

A perfect MATCH?

You watch telly with them every night and wake up next to them every day – but just how well do you know your partner? A UK study found millions of men don't know, or can't recall, basic facts about their partner, from eye colour to favourite movie. Women performed better. Psychologist Jacqueline Saad says women assume their partners know all their favourite things, but these can change over time. 'Couples need to talk,' she says. 'The little details are vital to a relationship so it's important to spend time discussing them.'

that's life! decided to test the theory and ask four couples to reconnect. What do the guys know about their women? And can the ladies really remember every detail? Find out how our readers fared then take the test with your loved one. We'd love to hear your results.

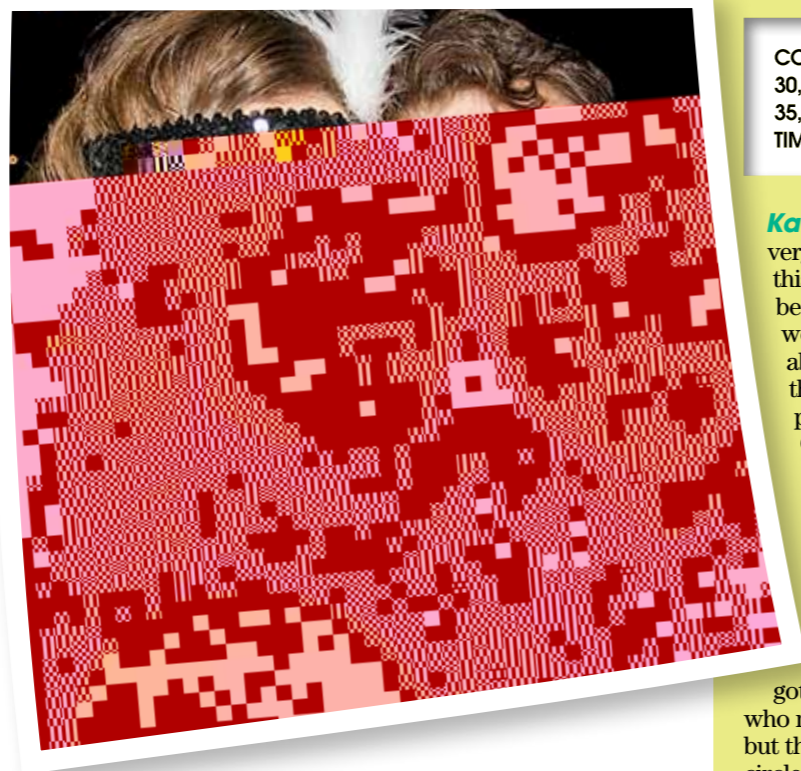
The test

We asked both members of each couple 10 questions. Next they had to answer the same set of questions as if they were in their partner's shoes.

Then we compared the results to see how well they really knew each other.

A score of eight or more correct answers shows you're well-connected as a couple, while a score of three or less suggests you might need a bit more time together to chat.

- 1 Who are my two closest friends?
- 2 What was I wearing on our first date?
- 3 What stresses am I facing now?
- 4 What is my favourite movie?
- 5 What is my favourite sporting team?
- 6 What are my aspirations, hopes and dreams?
- 7 What is my favourite food?
- 8 When is our anniversary?
- 9 What do I like to do with my time off?
- 10 Who was my best friend when I was young?



SCORE: Kathryn 8.5/10, Gordon 7/10

COUPLE ONE: Kathryn, 30, and Gordon, 35, Smith
TIME TOGETHER: 13 years

Kathryn says I was very interested to do this quiz with Gordon because, while we think we know everything about each other, I thought the quiz might prove us wrong. Gordon's favourite food and favourite movie have changed over time so I really had to pay attention to get those right. But I managed! The only question that I was surprised Gordon got wrong about me was who my closest friends are – but then again I have a big circle of friends, so I can understand his dilemma.

COUPLE TWO: Christabel Sheehan, 28, and Byron Rudenno, 30
TIME TOGETHER: Three years

Christabel says We were both really surprised with how many answers we got right, given we've only been married for a year. But it was funny that Byron wrote one of my dreams would be for the Manly Sea Eagles to win another NRL premiership. At the time I didn't even think to write that down but of course I would love it to happen. It seems Byron knows me better than I know myself!

SCORE: Christabel 8/10, Byron 6/10



COUPLE THREE: Kelly, 31, and Lloyd, 31, George
TIME TOGETHER: Five years

Lloyd says I think our scores highlight the fact that with heavy workloads and family, Kelly and I don't get as much time to communicate as we'd like. We both got each other's favourite foods, movies and pastimes wrong. And she seems to think my dreams include having more kids! But doing the quiz was fun. It gave us an excuse to sit down and reconnect. And now Kel knows I love butter chicken, maybe we'll get to go out for Indian more!

SCORE: Kelly 6/10, Lloyd 6/10



COUPLE FOUR: Nerida, 50, and Mark, 51, Plummer
TIME TOGETHER: 33 years

Nerida says It's been 33 years since our first date, so I don't really think it's important Mark doesn't remember what I was wearing! To tell you the truth I don't even remember myself. But when it came to knowing each other's stresses and aspirations, we not only knew the other person's but we also shared them. We were both worried about the planning of our daughter Lisa's wedding, and we both dream about retiring and seeing the world. I think the fact that we're both on the same page is important and it's nice to know Mark knows me well.

SCORE: Nerida 6/10, Mark 7/10



Verdict

Jacqueline Saad says It comes as no surprise to me that the questions most couples got wrong was favourite meals, food and footy teams, as these can change over time. However, they seem to understand each other's values, and that's important. And I like how Kathryn and Gordon enjoyed the exercise as a way to reconnect. I also think it's great the men did so well. Perhaps it's not such a surprise as women tend to verbalise their interests and favourite things far more than men. So congratulations to the men in these examples who demonstrated great listening skills!

AS TOLD TO KARLIE JEFFREY