

How Well Do You Know Your Spouse's Past?

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Do you know your spouse's (boy/girlfriend's, fiancé/fiancée's):

1. Mother's maiden name?
2. Favorite pet as a child?
3. Names of three high school friends?
4. Name of first boyfriend or girlfriend (who of course was not nearly as attractive, intelligent, and funny as you)?
5. Siblings' birthdays?
6. Parents style of typically handling disagreements?
7. Favorite childhood TV program or movie?
8. Award(s) received in grade school or high school?
9. Way of being disciplined as a child?
10. Mode of transportation to elementary school? (bus, car pool, parents, home schooled)
11. Allowance as a child and what it covered?
12. Way of learning about sex as a child?
13. First memorized prayer?
14. Opinion about his/her religious education or lack thereof?
15. Favorite childhood hero or saint?
16. Family's black sheep and why?
17. Grandparents' cause of death?
18. Family's medical history, especially diseases that have genetic roots?
19. Favorite childhood book?
20. Favorite teacher?

Although it can be fun to check how well you know trivia about your spouse's past, knowing about your spouse's family of origin (parents, siblings, relatives) can also be serious stuff. It can give you insight as to why he or she has certain habits or strong beliefs. The past does not determine the future but it can help you understand the present, and perhaps shorten some arguments.

SCORING:

15-20 correct: You probably know your spouse well and have open communication about life.

10-14 correct: Have a relaxing evening catching up on the past and reminiscing.

5- 9 correct: What HAVE you been talking about? Maybe it's deep stuff about solving the world problems, or maybe you just need to talk more. If you're not yet married, make sure you know a lot more about each other before you take this step.

0- 4 correct: OK, presuming you've just started dating, this is fine. If you've been together a long time, you're in trouble. Is one of you hiding something or just non- communicative?

If your score is significantly different from your spouse's, one of you has not shared much about your upbringing. This may be a cause for concern or just a poor memory. Check it out.