

Important Mini-Conversations

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Imagine how you would like to divide chores and responsibilities. Identify which tasks you will each be responsible for and how each of you will contribute to the relationship and write down below.

PARTNER A (name): _____

PARTNER B (name): _____

Will you both work? YES NO

Who will stay at home if you have children? _____

CHILDREN:

Talk about your opinions on children and share important childhood experiences with your partner.

Do you want to have any? YES NO If so, how many? ____

When will you start trying? _____

If we were infertile and are unable to have children, how would we handle that?

How would you discipline? _____

What will your parenting style be? _____

If you are blending families, how you will handle parental responsibilities? Will the stepparent have the same authority? How do you feel about each other's role in the discipline and decision-making regarding each child? _____

SEX:

Determine sexual goals. It's also important to be ready for the sexual problems that may occur in long-term relationships.

How often would you like to have sex? _____
_____.

How will we deal with potential sex issues or sex problems? _____
_____.

How will we keep things passionate and interesting? _____
_____.

SPIRITUALITY:

Ask each other if you are spiritual or religious and share which practices are important to you.

Do you regularly attend church or temple weekly or just on religious holidays? _____
_____.

Are you atheist or agnostic? _____

Are you more spiritual in nature and what does that look like? _____

_____.

If you have children, what spiritual practices would you like to share with them? _____
_____.

FINANCES:

If your expectation is to work on these matters together, make sure your partner understands that & how you will divide up the responsibilities. It is essential for both of you to be upfront about your finances, how it will be organized & how important decisions will be made.

Who will be responsible for paying the bills? _____
_____.

How will you share expenses? _____

_____.

How do we organize the budget? _____
_____.

How will financial decisions be made? _____

Do either of you have debt, student loans or a bad credit history? YES NO

How will these financial issues be addressed? _____

CAREER:

Discussing your career objectives with your partner is important. Make sure this is a plan that your partner will support and that both of you are free to pursue individual interests and dreams.

What do your career goals and aspirations entail? _____

What are your life goals and individual plans? _____

Do you desire starting your own business? YES NO

Go back to school? YES NO

If you answered YES for either option above, where does this fit in your timeline?

LOCATION:

Address where you would like to live and if you are willing to relocate is an important conversation to have. If you are in a cross-cultural relationship, are from two different regions or are assigned overseas for work often, having these conversations is important to have, so you know how flexible both you and your partner are, what additional supports need to be in place to help with adjustment or if it is aligned with one's personal and professional goals and lifestyle.

Where would you like to live? _____

What is your willingness to move (0= unwilling, 10= very willing)?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If so, where are you open to living?

How important is it for you to live close to family and friends (0= not important, 10=very important)?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Where you would like to raise your children? _____

LEISURE ACTIVITIES:

Determine your interests and how you would like to use your free time. Then share them with your partner. A helpful tip to prioritize quality time together and integrate these activities in your life is to schedule it together the Sunday before the start of the work week.

How do you like to spend your free time? _____

How much time per week would you like to dedicate towards leisure activities?

Which activities and interests do you plan to share with one another? _____

Which activities and interests do you plan to do on your own? _____

How much quality time do you plan on investing in the relationship per week?
