

101 Ways to Stay Out of the Doghouse



To fall in love is easy, even to remain in it is not difficult; our human loneliness is cause enough. But is a hard quest worth making to find a comrade through whose steady presence one becomes steadily the person one desires to be. Anna Louise Strong

The art of true romance is keeping the spark alive. It means making time for each other. And in the hectic world in which we live, that is not often easy. But if we want our relationships to survive, we must put a little effort into “keeping the fires burning.” When we don’t, we can find ourselves in the **doghouse** for extended periods of time. *To everyone who loves someone, I dedicate “101 Ways to Stay Out of the Doghouse” to you.* – Heidi Richards

1 – Give her/him flowers for no special reason, just because you love him/her. – www.EdenFlorist.com.



2 - Plan a specific night each week or each month for a special date. Make it a priority and don’t break it.

3 - Take out a “love” ad in a local newspaper.

4 - Act like children, run through the sprinklers together or take a walk in the rain.

5 - Write “I love you” in chalk on the sidewalk or driveway of your home.

6 - When you were a kid, did you ever read a book by flashlight under your sheets? Why not make a tent out of your sheets – get that flashlight and a romantic book and read to each other.

7 - If someone has to get the last word in an argument, let it be the other person.

8 - When you do have an argument, you might try diffusing it by telling him/her how cute he/she is when they are angry.

9 - Picnic for two – It could be in the middle of your living room or in the park, anytime is a good time for a picnic. Spread out your blanket and your basket of delectable goodies, relax and enjoy.



10 - Bring the picnic basket to her/his work and take them out to lunch. Better check to make sure your love will be at work that day.

11 - Draw up hearts on the computer and print out 100 of them on red paper with a message in the center of each saying why you love your partner. You could even cut them out, roll them up and put them in 100 balloons and then blow up the balloons... Spread them all over the house and have your partner pop one at a time to reveal the secret message.

12 - Prepare a small bag of Hershey's kisses and put it in your love's briefcase, purse or lunchbox. You could include a note that reads: "Close your eyes and place the kiss between your lips, and while you are rolling it around your mouth, think of me."

13 - "You must remember this, a kiss is still a kiss... Kiss often. Repeat several times.



15 - Go for a walk together, before breakfast, after dinner, or both.

16 - Make breakfast in bed.

"Gratitude, like love, is never a dependable international emotion." Joseph Alsop

17 - Tell your partner how much you appreciate her/him. Write your message on a post-it note, in a card or a letter.

18 - Leave your message in an unexpected place, like the bathroom mirror or inside the refrigerator, or on the windshield of his/her car.

19 - Leave a "love" message on his/her answering machine or voice mail.

20 - Give her/him an invitation to a party with the message, location TBA (to be announced). Then start planning.

21 - Make a check out to your partner good for 1,000 kisses.

22 - After a pass, during a football game, make a pass at your partner.

23 - Remember the “punch buggy” game you played in the car when you were a kid? How about playing the adult version – pick a color, when a car of that color passes, give the one driving a peck on the check. When you make a pit stop, you can change colors.



24 - Hold hands.

25 - Kiss in the rain. Next time it rains, grab your partner, (umbrellas and raincoats are optional) run outside and kiss.

27 - Give her/him the gift of time. Run an errand, do the shopping or the laundry for your partner

28 - One of my favorite commercials is the Kodak one where this guy is leaving really early in the morning, before his love is awake. He takes a picture of himself lying next to her, prints it from his computer, writes a love note and puts the picture on the pillow next to her, so the first thing she will see when she wakes up is him.

29 - Make your home more romantic. If you don't have one, install a dimmer switch or lower the wattage of your light bulbs, to create a more romantic mood. Keep fresh flowers in vases around the house. Use your fancy linens during meals.

*And I will make thee beds of roses. And a thousand fragrant posies.
The Passionate Shepherd to his Love. Christopher Marlowe*



30 – Keep the fires burning by lighting candles when you are home.

32 - Drop Hershey's kisses on the floor of the entryway to your home. Also include a note that says “I kiss the ground you walk on.”

33 - Put roses in the shower with a sticky note that says “I just wanted to shower you with roses.

34 - It's your special date together, remember to play the perfect “mood” music.

35 - Turn off the television. Dance to your favorite music. Read poetry to each other, do a crossword or jigsaw puzzle together, or play cards or another board game.

36 - Look through old photo albums together.



37 - Put a screensaver on his/her computer to remind your partner of how much you love them.

38 - Make a mobile out of photos of the two of you. Hang in a visible location.

39 - Using your photos, go on a scavenger hunt together. Take a picture of the first clue so your partner knows where to look. Do this for each “clue.” At the end of the hunt, reward the seeker with a prize, something that she/he has been wanting.

40 - Go for a walk along the beach. Write “I love you” in the sand.

41 - Away from home? If you are near a beach write “I love you” in the sand, take a picture and either e-mail, snail mail it or bring it home to your partner.

42 - Carve your initials in a tree.



43 - Make a book mark out of your favorite photo. Give it to him/her “just because.”

44 - Send him flowers at work.

Romance is about the little things. Gregory J. Godeck

45 - Spray perfume or cologne on the phone she/he uses most. Or all the phones in the house. This is especially effective when you go out of town.

