

I think everybody has a partner with a habit or flaw they would like to eliminate, tweak or fix. So let's play a game. You can now design your ideal mate. Pick from any of the traits described below and even add some you don't see. Go wild. Create a list of all the positive traits you wish for in your mate. Your dream partner can now be assembled like ordering a new car.

It might be easiest to print the list so you can circle your favorites and add others.

Attractive  
Intelligent  
Sensitive  
Interesting  
Enjoys sex about as often as you do  
Fun loving  
Wants as many kids as you do  
Great parent  
Has interesting hobbies  
Values good health  
Enjoys their work  
Likes animals  
Honest  
Loves you for who you are  
Great sense of humor  
Loves taking care of others  
Gives you all the space you want when you want it  
Sparkling conversationalist  
Loves cooking for you  
Enjoys the same foods, movies, music and sports  
Manages money well and is great investor  
Has the right amount of social and physical energy  
Great travel companion  
Has the same sense of adventure  
Loves what they do professionally and the sky is the limit  
Knows just how much to tease you  
Trustworthy  
Wants to talk when you do  
Is interested in your day if you want to talk about it  
Is willing to go to therapy (just in case)

Wow, what an ideal partner. And he or she is all yours. Just keep reading.

Now that you have described your dream partner, let's do **Part Two**. For every four positive traits, you now need to include one negative. Because we are all flawed creatures, we have to balance the picture.

Look at the list below and make choose one characteristic for every four on your original list. What are you willing to live with in order to have all those juicy positives? In this scenario, the negatives are fixed and pretty permanent.

Remember the ratio is 4:1. Count your list of positive traits and divide by 4 to see how many traits you need to select from the list below.

Insecure  
Bi-polar  
Narcissistic  
Passive aggressive  
Conflict avoidant  
Hairy back  
Lazy  
Not interested in sex when you are  
Addictive to video games or other internet activities  
Doesn't want the same number of kids you do  
Bad in bed  
Loves eating bad foods  
Addicted  
Forgets birthdays and anniversaries  
Unmotivated  
Stingy  
Jealous  
Insecure  
Really embarrassing fashion style  
Messy  
Nags  
Chews with mouth open  
Snores loud enough to scare small animals  
No sense of humor  
Watches waaay too much T.V

Has the emotional range of linoleum  
Trapped in go nowhere job and doesn't mind it  
Spends way over the budget  
Interrupts and doesn't listen well  
Swears a lot  
Tendency toward chronic depression  
Too much overweight or underweight  
No common activities  
Has unpleasant friends  
Bad health

There you have it – a real live human being who is complex, annoying, loving, and full of contradictions.

**Part Three:** Try to evaluate yourself against these lists and look at the ratio you bring to your relationship. Do you see the same plusses and minuses as your partner sees in you?

And then ask, what are the most important qualities that you value about yourself? And what are the most important qualities you value about your partner?

If you did Part Three, congratulations. Me? I found it easier to write this column than do Part Three.

I look forward to reading your results on the blog! Scroll to the bottom of the page, type your comment into the box, and click "Add Comment."

Till next time,  
Pete

P.S. If you'd rather work to improve the relationship you're already in, try our audio on "Rapid Relationship Repair." It is a way of digging out of a hole in a hurry when you start down one of those frustrating downward spirals and you both know it's stupid but you just can't seem to stop

it anyway. Well now you can stop them and end up feeling good in literally less time than it takes to brew a cup of coffee. For more information or to order, click ["Rapid Relationship Repair."](#)