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36 QUESTIONS

BEFORE YOU SAY

I DO

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A FREE GUIDE FROM BETTER WE CONNECT

Stronger marriages. Deeper friendships. Healthier families.

Before you begin

Most couples about to marry have already had the big conversation. They have talked about the wedding, the house, the names they like. What they have rarely done is ask each other the questions that only matter later.

These 36 are those questions. They are not a test and there is no score. Some of them will be easy and take a minute. A few will take an evening, and one or two might need to be left alone and returned to next week. That is normal. It is also the point.

How to use this guide:

- 1 Six at a time, not thirty six.
One section per sitting is plenty.
- 2 Whoever answers goes second.
Ask, listen fully, then give your own answer.
- 3 No fixing during the answer.
You are collecting information, not solving.
- 4 A hard answer is a good answer.
It means they trust you with the real one.
- 5 Write nothing down.
This is a conversation, not a form.

Money

The conversation almost nobody has properly

1

What does being careful with money look like to you?

Two people can both call themselves careful and mean completely opposite things.

2

Who paid for what growing up, and what did that teach you?

Most money arguments are inherited long before they are personal.

3

What would you buy without telling me, and what is too big for that?

Every couple has a line here. Almost none of them have said it out loud.

4

If one of us earned much more, would anything change?

Listen for whether the answer is about fairness or about power.

5

What debt exists right now, all of it?

This one is not romantic and it is not optional.

6

What are we saving for first?

If you name different things, that is useful to know now.

Family

Where the real negotiation happens

7

How often do you expect to see your parents once we are married?

Say a number. Vague answers become arguments later.

8

If your family disagreed with a decision we made together, what happens?

You are asking who they stand next to when it costs them something.

9

What did your parents get right, and what will you do differently?

The second half of that answer tells you more than the first.

10

Is there anything about my family that already worries you?

Give them full permission to answer honestly. Then do not punish it.

11

Who is welcome to stay with us, and for how long?

Hospitality feels generous until it is indefinite.

12

What do we do if a parent needs to live with us one day?

It happens to most people eventually. Decide before you are exhausted.

The Future

Naming it out loud, not assuming

13

Do you want children, and how sure is that answer?

Sure and probably are different answers. Do not round one up to the other.

14

Where do you imagine us living in ten years?

Listen for whether that place has room for both careers.

15

What would you give up for my ambition, and what would you not?

The honest answer here is more valuable than a generous one.

16

What does a good ordinary Tuesday look like in five years?

Big dreams are easy to agree on. Tuesdays are the actual life.

17

Is there something you still want to do alone?

Marriage does not have to end every solo thing. It should not by accident.

18

What would make you feel like we had built a good life?

Ask this last. It reframes everything above it.

Conflict

How you fight decides how long you last

19

How did people argue in your house?

Silence and shouting are both learned. So is repair.

20

When you go quiet, what do you actually need from me?

Most people want either space or proof. Find out which.

21

What is the fastest way to hurt you?

Ask so you can avoid it, and never so you can use it.

22

How do we know an argument is finished?

Couples who cannot answer this carry every fight forward.

23

Is there any subject you would rather never discuss?

Note it. Then decide together whether that is workable.

24

What does a real apology look like to you?

Sorry is a word. Ask what the action version is.

Closeness

The part people skip because it feels obvious

25

How do you know you are loved? What specifically tells you?

The answer is usually smaller and more specific than expected.

26

What kind of touch do you want on a hard day?

Hard days need a different answer than good ones.

27

How much time alone do you need to feel like yourself?

Needing some is normal. Not saying so is the problem.

28

What did you not get enough of growing up?

This is often the exact thing they will need most from you.

29

Is there something you want more of that you have not asked for?

Give it a full minute of silence. The first answer is rarely the real one.

30

What makes you feel wanted rather than just chosen?

Chosen is a decision. Wanted is a feeling. Both matter.

What We Believe

The quiet foundation under everything

31

What do you believe, and how much do you want it in our daily life?

Belief and practice are separate questions. Ask both.

32

How will we raise children on this, if we have them?

Decide now. It is a hard conversation to start once they exist.

33

What is something you will not compromise on, ever?

Everyone has one. Knowing it early is a kindness.

34

What does loyalty mean to you, exactly?

Ask for the definition, not the reassurance.

35

What would count as a betrayal that is not an affair?

This answer prevents more damage than almost any other.

36

Why do you want to marry me, and not just be with me?

The last question. Take your time with the answer.



One last thing

If you got through all 36, you now know things about each other that most couples discover by accident, years later, usually during an argument. That is worth more than any wedding detail you are currently worried about.

These questions were about one moment: the decision to marry. What comes after is longer, and it needs different questions. That is what our book is for.

100 Questions Every Couple Should Ask

Ten themes. Everyday connection, communication, conflict and repair, intimacy, money, family, healing, the future.

betterweconnect.com/book

We post one small thing a night on Instagram

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