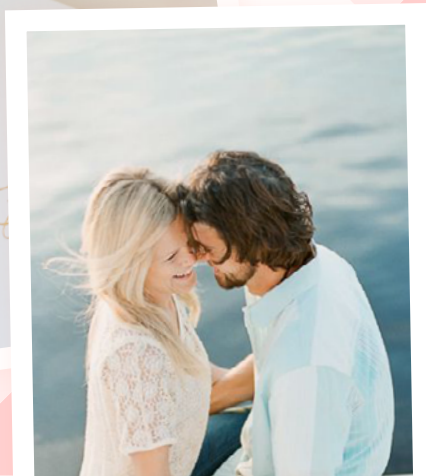


Southern Weddings
FRUITFUL SUMMER

keep going in

NEWLYWED LIFE

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DEAR NEWLYWED FRIEND

A lot can change after you tie the knot. Some are big things, maybe like your last name, where you live, or where you spend holidays, while others are smaller—what you do on weeknights, what you make for dinner, or where you keep your makeup bag now that there are toiletries for two in the master bathroom. While lots of these changes are inevitable and good, there are two things that we hope don't change now that you're married: how head over heels you're all in for each other, and how much effort you put into showing that to your new spouse!

When you're settling into your newlywed routine, it can be all too easy to, quite frankly, get a little bit lazy. And while there's certainly nothing wrong with trading a fancy date night for takeout on the couch every once in awhile, our encouragement to you this week is to keep going with all of the things that made your relationship so joyful and wonderful in the first place. Did you all meet up for Saturday morning hikes every week while you were dating? Scope out a trail near your newlywed home. Did you leave "Can't wait to marry you!" notes in his briefcase while you were engaged? "I love being married to you" is just as sweet. No matter what traditions or habits you've developed in your relationship so far, remember that those things matter—after all, they got you to where you are today!

This week, you'll hear from two gals in our office who have a few years of marriage under their belts, and are both passionate about continuing to make their relationships a priority. We can't wait for you to hear from them!

Love,

Ja *emily* *nicole* *Marissa*
Kristin *Lisa* *Amber* *Jess*

STAY AWHILE! Chat with us on any of our accounts.



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Sip along with us! Make a glass of sweet and tart tea and join us as we chat about keeping some of your favorite traditions in newlywed life!

**FIND THE
RECIPE HERE!**



how to
KEEP GOING IN
**NEWLYWED
LIFE**



Hi friend! While we wouldn't call ourselves experts, we're so happy to be doing this marriage thing alongside you, and excited to be offering some encouragement for our fellowed married gals in this week of Fruitful Summer. We've got lots of ideas for keeping the good things about your relationship going after you say I do, and plenty of space for you to brainstorm your own. The best is yet to come, friends. Let's dig in!

Love, Emily and Marissa



KEEP DOING THE FUN STUFF




EMILY: The summer after my husband and I started dating stands out in my mind as a particularly golden time. Of course, it was also the summer between high school and college, so I imagine it would have always seemed magical. Even if you started dating your husband later in life, I'm guessing you remember those first few months fondly, as well. The days seemed to stretch endlessly, every date was both casual and momentous, and it didn't really matter what you were doing, because you were doing it together.

I've been with my husband for 11 and a half years now, and we've been married for almost four. That summer still seems magical, but it doesn't mean our life now is less so. It's just different. Because we've kept doing some of the things we did then—eating our dinner outside on the porch, singing along to our favorite songs in the car, and emailing each other news items and articles we know the other will like, for example—even a random Tuesday can feel fresh and romantic.

What are those things for you? What did you do for each other in the first few months or years of dating that you could reinvent for your life now? Did you have any special traditions while engaged? Could they be transformed for married life? Use the space here to recall those little or big things that you remember from back in the day — and then brainstorm how you might bring them into the present.

MARISSA: Brandon and I started dating in college, and after almost eight years of marriage (and a two and half year old!), our life looks quite a bit different. One thing that hasn't changed though is that we tend to be homebodies. Blame it on our years of traveling, but while we love big adventures, some of our favorite memories are created at home. When we were first dating, Brandon used to play me

movie trailers he knew I'd love, and we'd make plans to go see them when they came to theaters. His act of seeking out things that we could enjoy together and daydreaming of our future dates was just as much fun as the dates themselves. To this day, my husband still saves movie trailers to show me after our girl goes to bed. We watch them together and plot out our future dates, just like we did ten years ago!



LET'S GET REAL HERE, FRIEND. Marriage is the bee's knees, and being a newlywed should be bliss. However, after you return from your honeymoon and everyday life begins, there are a few tasks that might not have you throwing the confetti (unless that's how you like to brighten up the boring, and if it is, we sure won't stop you!). "Adulting" has to happen, and one of the best parts of marriage is having your best friend by your side to make those routine responsibilities a bit less mundane.



