

9 Do you want children?

How much does it cost to raise a child? How many children do you want? When? Discuss who will be the main child care provider. How will discipline be handled?



Other Resources

www.utahmarriage.org

www.smartmarriages.com

www.marriage.rutgers.edu

Before Saying “I Do”



10 Make time for each other.

Between work, friends, children and family, married life is often busy and hectic. Make time for each other. Schedule time together each week for an inexpensive “date night.” Show your spouse in small ways every day how much you care.

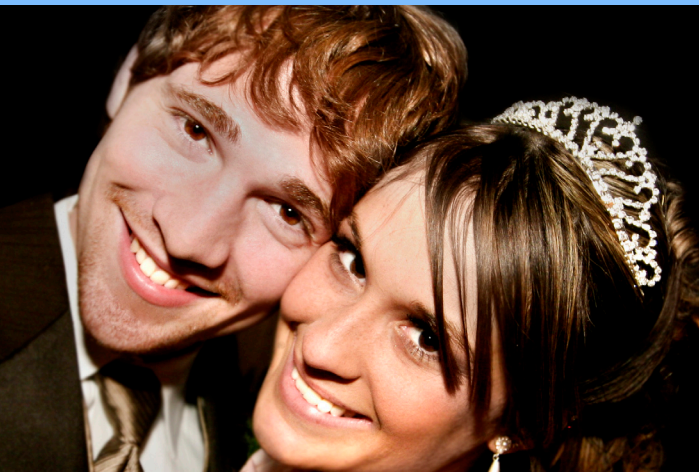
UtahState
UNIVERSITY
extension

1 Discover who you are.

Before you can know if you are compatible with someone, you need to know your own beliefs, expectations and realistic goals for the future.

2 Understand what a healthy relationship looks like.

A healthy relationship includes respect, sharing, and trust where both partners are equal.



3 From “Me” to “We.”

Being married means having a partner. If you think of yourselves as part of a team, you are more likely to behave in ways that make you feel more and more connected. Make decisions together.

4 What are your expectations of marriage?

Discuss your expectations. Are any of them unrealistic? Remember to “be real.” Be willing to say you are sorry and admit when you are wrong. Talk about and decide who will be responsible for what. For example, who will write out the bills each month?

5 Discuss your marriage goals.

What do you want out of your relationship?
How will you treat each other?
What will you do to keep your marriage strong?
Make a commitment to each other.



6 Money \$ense.

Are you and your spouse savers or spenders? Save yourselves a lot of future headaches by discussing your spending habits and plans before you are married.



7 Why are you getting married?

What is it you are looking for in your marriage?
What is your spouse looking for? Will you be able to meet each other’s needs? Talk about it.

8 Communicate.

Ask your spouse about his or her thoughts, feelings and expectations. Poor communication is one of the top reasons for divorce. So, talk to each other. Take turns and make an effort to really hear what your spouse is saying and feeling.