46 - Seal a letter with a kiss (with red lipstick). Of course, this may not be as effective if you are a guy sending the letter to a girl 😊

47 - Do something with her/him that you really don't like to do, because you know your partner likes it.

48 - Wash his/her car – just because.

49 - LISTEN – Don't say anything, just Listen.

50 - Make him/her a romantic dinner.

51 - Leave a rose on her/his pillow.



52 - For guys: mail her lingerie at work. Note: women could do this too. With a note that suggests your partner “dress you.”

53 - Play “show and tell.” I will let you use your imagination on this one ☺

54 - Make her/his lunch.

55 - Send her/him a single flower every day for a week. Bring them home and put them on his/her desk. www.EdenFlorist.com

56 - Send him/her a “lucky bamboo” with a note telling your partner how lucky you are to have found him/her.



57 - Call her/him just to say “I love you.”

58 - Buy him/her a book (or miniature book) of romantic quotes or poetry.

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. Elizabeth Barret Browning

59 - Better yet, write him/her a poem.

60 - Write a letter to remind your partner of how/when you first met.

61 - If your partner mows the lawn, leave a rose on the mower with a note telling him/her how much you appreciate the work they do and that you are going to show your gratitude the moment he/she is finished.

62 - Learn to say “I love you” in another language. Spanish – “Te amo”, French – “Je t’aime”, German – “Ich liebe dich”, Hawaiiin – “Aloha wau ia oe” are just a few.

63 - Have a banner made that shows how much you love her/him. Rent a plane and fly it over his/her work.

64 - Send funny comics to him/her at work.



65 - Send him/her a teddy bear with a note that says “I can’t bear it when I’m away from you.”

66 - Or how about a monkey and a note that reads “Wanna monkey around?”

67 - Color together – Write a love note in crayon.

68 - Want to see your partner on the cover of a magazine? Many magazines will make customized covers for you (for a price). Contact them and see what the criteria is. Most of them will ask you to send a snapshot of your partner along with the appropriate fee (around \$19.95 plus shipping).

69 - Make your own fortune cookies. Simply pull the fortunes out of ones you buy and insert your own messages.

70 - Buy a bar of Caress™ soap and put a note on it that says “this is what I’m going to do with you tonight.”

“In dreams and in love there are no impossibilities.” Janos Arday

71 - Send your partner a “love” telegram – Call Western Union 800-325-6000.

72 - Float a bottle in the bathtub or pool with a message to your partner inside.



73 - Write “I love you” in lipstick on the bathroom mirror.

74 - Run your partner a bath. Light candles. Include a glass of wine or champagne. Don’t forget the music.

75 - Be waiting for him/her in the bathtub.

76 - Give your partner a massage. It could be a massage to relax or one to stimulate the senses. It is entirely up to the two of you.

77 - Go lingerie shopping together.

78 - Feed each other sensual foods (things like strawberries, chocolate, ice cream, pizza ☺) A variation: do it while your partner is blindfolded.



79 - Dress up for “dinner at home.”

80 - Practice different forms of kissing (the French Kiss, The Chocolate Kiss, The Music Kiss, The Vacuum Kiss, etc.) These and more are described in the book “The Art of Kissing” by William Cane.

81 - When you are the first to get home, start removing your clothes, leaving a trail from the front door to the bedroom.

82 - Sincerely compliment him/her.

83 - Fill his briefcase/her purse with valentine conversation hearts.

84 - Sign up for a cooking class, or a dance class or an art class or a massage class together.

85 - Eat breakfast by candlelight.

86 - Hire a limousine for a romantic dinner out.

87 - Hire a pianist or violinist to play during dinner (at home).



The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart.
Benjamin Franklin

88 - Send him/her tulips with a note that says “I can’t wait until your two lips are touching mine.

89 - Send her/him sunflowers with a note that says “Weather forecast: When I’m with you, life is mostly sunny.” www.EdenFlorist.com

90 - Place a flower in his/her briefcase or computer bag.

91 - Place a flower under the windshield wiper of his/her car.

92 - Hide “love notes” under her/his pillow, in the refrigerator, in the medicine cabinet, under a plate of food.

93 - Buy him/ tickets to his favorite sporting event, concert, musical, or play.

94 - Love is a song! Sing your partner’s favorite love song to him/her.



95 - Tape a note to the glove box in your car that says "Open me" and put a gift inside.

96 - Ask your partner if she/he likes surprises, if the answer is yes... kiss /himher. If the answer is no, kiss him/her anyway, and then say "My bad, I forgot you didn't like surprises.

97 - Take a carriage ride or river cruise, just because.

98 - Dedicate a song to your partner on her/his favorite radio station when she/he's driving to or from work

99 - Say you're sorry and mean it! Unless you want to sleep in the doghouse or on the couch!



*"If love is the answer, could you please rephrase the q
- Edith Ann [Lily Tomlin]*

100 - Laughter is the best medicine. The couple who laugh together, stay together. Keep humor in the house and don't take life too seriously. You might as well make it fun.

101- Print out these **101 Ways to Stay out of the Doghouse**, cut them into strips and place them in a jar. Each day you and your partner could take one out and do what it says.