When Brandon and I were first married, we started grocery shopping together since neither of us knew the other's specific shopping preferences. During these grocery dates, we have always played The Price is Right during check out—the person closest to the grand total, without going over, wins! The prize varies from choosing what that evening's Netflix show will be, or not having to do the dishes or take out the trash. It takes the sting out of the grocery bill, and makes the whole event a lot more fun. (Especially if you're like me and cheat by adding up the groceries as they get added to the cart!)

My husband and I have turned one of the most dreaded tasks in any household—updating the budget and checking in on financial accounts — into a party.

Once a month on a Saturday morning, we make something special for breakfast, pull our laptops into bed, and spend 45 minutes or so reviewing our accounts and oohing and ahing over the progress we've made. As much as the special breakfast helps, it's really a mind shift that transforms this task from drudgery into something we look forward to: we celebrate how far we've come, instead of worrying about any yet-to-be met goals. We're on the same team, so we know we can get there!



ADULTING WITH A TWIST

You might be thinking, how on earth can you make (INSERT BORING OLD GROWN UP TASK HERE) fun? Here are a few ideas on making things feel a little less Monday and a lot more Thursday...because let's face it, taking out the trash will never feel like Friday!

ADULTING TASK

THE TWIST

GROCERY SHOPPING

Split your list in half and see who can finish theirs first.

FOLDING LAUNDRY

Share your favorite memory of wearing the piece of clothing you're folding.

DOCTOR APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING

Plan a special date night the same day to give you something to look forward to.

PAYING BILLS

Scoop some ice cream or whip up a batch of your favorite cookies for a dessert date while you pay the bills.

GETTING AN OIL CHANGE/ CAR REPAIR

Bring a deck of cards and flex your Go Fish muscles.

TAKING THE TRASH OUT

If this is an unassigned chore, play Rock Paper Scissors to see who has the dirty duty that night.

TIDYING UP YOUR HOME

While this won't be the best approach for deep cleaning, make tidying up less of a chore by cleaning during the commercial breaks of your favorite show.

COMMON HOUSEHOLD CHORES

Now that you're sharing a last name and a space of your own, things can get a bit messy....literally. Planning out who will be in charge of common household chores isn't much fun, so take a few minutes to knock out splitting up these abode enhancers.

TAKING OUT
THE TRASH

WASHING
LAUNDRY

FOLDING
LAUNDRY

SWEEPING/
VACUUMING THE
FLOORS

DUSTING

LOADING/
UNLOADING THE
DISHWASHER

MAKING
THE BED

CLEANING THE
BATHROOM

MOPPING

GROCERY
SHOPPING

WASHING THE
WINDOWS

MOWING
THE LAWN

WATERING
THE PLANTS

BRINGING IN
THE TRASH CAN

CLEANING THE
COUNTERTOPS

KEEP LEARNING

The beauty of being married to a real life, bonafide, living, breathing individual is that he is just as complex and interesting as you! Even if you've been married for several years, we guarantee there's something—probably many somethings - you don't know about your partner (especially since he's always changing!). On that note, don't assume that the person you're married to on your five-year anniversary is exactly the same as the person you married. One of the most important qualities of a strong marriage is that the two of you keep growing and changing together, staying in tune with each other's shifting interests, passions, and skills. Aside from, you know, daily conversation, here are a few of our favorite ways to learn more about each other!



THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES

While working as a marriage counselor for more than 30 years, Dr. Gary Chapman identified five love languages: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch.

By taking the Love Languages quiz, you'll learn the most effective way to love your spouse so that you can concentrate your effort on actions that will have the most impact.

[TAKE THE TEST](#)

16 PERSONALITIES

A riff on the famous Myers-Briggs personality test, 16 Personalities has been called so accurate it's "a little creepy." Going through your results together and hearing about how your partner sees his results as being accurate or inaccurate (and how that might differ from your assessment!) can be super eye-opening!

[TAKE THE TEST](#)

STRENGTHS FINDER

The Strengths Finder test is premised on the idea that we devote more time to fixing our shortcomings than to developing our talents. We think this is so true in relationships, too! Taking the Strengths Finder test together will be a perfect opportunity to remind each other about the talents and abilities you each bring to your relationship, and how those might be better amplified and appreciated.

[TAKE THE TEST](#)

9 QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW



So you've played ten questions when you were dating, and you may have even played it again while you were engaged. After almost eight years of marriage, I am always finding out new and interesting things about my husband. Sometimes, even the silliest of questions can spark incredible insight into your spouse!

IF YOU COULD PICK TWO ACTORS TO PLAY
YOU AND ME, WHO WOULD THEY BE?

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

WHAT IS A BELONGING OF MINE YOU'D LIKE TO GET RID OF?

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?

DO YOU HAVE A SECRET TALENT? IF SO, WHAT?

WHAT IS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE BIRTHDAY PRESENT?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP?

WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE FOOD?

WHAT WAS THE FIRST MOVIE YOU EVER SAW IN A THEATER?

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next week:

CELEBRATE MARRIAGE

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