INSTRUCTIONS

Each of these movies features intimate relationships as a major plot focus. Watch one movie a week together then discuss the 11 movie discussion questions as a couple for about 45 minutes.
Movies used in the study

A Star Is Born
Adam's Rib
Anna Karenina
As Good As It Gets
Barefoot in the Park
Children of a Lesser God
Days of Wine and Roses
Desk Set
Dying Young
Fools Rush In
Forget Paris
French Twist
Funny Girl
Gone with the Wind
Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner
Hanover Street
Husbands and Wives
Indecent Proposal
Jungle Fever
Love Jones
Love Story
Made for Each Other
Mississippi Masala
Move Over, Darling
Mr. Blandings Builds His Dreamhouse
My Favorite Wife
Nina Takes a Lover
Nine Months
On Golden Pond
Pat and Mike
Penny Serenade
Pfft!
Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker
She’s Having a Baby
Steel Magnolias
Terms of Endearment
The Devil’s Advocate
The Egg and I
The Male Animal
The Out of Towners
The Thin Man
The Way We Were
Untamed Heart
When a Man Loves a Woman
Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf
With Six You Get Eggroll
Yours, Mine and Ours

Additional movies to try

American Beauty
Anger Management
Autumn in New York
Bee Season
Before Sunset
Blue Valentine
Coal Miner’s Daughter
Couples Retreat
Crooklyn
Date Night
Deliver Us from Eva
Devil Wears Prada
Family Man
Father of the Bride
Fool’s Gold
Four Christmases
Her
Hope Springs
It’s Complicated
Julie & Julia
Jumping the Broom
Just Married
Life as We Know It
Longtime Companion
Love and Other Drugs
Marley and Me
Meet the Fockers
Monster-in-Law
Mr. & Mrs. Smith
Obsessed
Something’s Gotta Give
Surviving Christmas
Sweet Home Alabama
Sweet November
The Five-Year Engagement
The Backup Plan
The Big Wedding

The Bounty Hunter
The Breakup
The Campaign
The Door in the Floor
The Good Girl
The Horse Whisperer
The Marriage Chronicles
The Mirror Has Two Faces
The Money Pit
The Notebook
The Story of Us
Think Like a Man
True Lies
Unfaithful
Waiting to Exhale
Wanderlust
Why Did I Get Married?
You, Me and Dupree
DIRECTIONS: Please use the following questions to discuss the relationships portrayed in the movie. Once you’ve discussed a specific question, write your joint answer in the space provided.

What movie did you watch?

1. What was the main relationship portrayed in the movie? This is the relationship that you will focus on in the following questions.

2. What main problem(s) did this couple face? Are any of these similar to the problems that the two of you have faced or might face as a couple?

3. Did this couple strive to understand each other? Did they tend to accept one another, even if they were very different? Or did the couple tend to attack each others’ differences?

In what way was this relationship similar to or different from your own relationship in this area?

4. Did the couple have a strong friendship with each other? Were they able to support each other through bad moods, stressful days, and hard times? Did they listen to each other like good friends? Did the couple in the movie do considerate or affectionate things for each other?

In what way was this relationship similar to or different from your own relationship in this area?
5. How did the couple handle arguments or differences of opinion? Were they able to open up and tell each other how they really felt, or did they tend to just snap at each other with anger? Did they try using humor to keep things from getting nasty? Did it feel like they were really trying to understand each other?

In what way was this relationship similar to or different from your own relationship in this area?

6. If the couple got into arguments, did they tend to become heated? Did the couple ever start attacking each other, getting increasingly mean and hostile? Did they end up saying things they didn’t really mean? Once this started happening, how did the arguments tend to end?

In what way was this relationship similar to or different from your own relationship in this area?

7. When one of the partners brought up a problem, did he or she seem to do it in a constructive way (keeping things specific, explaining his or her feelings without attacking), or did it seem more like an attack? Did it seem like bringing up a problem became an assassination of the partner’s character?

In what way was this relationship similar to or different from your own relationship in this area?

8. How did the couple in the movie handle hurt feelings? Did they apologize to each other? Did the apologies seem sincere? Did they tend to jump to negative conclusions when their feelings got hurt, or did they tend to give each other the benefit of the doubt?

In what way was this relationship similar to or different from your own relationship in this area?
9. Did the partners seem to have similar expectations of their relationship? Where did their expectations differ? Did it seem like they were aware of their own expectations? Were their expectations reasonable? Did they share their expectations with each other?

In what way was this relationship similar to or different from your own relationship in this area?

10. What other things happened in the movie that might lead you to think differently about your relationship/marriage?

11. What other comments do you have about this movie?

How relevant was this movie to your own relationship?

Not at all
Somewhat
Very Much

How entertaining was this movie?

Not at all
Somewhat
Very Much

How would you rate this movie’s overall quality?

Very Poor
Average
Excellent