

Marriage Framework

Engagement Length:

After the initial proposal, how long will your engagement be?

- 1 Month.
 - Fast.
- 3 Months.
 - Fairly fast.
- 6 Months.
 - Normal.
- 1 Year.
 - Normal.
- 2 Years.
 - Long.
- Greater than 3 Years.
 - Very long.

Ring Cost:

How much money will be spent on the engagement ring?

- \$500
 - Cheap.
- \$1,000
 - Less cheap.
- \$2,000
 - Average.
- \$5,000
 - Average.
- \$10,000
 - Expensive.
- \$20,000
 - Very Expensive.
- \$40,000
 - Absurdly Expensive.

Will the ring be financed?

- No, the ring will be purchased outright.
- Yes, the ring will be financed.

Wedding Cost:

How much will be spent on the wedding?

- \$5,000
 - Cheap.
- \$10,000
 - Less cheap.
- \$20,000
 - Average.
- \$50,000
 - Average.
- \$100,000
 - Expensive.
- \$200,000
 - Very Expensive.
- \$400,000
 - Absurdly Expensive.

What will be the key spending items for the wedding?

- Venue
 - The location of the wedding can be a big cost driver.
- Decorations
 - Wedding decorations can be a big cost driver.
- Food
 - Food quality can be a big cost driver.
- Photography
 - Professional photography can be a big cost driver.
- Guest Count
 - The cost of the wedding increases with the number of guests.
- Reception
 - The cost of the reception can be a big cost driver.

Wedding Details:

Where will the wedding be held?

- Bride choice.
 - The bride selects the location of the wedding, usually her hometown.
- Groom choice.
 - The groom selects the location of the wedding, usually his hometown.
- Compromise location.
 - Location usually between hometowns.
- Destination wedding.
 - Location at some place unrelated to the hometowns of both the bride and the groom.
- City of residence.
 - Location where bride and groom will be living after marriage.

Who will be invited to the wedding?

- Immediate family.
- Plus extended family.
- Plus close friends.
- Plus distant relatives.
- Plus general friends.
- Plus coworkers.
- Plus townsfolk.
- Plus friends of parents.
- Plus guest plus ones.

How many people will be in the wedding party?

- 2
- 4
- 6
- 8
- 10
- 12
- 14
- 16

Will the wedding be more religious or secular?

- Highly religious.
- Moderately religious.
- Religious
- Low Religiousness.
- Secular union.

When will the wedding be?

- Spring
 - Friday
 - Saturday
- Summer
 - Friday
 - Saturday
- Winter
 - Friday
 - Saturday
- Fall
 - Friday
 - Saturday

Who will be in charge of orchestrating the whole wedding?

- Professional wedding planner.
- Bride.
- Bride's mother.
- Groom's mother.
- Other family member.
- Family friend.

Prenup Agreements:

Will there be a prenuptial agreement to protect the assets of both parties?

- Yes.
- No.
- Divorce isn't an option so it's a moot point anyway.

Finances:

Which party is bringing more assets into the marriage?

- The bride.
- The groom.
- Neither.

Which party makes more money?

- The bride.
- The groom.
- Neither.

Will finances be combined, or will they remain separate?

- Combined finances.
- Separate finances.
- A mix of both.

Who will set up and manage the budget for the family?

- The bride.
- The groom.
- Neither.
- Both

Who will enforce spending less than what the family is earning?

- The bride.
- The groom.
- Neither.
- Both

Weekly Time Commitment:

How much passive time should be spent together on a weekly basis once married?

- 56 hours.
 - Practical minimum resulting from sleeping in the same bed.
- 63 hours.
 - 1 hour together daily in addition to sleeping.
 - Eating a sit-down dinner together.
- 70 hours.
 - 2 hours together daily in addition to sleeping.
 - A sit-down dinner and an activity per night.
- 84 hours.
 - 4 hours together daily in addition to sleeping.
- 112 hours.
 - Practical upper bound as a result of spending all time outside of a standard work week together.
- 168 hours.
 - Theoretical maximum requiring spending all time together.

How much active time should be spent together on a weekly basis once married?

- 3.5 hours.
 - A half an hour per day of actively engaging with each other.
 - This includes talking, playing a competitive game, or otherwise interacting.
- 7 hours.
 - An hour a day of actively engaging with each other.
- 10.5 hours
 - An hour a day of actively engaging with each other plus a date throughout the week.
- 14 hours.
 - An hour a day of active engagement plus two dates.

Friends Outside the Marriage:

How many joint friends should be held by the couple? (A friend here being defined as someone you feel the need to talk to on at least a monthly basis.)

