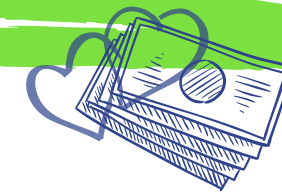


# **MONEY DATE CARDS**



*The purpose of using the Money Date cards is to have a guided conversation about values and money beliefs, and shared goals.*

## **When and where to use the cards**

Schedule a time when you will not be interrupted, and choose a comfortable location in your home. Earlier in the day before, we are decision fatigued is best. Sit face to face "knees to knees" while having the conversation. Some of the prompts can lead to deep and meaningful conversations.

The time you need to set aside to use the Money Date cards depends on several factors. You will not finish in one sitting, and that is okay. Pick up where you left off on your next Money Date.

## **How to use the cards**

- Print the cards as double-sided and cut the cards from the back, so you do not see the prompts.
- Place the remaining cards face down onto the New Cards space.
- Cards are pulled one at a time. Each partner responds to the prompt, but no interrupting!
- If the topic of the card is too sensitive, place the card in the Save for Later space.
- After using the card, put it in the completed card space.

**An alternative to using the cards is to use the Money Date Conversation Starter Checklist.**



# Conversation Guidelines

**Minimize blame by using “I messages.”** I-messages are made with the intent to be assertive without putting the listener on the defensive by avoiding accusations. They are also used to take ownership of one's feelings rather than implying that another person causes them. An example is: "I become frustrated when we aren't saving money." Rather than saying, "We aren't saving money because you are overspending." or "I feel happiest about spending money when we do so on experiences."

**Be an active listener.** Active listening" involves actively reflecting paraphrasing back the message that was communicated. This forces someone to consider what their partner is saying rather than thinking about what to say next. Said differently, if your partner spends a few minutes expressing emotion about a specific financial choice you've made, try to summarize your partners feelings back to them.

**Lead by establishing an atmosphere of mutual appreciation.** In most relationships, the tasks that come with managing a household are somehow divided. Perhaps this means that one spouse works outside of the home and the other does not. Maybe both spouses work and one focuses on the chores while the other focuses on other tasks such as managing money. Whatever the case is, be sure your spouse feels appreciated.

**Assign ownership to money management tasks to avoid confusion.** Managing money and controlling money are two different concepts. Controlling money determines in advance what decisions should be made with money, while money management refers to the processes of making those decisions, such as budgeting, saving, investing, or spending. As it pertains to managing money, it can be easier for a task to slip through the cracks when someone doesn't feel like that task is their responsibility. It helps when you know what you are responsible for, assuming partners divide tasks between each other. With that said, each partner should have an equal voice in controlling money. According to research, when a spouse feels like they are not an equal partner, they are less likely to be happy with the marriage. What is scary is the link between a spouse believing there is financial unfairness in the marriage and the likelihood of divorce.

**No Shame No Blame** – As you and your spouse work through your conversations, you will uncover past mistakes and regrets. Remind yourself – no shame, no blame. And give yourself some grace. Focus on successes and strengths or what you learned from a past mistake.

# Conversation Guidelines

**Conversation Starter Cards:** Use the prompts to have an open-ended conversation about values and money beliefs. The purpose is to use the cards to initiate meaningful conversations. Use the Conversation Guidelines page while having the conversation. After using the card, place it in the completed space.

Responses should not be limited to "yes or no" or only one partner responding. Your partner's response can reveal a deeper money belief that can help you establish shared values and goals. Here are a few examples:

- *Question:* If we won the \$5 million lottery, what would be three things you would want to do with the money? *What the answers can mean:* Does your partner dream about nicer stuff (e.g. home, car), experiences (e.g. vacations, concerts), working less and spending more time with family and friends, philanthropy?
- *Question:* Do you believe that money can buy happiness or reduce stress up to a certain degree? If so, what is the amount of money we would need to earn each year? *What the answers can mean:* Will you and your partner prioritize time at work to earn more money to bring each other financial security and happiness? At what point will your partner feel financially secure and choose to spend more time with your, family, and friends?
- *Question:* Do you enjoy certain aspects of managing money, such as saving, investing, or bill paying? *If so, what? If not, is there something you particularly hate?* *What the answers can mean:* This can help you divide the money management tasks up that lends to each others strengths.

