

CAN THIS BE LOVE?

HELLO? HELLO? IS ANYBODY LISTENING? Signals that your relationship needs a hearing aid

Do you ever have the feeling that you and your partner don't listen to each other carefully, that you no longer hang on his every word as often as you hang up his clothing, or that he no longer pays more attention to what you say than to what your dog says? Answering these questions will help you decide if your suspicions are accurate.

1. How often do you and your partner not know each other's whereabouts? For example, were you at a party, expecting his imminent arrival, at the very moment when he was buying tickets for the two of you at a theater across town? If situations of this sort crop up with disconcerting regularity, then it's possible that you two are communicating a little less effectively than Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev, both of whom at least turned up in Geneva on the same day.

2. Are the two of you usually on or off target when it comes to buying each other presents? Was your partner's last gift to you a Shetland sweater, even though you recently learned—and told him—that wool causes an allergic reaction in your body, the chief symptom of which is the gradual loss of your hair, clump by clump? Was your last gift to him a box of business cards, embossed with his firm's name and address, neither of which exists any longer? Then assume that you listen to each other about as regularly as you have a yearly checkup.

3. How many times do you ask each other questions to which you have already been given the answers? For instance, when you asked your partner, "How's your old college roommate Joe?" did he have to remind you that good old Joe is in the federal penitentiary, and has been ever since (as your partner informed you at the time) he was caught embezzling funds from their alumni association? Is your partner apt to ask what you want to do on the coming weekend when you've already told him several times what you will be doing: attending a forty-eight-hour seminar, sponsored by a local women's group, entitled "Redressing the Balance of Power in Your Relationship"? All this should tell you if you stopped tuning in to each other at about the same time the country stopped tuning in to Walter Cronkite.

4. How often do you and your partner embarrass each other because you haven't

registered important information? Did you recently inquire of your mate's biggest client how his lovely wife was, thereby forcing him to tell you in public what your partner already told you in private: that she'd run off to an Indian ashram with her sitar instructor? And did your partner, forgetting that you told him your best friend had gotten a bad hair-dye job and was miserable about it, proceed to greet her by putting on sunglasses and asking if someone had tried to graffiti her head with Day-Glo paint? If so, then you are right in suspecting that you and your partner may be slightly less adept at communicating than you are at performing surgical procedures of the inner ear.

5. How often do you and your partner inadvertently give away each other's secrets, proving that you may remember information, but forget the context in which it was imparted? Did you, at a recent cocktail party, inform your friends that your mate had just had several warts removed from the soles of his feet, completely forgetting that he asked you to keep this news as close to your chest as your T-shirt? And did he tell the woman who was giving the party about your practical habit of rewrapping unwanted Christmas presents and fobbing them off on

unsuspecting friends, forgetting that you handed her one of these very items as a hostess gift? If so, consider the notion that each of you listens to the other slightly less carefully than you listen to television commercials about life insurance.

6. How heavily does your everyday conversation get bogged down in exposition? Every time you tell your partner about something that happened to one of your friends, do you have to explain once again exactly who that friend is? Every time your partner tells you about something that happened at work, does he have to explain once again exactly what it is he does? If so, then you can assume that the clarity of your communication is on the level of that achieved by two juice cans and a piece of string.

If the answers to the above indicate that you and your partner stopped listening to each other sometime in 1983, tune in next month and learn (1) how to make him listen to you as if he is really interested in what you say, and (2) how to listen to him as if everything he says is worth hearing.

by Bette-Jane Raphael



TICKLE A TACO

Next time you need a great idea, let Campbell's® Nacho Cheese Soup/Dip fill in. Fill in a taco, that is. Here's how:

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| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 can (11 oz.) Campbell's Condensed Nacho Cheese Soup/Dip |
| ¼ cup chopped onion | 6 taco shells |
| ¼ tsp. chili powder | Shredded lettuce |
| ¼ tsp. ground cumin | Chopped tomatoes |

In 10" skillet over medium heat, cook beef, onion, chili powder and cumin until browned. Drain; stir in ½ cup soup. Reduce heat, simmer 5 minutes; stir occasionally. In 1 qt. saucepan over low heat, heat remaining soup; stir occasionally. To serve: Fill each taco shell with about ⅓ cup meat mixture. Spoon hot soup over each. Garnish with remaining ingredients. 6 tacos.



CAMPBELL'S SOUP MAKES GOOD FOOD