount to let your partner know that you will not abandon them during these rough patches. Understanding your significant other's needs is crucial when being supportive. When in a crisis, ask them specifically, “What can I do to help us do better?” and determine if there are solutions within your capabilities or if you need to accompany them to see a specialist.

Related Link: [Melanie Mar Offer Tips for Today's Relationships](#)

4. Give Each Other Space: In your efforts to assist your loved one, there may be a period when things become too overwhelming, and both parties agree to take a little time out

for the greater good of the relationship. While you're giving each other space, it's very important to keep all points of contact open and available. Often times, after having a little solitude, each person can replenish their body and mind to a healthier place and resume communication with a positive attitude.

When a crisis strikes, there is little ability to predict the outcome or prevent the emotional chaos that may ensue. While it's easier to walk away, ultimately, it's better to face the problem as a team. Arising from the current conflict provides you with a new sense of love and support that will fortify your relationship, give you a positive outlook, and show you that you can conquer any future issues.

[Melanie Mar](#) is a celebrity relationship specialist, matchmaker, and life coach.

What to Do When Your Mother Doesn't Like Your Partner





By Jennifer Harrington

Relationships are tricky, and romances can become even more difficult if your mother does not approve of your significant other. Previously, Cupid explored if you should listen when your parents advise you to break-up. Let's assume you have made the decision to stick with your partner and disregard your parents counsel to end the relationship. What happens next? You have to move forward and try to enjoy your life. Here are some tips that may help you keep the peace, if your mother doesn't like your partner.

Focus on the positive

Your mother may not like your significant other, but that does not mean you should act like your relationship does not exist. Avoiding discussion about your partner is only going to make things more awkward as time passes. You can still share with your mom positive updates about your romance and your partner, because at the end of the day, your mom values your happiness – whether or not you are dating someone she likes. Also, your mom's opinion about your love may change over time; some

positive reinforcement from you about your guy and all of the great things he is accomplishing might help transform her view of the situation.

Related: [Are You Too Young For Marriage?](#)

Play peacekeeper

Do your best to keep the peace. Acknowledge and respect your mom's opinion about your relationship, but don't bring it up and try to change her mind every time you are with her. This will likely only create further conflict and frustration for everybody. Another important part of playing peacekeeper is ensuring your mom and significant other can get along when they spend time together. Think about what you can do to make both parties comfortable, and when everybody is together, do your best to minimize drama or confrontations.

Spend quality time with your mom

You had a long, meaningful relationship with your mom long before you started dating your current partner; don't make the mistake of abandoning this very important relationship because you disagree with her opinion about this issue. Focus on other pastimes and things the two of you have always enjoyed (check out [this article, http://oureverydaylife.com/good-ideas-mother-daughter-bonding-outing-16090.html](http://oureverydaylife.com/good-ideas-mother-daughter-bonding-outing-16090.html) if you need ideas of bonding activities). Carve out time for your mom on your calendar, and commit to spending quality time with her. It is so important to continue to enjoy her company because romances come and go, but your mother will always be just that.

Reflect on her concerns

Don't forget that your mom only wants what is best for you. It is easy to get wrapped up in a romance, but if your mother spots red flags, you should carefully reflect upon her concerns. Your mother has more life experience than you, and

has known you your whole life. If she's vocalized her dislike of your partner, it's crucial you take the time to process and reflect upon her analysis.

Related: [4 Questions to Ask Yourself Before Getting Married](#)

Don't badmouth your mother

Your mom's issues with your relationship are likely to weigh heavily on your mind, and will probably frustrate you. After all, you adore your partner – or otherwise, you wouldn't be dating them! No matter how wrong you feel your mother is, do not turn her into the bad guy in this situation. Resist temptation to vent about your mom to your other family members, friends and partner. Your mother has a right to her opinion, and she's only concerned about your relationship because she loves you.

Need another perspective? Check out this article, www.yourtango.com/experts/evan-marc-katz/what-do-you-do-if-your-parents-dont-approve-your-partner from Your Tango, which provides another viewpoint of what to do when your parents don't approve of your romance.

Have you ever dated someone your mother didn't like? What are your best tips for dealing with the situation?

Justin Bieber's Brazilian Girl Tati Neves Speaks Out About Night with Singer



By April Littleton

According to UsMagazine.com, the Brazilian bodybuilder Tatiana Neves Barbosa isn't keeping quiet about her night with Justin Bieber. In an interview with Globo TV's *Fantastico* program Neves dropped clues on what happened between the two. "What do you think, if I was sleeping in the bedroom, just me and him?" she said. The 26-year-old also claimed to have recorded a video of the *Boyfriend* singer the morning after the night they spent together. "I was sleeping, and woke up," Neves told *Fantastico*. "He was sleeping and I was speaking with a girlfriend."

What are the advantages to not rushing your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Your relationship could end faster than you expect it to if

you're moving too fast too soon. Love doesn't happen overnight. Both parties involved need to take the necessary steps in order to have a successful commitment. Cupid has some tips:

1. Get to know each other better: Unless it's someone you've known for a while before you started dating, you're not going to really know the person you're getting into a relationship with. Slow things down and feel each other out before you decide to commit to each other.

Related: [Selena Gomez Pulls Plug on Live Interview After Justin Bieber Question](#)

2. No pressure: Rather than feeling like you have to get to know your significant other instantly, take your time with the relationship and let things fall into place naturally. Don't worry about who your friends are dating and/or how long they've been dating their companions. Love shouldn't be a competition. All of your focus should be going into this newfound romance and seeing how things go with this special individual.

Related: [Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber Split](#)

3. You'll know what to expect: When you rush into a relationship, you don't know if the person you're dating is expecting a long-term commitment or something that's purely physical. Before you officially call your new honey "yours," ask him/her what they're looking for. What you're hoping for versus what they want can be entirely two different things.

What are some other advantages to not rushing your relationship? Comment below.