Do not feel obligated to respond to each question right away. If you begin to feel anxious or tense or see the same from your partner, you can walk away and revisit the question later. If it is too overwhelming, consider seeking assistance from a financial therapist.



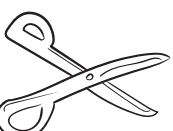
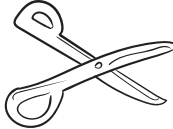
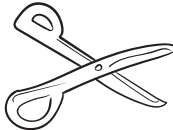
***NEW CARDS***



***COMPLETED CARDS***



***SAVE FOR LATER***



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CARD FRONT: CONVERSATION STARTERS**



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

IF WE WON THE \$5  
MILLION LOTTERY, WHAT  
WOULD BE THREE THINGS  
YOU WOULD WANT TO DO  
WITH THE MONEY?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF  
A CLOSE FRIEND OR  
FAMILY MEMBER ASKS  
TO BORROW \$1,000?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT AMOUNT OF MONEY  
IS OKAY FOR ME TO SPEND  
WITHOUT TALKING TO YOU  
FIRST?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WERE YOUR PARENTS  
SPENDERS OR SAVERS?  
HOW DOES THAT  
INFLUENCE HOW YOU  
BEHAVE WITH MONEY?

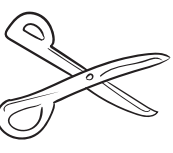
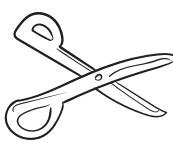
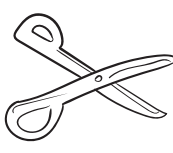
**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

HOW MUCH MONEY DO WE  
HAVE TO HAVE IN A  
SAVINGS ACCOUNT THAT  
WE CAN ACCESS AT ANY  
TIME FOR YOU TO FEEL  
FINANCIALLY SECURE?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

IF GIVEN A CHOICE BETWEEN  
SPENDING \$5,000 ON  
MATERIAL ITEMS (FURNITURE)  
OR EXPERIENCES (TRIPS),  
HOW WOULD YOU SPEND THE  
MONEY AND WHY?

**CARD BACK: CONVERSATION STARTERS**



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CARD FRONT: CONVERSATION STARTERS**

**CARD BACK: CONVERSATION STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

IS IT A PRIORITY FOR YOU  
TO HAVE COMPARABLE  
POSSESSIONS AS OUR  
FRIENDS? WHY OR WHY  
NOT?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT IS YOUR FIRST  
MEMORY OF MONEY,  
AND WHY DOES THAT  
STAND OUT TO YOU?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

IF PARTNERS MAKE  
DIFFERENT AMOUNTS  
OF MONEY, HOW  
SHOULD CONTROL  
OVER HOW THE  
MONEY IS USED BE  
ALLOCATED?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT IS YOUR TOP  
PRIORITY WHEN  
SELECTING OUR  
NEXT HOME?

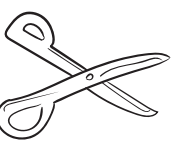
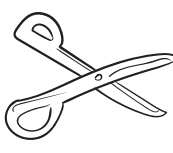
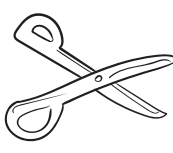
**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT SINGLE SPENDING  
DECISION HAS HAD THE  
MOST POSITIVE IMPACT  
ON YOUR HEALTH OR  
WELLBEING?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT IS THE MOST  
CRITICAL FACTOR  
WHEN DECIDING WHAT  
VEHICLE TO BUY?





**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CARD FRONT: CONVERSATION STARTERS**

CARD BACK: CONVERSATION STARTERS



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT COMES TO YOUR  
MIND FIRST WHEN YOU  
THINK ABOUT MAKING  
VACATION PLANS?



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT DOES A DAY IN  
OUR RETIRED LIVES  
LOOK LIKE TO YOU?



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT MONEY  
MANAGEMENT SKILLSETS  
OR STRENGTHS DO YOU  
APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT  
YOUR PARTNER?



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER, A  
10% INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD  
INCOME OR A 10% INCREASE  
IN THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOU  
CAN SPEND WITH FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS?



