

Premarital Compatibility Checklist

Is your potential spouse the same as you on the following?

- Where do you want to live? Are you a city person or are you a country person at heart? Do you want a garden, big yard or let someone else take care of the outside of your condo?
- Do you like to socialize and have lots of friends or do you prefer one or two friends to be with on occasion?
- Do you like to talk a lot or do you prefer quiet?
- Are you stimulated by people and look for any excuse to get together with others, do you like people for what you can learn from each other by exchanging ideas and information, or do you like working alone or with just one or two other people on projects (things such as sewing, gardening, science, trains, planes, automobiles).
- Are you a sports fiend?
- Are you a morning person or a night person?
- Do you have to have the TV on all the time or prefer music, or quiet?
- What kind of music do you like?
- Are you extremely neat and tidy, so-so, or put cleaning last?
- Do you need lots of alone time or hate to be alone?
- Where will you spend the holidays?
- How important is spending time with your family? Does your partner like your family?
- Are your drinking habits similar? Will you want to have alcohol and/or smoking in your home?
- Are you a physical person who wants someone to hike, bike, or exercise with; or are you more of a couch potato and prefer someone to sit with you?
- Do you like and respect your partner's friends?
- Is having good character important to you with values such as honesty, following through, and being open?
- Are his/her friends the kind you would want sitting around your living room?

Family

- How many children do you want and when? If you can't have children would you be open to adoption?
- Do you believe in someone staying home with the children or is letting someone else raise them 8 or more hours per day ok with you?
- What kind of discipline do you believe in?
- How do you think decisions should be made—one person as the leader, both sitting down together or each doing their own thing?
- How will you negotiate your differences? Can you talk things out and reach an agreement?

Spiritual

- Do you want to go to church as a family? How important is belief in God? How do you want to raise your children, spiritually?
- Does your partner go to church and pray to your same level of comfort?
- Will you want to go to church with your partner before you have children?

- Do you believe in contributing significant amounts of money to your church or to other charities?
- Is day to day living by faith important to you?

Political/Community

- What are your views politically?
- Do you believe in getting involved politically? To what extent?
- Do you think morals are important in our political leaders?
- If I were active in politics or community causes could you handle that? Would you help?
- Do you think it necessary to be involved in making our community better?

Commitment

- What are your views on divorce?
- One what principles would you consider divorce?
- Are you willing to attend workshops or go to counseling to solve marital problems?
- What commitments will you make to each other—little rules or agreements—to keep your marriage without extra-marital affairs?
- What are your views in each having friends of opposite sex?

Financial

- Do you currently have a savings plan? Does your partner actually have money saved?
- Do you each have a retirement plan?
- Do you have debt? What kind of debt? Credit card debt? Student loans? Car loans? What are each of your spending habits?
- Do you believe in borrowing from family? Do you owe family? How will it be paid back?
- Do you pay your bills on time?
- Who will handle the bill paying in your marriage?
- How much will you spend on gifts for family and friends?
- Are you willing to have a budget and stick to it?
- How will you handle spending money for each of you?
- Do you or your potential partner do a lot of impulse buying with a credit card?

Being of good character

- Do you have clear ideas of right and wrong or is it easy to “fudge” on little things?
- Will you lie for your partner as in calling in “sick”?
- Has your partner lied to you?
- Do you blame others or take responsibility when you make mistakes?
- Are you looking for instant success or are you a plodder?
- Are you an entrepreneur or prefer a steady job lifestyle?
- What does having good character mean to you?
- Do you or your partner cheat on business deals?
- Do you have a temper? How do you handle upsets?
- How do you treat other people in public such as waiters and other service people?

These questions are very important to see if you can really live with this other person. It is important to be smart and choose a lifetime partner, not just fall into it and hope for the best. Work things out before you get married! Going over this list will help.

Contact Sharon now for premarital coaching so that you can save twenty years of trial and error. Learn about your differences in advance and how to negotiate solutions.

Traits important in choosing a mate

The Big Six

The following traits will give you a birds eye view of some traits that are important in compatibility. For a more complete guide to choosing a mate get Sharon's book, "Compatible? Or Combatable? How to choose a mate by looking at his or her physical features. The book has 22 traits, along with the drawings of where each trait is found, that affects compatibility. It will give you a thorough understanding of what trait differences would be like in a marriage. Ordering information

- **Innate Confidence/Learned Confidence**—Differences in this trait mean quite a different perspective on how to approach life. The Innate Confidence person wades into life, learning as he experiences life, while the Learned Confidence person makes sure he has enough education, experience, and authority to move forward cautiously. Innate Confidence radiates natural power, which makes the Learned Confident person feel intimidated just by being in the same room. I have never seen a happy marriage with this trait difference unless they either had the instincts to understand their differences (which doesn't usually happen) or they were taught about this trait difference and how to negotiate their differences.
- **Emotional/Logical**—This affects how affectionate a person is. Other traits influence this also; but this is the main trait that inclines a person to be softhearted and show feelings. Opposites react logically and so the more Emotional person must ask for the hug and work a little harder to get the other person to feel the emotion in the moment. One needing a lot more affection than the other can cause some significant challenges.

There are innate differences between male and female above and beyond this trait that must be understood, too. Men can emotionally detach in order to be the hunters and protectors. Women wrap everything up in one package—emotions, relationships, personalities, etc. This trait, however, will affect the amount of affection one needs or shows so be aware.

- **Abstract Thinking/Practical Thinking**—Each person is a genius in some way but some have more capacity to think abstractly than others. This one is important in relationships because when you are the same on this trait you have more of a "meeting of the mind."

One person will tend to talk about what happened that day while the other wants to talk about theories and ideas. This trait can cause a feeling of loneliness because when you do not connect mentally it seems like you have no one to really talk to.

- **Interest**—This trait affects enjoyment and choice of occupation or career in a big way and what you want to do in your spare time. The three areas of Interest are People, Information and Things. People Interest needs a lot of social contact, Information generally likes only a few people at time where they can exchange information, and Things Interest likes to work either alone or with one or two friends who enjoy the same “things”. If one wants to socialize and the other wants to work on his airplane it is not much fun on the weekends. If one wants to go to some lectures and the other person wants to go to a group gathering it causes some difficulty.
- **Wide Tolerance/Close Tolerance**—One is laid back, the other intense. One worries and one procrastinates and then worries at the last minute. One sees the big picture; the other sees what is right in front that is not taken care of. Timing in getting things done can be a challenge in couples. The Close Tolerance tends to nag and worry when his partner’s timing is different.
- **Thick skinned/Thin skinned**—One needs smaller, more frequent, meals—the other hearty meals. One needs space and lots of air and other needs cozy. One is sensitive the other sturdy. The thick-skinned thinks the other person wimpy and the thin-skinned thinks the other rude/crude. This affects your what each needs in their whole environment, as well as foods, color, sound and more.

Since all our gifts are also our challenges the things you admire about another person will also irritate. It is up to you to determine what are “deal breakers” in going over the above list and traits. When you understand your potential mate’s traits then you can “choose your own poison”, so to speak. You can accept the downside of his or her traits or they can be your deal-breakers. For premarital coaching or having your Personality Science assessment [contact Sharon](#) for more information. For her book go to [ordering information](#). You will love it and you will not regret it.