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How And When To Talk To Your Partner About Money

Without It Leading To Breakup,
Fights or Divorce!

How and When to Talk to Your Partner about Money

(Without It Leading to Breakup, Fights or Divorce!)



A Playbook

by

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How and When to Talk to Your Partner about Money

Put two people together whose feelings have evolved to the state of commitment of some sort, throw in the subject of money, and you could have the makings of a bonfire. All you need is for someone to light a match.

That's how powerful, and volatile, money can be in relationships!

And that power comes from the fact that too few of us deal with money as "just numbers." Instead, money is loaded with emotion for reasons we don't even understand. Because we don't understand where those emotions come from and how to get them under control, we overreact to everything that touches money. We hide from it, we push it away, we spend it, we worship it, we hoard it ... we do everything but respect it and use it strategically.

This playbook is not going to go into great depth about the psychology and emotional charge of money. Instead, it's going to give you something you can put into use right away: it's going to give you the tools to create a healthy conversation about money with your partner and, in those cases where things heat up a bit, what you need to defuse arguments before they escalate into fights.

(And know that those fights are said to be the Number One reason why relationships deteriorate into breakups or divorce. Just so you know, the National Center for Health Statistics says marriages are most fragile during the first five years, and 20 percent of them don't make it past that milestone. Since money is a major sticking point for couples, it makes this playbook that much more valuable.)

Introduction: When to Talk about Money

There are three separate situations when couples can (and should) talk about money and finances:

Step One: Talking about money while dating

Step Two: Talking about money once you're together (married or not)

Step Three: Talking about money before a meltdown

But money is often *the last thing* couples want to discuss. While they're dating, even if they're already committed to one another, they are still in a state of bliss and don't want anything that "grounding" to bring them down to earth. Once they're living together, and starting to see the reality of everyday life, they're afraid to offend each other, as if they're walking on eggshells. Lastly, once they face their first financial blow-up, there's too much emotion in the air.

This playbook is going to look at those three different situations, make suggestions and provide some tools to facilitate your money conversations. Hopefully those conversations can be more than a series of grunts and blank stares!

Are you just coming across this playbook now, when you're already in a relationship? No problem! Still start at the beginning. It's vital to get the two of you to have the first door-opening conversations to financial intimacy, and those are presented in the earlier parts of the playbook. So, *wherever* you are in your relationship, start at the beginning and move on through, taking each step together with your partner as you go.

(Just for the record, some people can talk about money freely and easily. But they are not in the majority. And the chance of *both* people in a relationship

being one of those is pretty slim ... if not zero. The truth is, a Money Magazine survey in 2010 said that 84% of couples report the major tension in their relationships to be caused by money.)

So print out this playbook, make notes all over it and check off each step as you complete it. Now, let's get started.

(Balance of Playbook Available Upon Request)