- **0 nonfamily friends.**
 - No friendships outside of family relationships.
 - This is usually a bad idea but can arise if you plan to live in a remote area.
- **Less than 5.**
 - A few very close friends.
- **Less than 10.**
 - A decent number of close friends.
 - This is the start of the sweet spot.
- **Less than 20.**
 - A lot of joint friends.
- **Less than 50.**
 - A ton of joint friends.
 - This is the end of the sweet spot.
- **Less than 100.**
 - An excessive number of joint friends.
- **Less than 250.**
 - A ridiculous number of joint friends.
- **More than 250.**
 - Too many friends.

How many separate friends should be held by each member of the couple?

- **0 nonfamily friends.**
 - No friendships outside of family or joint friendships.
 - This is not always a bad idea. Generally, you want your spouse to know your friends so it should be rare to have friends your spouse doesn't know.
- **Less than 5.**
 - A few very close individual friends.
 - This is probably the upper bound for what's acceptable.
- **Less than 10.**
 - A decent number of individual friends.
- **Less than 20.**
 - A lot of individual friends.
 - Past this point you should really be introducing these people to your significant other.
- **Less than 50.**
 - A ton of individual friends.

Housework:

Who has the lower cleanness threshold?

- The bride.
 - More common.
- The groom.
 - Less common.
- They're about the same.

Who will be primarily responsible for household chores?

- The person who makes the mess cleans the mess.
 - This doesn't work well if both parties have different standards for what is and isn't acceptable.
- Whoever has time.
 - This results in things sleeping with both parties are busy.
- There will be a schedule to equally divide the labor.
 - This works well but is a bit authoritarian.
- The party generating less household income.
 - This ensures the least valuable labor is spent on the cleaning tasks, but it can result in resentment and such.
- The party working fewer external hours.
 - This ensures the party with the most time spent at home is responsible for cleaning up around the place.

Pet Peeves:

What traits or characteristics or mannerisms bother you?

- List the relevant items off.

Is your partner aware of this so they can be avoided?

- Yes
 - Good job.
- No
 - You had best tell them soon or else problems will result.

Intimacy:

How often do you plan on engaging in sexual intercourse or other related activities?

- **Daily**
 - Way above average.
- **Several times a week.**
 - Above average.
 - Optimal range for conceiving a child.
- **Weekly.**
 - About average.
- **Several times a month.**
 - Below average.
- **Monthly**
 - Well below average.
- **Several times a quarter.**
 - Way below average.
- **Quarterly.**
 - No comment.
- **Several times a year.**
 - No comment.
- **Annually.**
 - No comment.

What are your expectations for how these intimacy sessions should go?

- **Discuss your expectations.**

What will you do to keep things alive in the bedroom and exciting?

- **Discuss your plans here.**

Family Planning:

How many children are you planning on having?

- **0**
 - No children planned.
- **1**
 - One child planned.
- **2**
 - Two children planned.
 - Replacement rate.
- **3**
 - Three children planned.
 - Above replacement rate.
 - **Recommended... someone needs to pay for your retirement.**
- **4**
 - Four children planned.
- **5 or more**
 - Five or more children planned.
 - Things get hectic past four.

How far apart should they be spaced out?

- 1 year
 - Practical but not theoretical minimum.
- 2 years
 - Optimum for maximizing children without undue stress.
- 3 years
 - Optimum for 3 to 4 kids.
- 4 years
 - Useful for only having one kid in high school at a time.
- 5 years
 - Upper practical but not theoretical limit.
 - Assuming 23 as the age of first pregnancy, a 5-year spacing puts you in the risk zone for anything past three children.

What will you do if you want children but can't conceive?

- Nothing.
 - Can lead to disappointment and resentment in life.
- Foster children.
 - Foster kids tend to be a bit rowdy.
- Adopt children.
 - Adoption process is typically a pain in the butt.
- Fertilization treatment.
 - Conception treatment is rather expensive.
- Pay a surrogate.
 - Paying a surrogate is the most expensive option.

Parenting:

What religion will the kids be raised in?

- Same as both parents.
- Same as one parent.
- Different.
- None at all.

Who's primarily in charge of taking care of the kids?

- The bride.
- The groom.

What sort of activities will the children be allowed to participate in?

- No activities.
 - Cheapest alternative.
- 1 activity.
 - Typical option.
- 2 activities.
 - Above average.
- 3 activities.
 - Stretch option.
- 4 activities.
 - Keeping up is a full-time job.
- 5 activities.
 - Almost impossible without hired help.

Where will the kids go to school?

- Online school.
- Home school.
- Public school.
- Private school.

Will the kids be traveled with?

- Yes.
- No.

Will you pay for college for the kids?

- Yes.
- No.

Occupational Precedence:

Whose occupation takes precedence? (Usually, the occupation that pays more or that is more difficult to find work in.)

- The bride.
- The groom.

Family Holidays:

What will be the plan for deciding what holidays will be spent with what family?