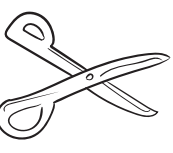
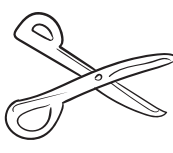
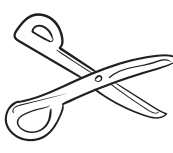
**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK  
LOSING MONEY IN OUR  
NON-RETIREMENT  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE  
OPPORTUNITY OF A MORE  
CONSIDERABLE GAIN?



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY  
SPENDING MONEY ON  
THE MOST? PLEASE  
PROVIDE SOME  
SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.



**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

**CARD FRONT: CONVERSATION STARTERS**

CONVERSATION STARTER CARDS

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT SPENDING OR  
SAVING DECISION MADE  
BY YOUR PARTNER DO  
YOU APPRECIATE MOST,  
AND WHY?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

DO YOU BELIEVE WITH  
MORE MONEY COMES  
MORE POWER?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT MONEY  
CAN BUY HAPPINESS OR  
REDUCE STRESS UP TO A  
CERTAIN DEGREE? IF SO,  
WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF  
MONEY WE WOULD NEED TO  
EARN EACH YEAR?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

IS IT WRONG TO BUY A  
NEW CAR ON CREDIT IF  
WE DON'T NEED A NEW  
CAR? WHY OR WHY NOT?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

DO YOU ENJOY CERTAIN  
ASPECTS OF MANAGING  
MONEY, SUCH AS SAVING,  
INVESTING, OR BILL PAYING?  
IF SO, WHAT? IF NOT, IS  
THERE SOMETHING YOU  
PARTICULARLY HATE?

**CONVERSATION  
STARTERS**

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY  
SPENDING MONEY ON THE  
MOST? PLEASE PROVIDE  
SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

# MONEY DATE CARDS

## MONEY MARRIAGE U SAVE



*The purpose of using the Money Date cards is to have a guided conversation about values and money beliefs, work together to assign the action steps tasks from the course, and have a little bit of fun along the way.*

- ☐ If we won the \$5 million lottery, what would be three things you would want to do with the money?
- ☐ What should we do if a close friend or family member asks to borrow \$1,000?
- ☐ What amount of money is okay for me to spend without talking to you first?
- ☐ Were your parents spenders or savers? How does that influence how you behave with money?
- ☐ How much money do we have to have in a savings account that we can access at any time for you to feel financially secure?
- ☐ What is the most critical factor when deciding what vehicle to buy?

- ☐ Is it a priority for you to have comparable possessions as our friends? Why or why not?
- ☐ What is your first memory of money, and why does that stand out to you?
- ☐ If partners make different amounts of money, how should control over how the money is used be allocated?
- ☐ What single spending decision has had the most positive impact on your health or wellbeing?
- ☐ What is your top priority when selecting our next home?
- ☐ If given a choice between spending \$5,000 on material items (furniture) or experiences (trips), how would you spend the money and why?



# MONEY DATE CHECKLIST



*The Money Date Checklist is the alternative to using the Money Date cards. Use the prompts to have a guided conversation about values and money beliefs, and shared goals.*

- ☐ Do you believe with more money comes more power?
- ☐ What do you enjoy spending money on the most? Please provide some specific examples.
- ☐ What does a day in our retired lives look like to you?
- ☐ What money management skillsets or strengths do you appreciate most about your partner?
- ☐ What comes to your mind first when you think about making vacation plans?
- ☐ Are you willing to risk losing money in our non-retirement accounts for the opportunity of a more considerable gain?

- ☐ What spending or saving decision made by your partner do you appreciate most, and why?
- ☐ What do you enjoy spending money on the most? Please provide some specific examples.
- ☐ Do you enjoy certain aspects of managing money, such as saving, investing, or bill paying? If so, what? If not, is there something you particularly hate?
- ☐ Is it wrong to buy a new car on credit if we don't need a new car? Why or why not?
- ☐ Do you believe that money can buy happiness or reduce stress up to a certain degree? If so, what is the amount of money we would need to earn each year?
- ☐ Which would you prefer, a 10% increase in household income or a 10% increase in the amount of time you can spend with family and friends?