

# CAN THIS BE LOVE?

## DOES HE TELL THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT? (Take this quiz and find out)

When we think about the qualities we want in a man, most of us don't put honesty at the top of the list. This is a strange oversight, because the fact is that living with a man who favors the truth over a lie, when he's got the choice, has distinct advantages. For instance, it's nice to know, when he tells you he's fallen in love with his banjo teacher and wants out of the relationship, that he may be a jerk, but that at least he isn't a *lying* jerk. Can the same be said of your partner? Here's one way to find out:

You get a rather drastic haircut that leaves you with approximately half as much hair as

you had before. When you ask your partner what he thinks of the new you, he

1. looks surprised and says he didn't know you'd been inducted into the Marines.
2. says he needs a little time to get used to it (about thirty years).
3. says it looks terrific, but cancels the plans he'd made to take you to his college reunion and introduce you to all his friends.

You and your partner agree to share the household chores, each week alternating the cleaning and shopping responsibilities. However, you notice that during the weeks in which you do the shopping, the house gets a distinctly grimy look. Finally, on the morning your shoes stick to the kitchen floor, you ask your partner whether he's done any cleaning that week. He

1. says no, he hasn't, but that since your shopping for the week consisted of purchasing one bottle of nail polish remover, he considers his part of the bargain kept.
2. says no, he hasn't, but only because you did such a wonderful job last week there was nothing left for him to do.
3. swears up and down that he's been cleaning till his hands are beginning to look raw, and continues protesting and looking astonished as you walk him through room after room of utter filth.



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You go to a party where your partner spends what seems like a long time talking to an old girlfriend. When you ask him what they were saying, he answers,

1. "We were just reminiscing about some of the good times we had, and trying to figure out why it was we broke up."
2. "This and that."
3. "I was just telling her how happy I am and how I get down on my knees every morning and thank my lucky stars that I met you."

You buy a wonderful old Art Deco lamp decorated with seashells and plaster fruit and put it in the living room. When your partner sees it, he

1. makes disgusting noises in his throat and then declares he won't live in a house that looks like it's been decorated by Liberace.
2. agrees with you that it's a very "original" piece, but wonders whether it wouldn't really liven up the garage.
3. says he adores it, and is absolutely devastated when, later that evening, he accidentally knocks it off the table and steps all over it in his distress.

You take your partner to a rerun of your favorite movie, a real tear-jerker about a young orphan girl who marries a soldier who has amnesia and who later has a car accident, after which he remembers who he is but forgets his wife. You're sobbing as the movie ends but manage to ask how he liked it. In answer he

1. says, "If I'm lucky, maybe I'll get amnesia and forget this movie."
  2. asks where you want to eat and begins chattering about all the restaurants in the area he wants to try.
  3. tells you it was great, second only to his all-time favorite, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Part II*.
- You decide to make an all-vegetarian meal consisting of cold beet-and-carrot soup, raisin and pignoli-nut salad, a kasha loaf and stewed rhubarb for dessert. When you ask your partner why he isn't eating very much he
1. sticks out his front teeth and, making his voice sound like Bugs Bunny's, says, "Well, Doc, even we wabbits can eat just so much wabbit food."
  2. apologizes for not being very hungry, and explains that he had an enormous pint of yogurt for lunch.
  3. says the food is so good that he'd like you to pack it all up so he can take it to the office and share it with those less fortunate than himself.

**SCORING:** Give your partner one, two or three points for each question, according to the number alongside of the answer that appears most characteristic of him.

If he scored less than nine points, and he tells you he saw a flying saucer on the roof, call NASA and report it.

If he scored fourteen points or less, there's a fifty-fifty chance of his telling you the truth at any moment. (But you don't have to give him the benefit of the doubt.)

If he scored fifteen points or more, love him if you must—but don't buy a used car from him.

by Bette-Jane Raphael