- All holidays with one side of the family.
- All holidays on an alternating basis.
- Specific holidays with specific family.

Will gifts be given to family members?

- Yes.
- No.
- Sometimes.

In-Law Involvement:

How often will you spend time with your In-Laws?

- Daily.
- Weekly.
- Monthly.
- Only on Holidays.
- Yearly.
- Every few years.

How often will you invite your In-Laws over to your domicile?

- Daily.
- Weekly.
- Monthly.
- Only on Holidays.
- Yearly.
- Every few years.

Would you be okay with your In-Laws living with you?

- No.
- For a short time.
- Yes.

Dreams:

What do you want to do with your respective lives?

- Discuss your dreams.

What do you want to do with your relationship?

- Discuss your dreams for your relationship.

Debt:

Do you have any debt coming into the marriage?

- Both do.
- One does.
- Neither do.

Are your debt philosophies the same?

- No debt under any circumstances.
- Only debt on appreciating assets.
- Only debt on long term assets.
- Consumer debt is okay.

Who will be responsible paying for the debt after the marriage?

- The person who brought in the debt has to pay it off.
- Both parties will chip in to pay down the total debt.
- One person will take care of the debt.

Past Relationship Baggage:

How many people have you dated in the past?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 or more.

How many people have you been emotionally intimate with?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 or more.

How many people have you been physically intimate with?

- 1
- 2
- 3 or more.

Do you have any baggage from these past relationships?

- Yes
 - See next question.
- No
 - Good deal.

If you do, what will you do to ensure the baggage doesn't affect the marriage?

- Discuss how you will keep your baggage from being an issue.

Religion:

What priority level will religion play in your relationship?

- None.
 - Not religious.
- Low.
 - Not really religious
- Medium.
 - Try to be religious.
- High.
 - Very high priority.
- Maximum.
 - Religion is the most important thing.

Are you guys theologically aligned?

- Yes.
- No.

Will you attend the same church?

- Yes.
- No.

How often will you go to church?

- Daily.
- Weekly.
- Several times a month.
- Monthly.
- Only for major holidays.
- Never.

Will you donate to charity?

- Yes.
- No.

How much will you donate to charity?

- Pocket change.
- 1% of income.
 - American average is a bit over this.
- 5% of income.
 - Generous.
- 10% of income.
 - Very generous.
- 20% of income.
 - Benevolent benefactor.
- 30% of income.
 - Provider for the needs of the poor and downtrodden.
- 50% of income.
 - Saint.

Recreation:

Will you guys spend your recreation together or separately?

- Together
- Separately

Do you have compatible hobbies? (Bowling, hiking, etc.)

- Yes, lots of shared interests.
- No, not a lot of shared interests.

Are there any recreational activities you want to do as a family thing? (Camping, traveling, hunting, fishing, etc.)

- Yes.
- No.

Are there any recreational activities you must do together on a regular basis to be satisfied?

- Yes.
- No.

Conflict Resolution:

What will you do when you fight to resolve the conflict?

Communication:

What is your love language?

- Words of affirmation.
- Quality time.
- Physical touch.
- Acts of service.
- Receiving gifts.

What is your communication style?

- **Direct.**
 - You'll communicate directly about stuff that is bothering you.
- **Strategic.**
 - You'll wait for the right time to communicate something bothering you.
- **Passive.**
 - You won't communicate something that's bothering you.
- **Indirect.**
 - You'll try passive methods of communicating when something is bothering you.

Divorce:

What are your thoughts on divorce?

- **Divorce isn't an option.**
 - Correct response.
- **Divorce is bad.**
 - Red flag.
- **Sometimes divorce is necessary.**
 - Crimson flag.
- **There's nothing wrong with divorce.**
 - Flaming black flag.

Health:

What happens if one of us gets really sick?

- **Stick it out.**
- **Depends on how bad it is.**
- **Bail ship.**

What happens if one of us gets a disability?

- **Stick it out.**
- **Depends on how bad it is.**
- **Bail ship.**

What happens if one of us ends up brain dead or in a coma?

- **Hang on for hope.**
- **Pull the plug.**

What happens if one of us starts getting out of shape?

- **Provide pressure to get back into shape.**
- **Provide notice but no pressure.**
- **Do nothing.**
- **Get out of shape together.**

How often will we exercise?

- Multiple times per day.
- Daily.
- Several times per week.
- Weekly.
- Several times per month.
- Monthly.
- Never

What sort of diet will we promote as a family?

- Healthy clean diet.
- Mostly healthy but with treats.
- Standard diet.
- Junk food diet.
- Only the good tasting stuff.

Death:

Are there any assets that should be transferred to a trust?

Is there any estate planning that's required?

Do you have life insurance?

What needs to happen to ensure things are okay in the event one of you dies?