GOTTMAN AREAS OF CHANGE CHECKLIST: SOLVABLE PROBLEMS

Circle a number of any issue that represents an area in your marriage that you think requires some change. If it is a very serious problem, circle a "5," if it is only a small problem circle a "1," and use the numbers in-between 5 and 1 to indicate the severity of the problem in your view (1 = small problem, 5 = major problem).

	I would like us to talk to each other more. I would like our sex life to become more satisfying.	1 1	2	3	4 4	5 5
3.	I would like us to have more independence in this marriage.	1	2	3	4	5
4.	I would like it if we were more organized.	1	2	3	4	5
5.	I would like it if my spouse spent more time with me.	1	2	3	4	5
6a.	Our problems center on doing household chores.	1	2	3	4	5
6b.	I do too much of the work.	1	2	3	4	5
7.	I would like my spouse's relationships with our children to improve.	1	2	3	4	5
8.	I would like my spouse's relationships with our families to improve.	1	2	3	4	5
9.	I would like us to go to church, mosque, or synagogue together.	1	2	3	4	5
10.	I would like us to have more fun together on weekends.	1	2	3	4	5
11.	I would like to have fewer problems with my jealousy.	1	2	3	4	5
12.	I would like to have fewer problems with my partner's jealousy.	1	2	3	4	5
13.	I would like my partner to have fewer problems with alcohol and drugs.	1	2	3	4	5
14.	I would like us to have more friends in common.	1	2	3	4	5
15.	I would like to be consulted on important decisions.	1	2	3	4	5
16.	I would like my partner to show more physical affection toward me.	1	2	3	4	5
17.	I want us to go out on more "dates" together.	1	2	3	4	5
18.	I would like my partner to watch less television and talk to me more instead.	1	2	3	4	5
19.	I want us to make love more often.	1	2	3	4	5
20.	I want more help with the finances.	1	2	3	4	5
21.	I would want to receive more appreciation for what I do.	1	2	3	4	5
22.	There's an extramarital affair that we need help getting over.	1	2	3	4	5
23a.	I would like for us to have fewer problems with in-laws.	1	2	3	4	5
23b.	I would like to get more support from my spouse about in-law problems.	1	2	3	4	5
24.	I would like us to agree more about saving money.	1	2	3	4	5
25.	I would like it if our lives were less chaotic.	1	2	3	4	5
26.	I would like it if we had fewer disagreements about spending money.	1	2	. 3	4	5

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2	27. I would like our lives to be less stressful.	1	2	3	4	5
2	28. I would like us to have more fun than we do.	1	2	3	4	5
2	29. We don't have enough of a social life.	1	2	3	4	5
3	30. I would like us to talk over a major upcoming decision.	1	2	3	4	5
3	31. I don't feel that my partner listens to me when I am upset.	1	2	3	4	5
3	32. I don't feel supported in this marriage.	1	2	3	4	5
3	33. I don't feel that my partner is very affectionate.	1	2	3	4	5
3	34. I would like to have a (or another) child.	1	2	3	4	5
3	35. We don't take enough vacations.	1	2	3	4	5
3	36. List your own issue:	1	2	3	4	5

NEGATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Fill this form out thinking about your immediate past (last 2 to 4 weeks), or a recent discussion of an existing marital issue. Read each statement and place a check mark in the appropriate TRUE or FALSE box.

IN THE RECENT PAST IN MY MARRIAGE, GENERALLY:	Y: RESPONSE			
I felt hurt.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt misunderstood.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I thought, "I don't have to take this."	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt innocent of blame for this problem.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I thought to myself, "Just get up and leave."	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
l was angry.	True	□ (1)	False	[]·(2)
I felt disappointed.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt unjustly accused.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I thought, "My partner has no right to say those things."	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I was frustrated.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt personally attacked.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I wanted to strike back.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt like I was warding off a barrage.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt like getting even.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I wanted to protect myself.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I took my partner's complaints as slights.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt like my partner was trying to control me.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I thought that my partner was very manipulative.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I felt unjustly criticized.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I wanted the negativity to just stop.	True	□ (1)	False	□(2)

START-UP

WHEN WE DISCUSS OUR MARITAL ISSUES:	RESE	PONSE		
My partner is often very critical of me.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I hate the way my partner raises an issue.	True	□ (1)	False	. (2)
Arguments often seem to come out of nowhere.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Before I know it, we are in a fight.	True	□(1)	False	□ (2)
When my partner complains, I feel picked on.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I seem to always get blamed for issues.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner is negative all out of proportion.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I feel I have to ward off personal attacks.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I often have to deny charges leveled against me.	True	. □ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner's feelings are too easily hurt.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
What goes wrong is often not my responsibility.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My spouse criticizes my personality.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Issues get raised in an insulting manner.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner will complain at times in a smug or superior way.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I have just about had it with all this negativity between us.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I feel basically disrespected when my partner complains.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I just want to leave the scene when complaints arise.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Our calm is suddenly shattered.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I find my partner's negativity unnerving and unsettling.	True	□(1)	False	□ (2)
I think my partner can be totally irrational.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)

GRIDLOCK

WHEN WE DISCUSS OUR MARITAL ISSUES: RESPONSE				
The same problems keep coming up again and again in our marriage.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
We rarely make much progress on our central issues.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
We keep hurting each other whenever we discuss our core issues.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I feel criticized and misunderstood when we discuss our hot topics.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)
My partner has a long list of basically unreasonable demands.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
When we discuss our basic issues, I often feel that my partner doesn't even like me.	True	(1)	False	□ (2)
My partner wants me to change my basic personality.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I often keep quiet and withdraw to avoid stirring up too much conflict.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)
I don't feel respected when we disagree.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner often acts in a selfish manner.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
What I say in our discussions rarely has much effect.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I feel put down in our discussions of key issues.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I can't really be myself in this marriage.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I often think that my partner is manipulating me.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Sometimes I think that my spouse doesn't care about my feelings.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner rarely makes a real effort to change.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
There are some basic faults in my partner's personality that he or she will not change.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner disregards my fundamental needs.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Sometimes I feel that my values don't matter to my spouse.	True	(1)	False	□ (2)
When we discuss our issues, I feel I am right and my partner is wrong.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

WHEN WE DISCUSS OUR MARITAL ISSUES:	RESPONSE			
I feel attacked or criticized when we talk about our disagreements.	True	(1)	False	□ (2)
I usually feel like my personality is being assaulted.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
In our disputes, at times, I don't even feel like my partner likes me very much.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)
I have to defend myself because the charges against me are so unfair.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I often feel unappreciated by my spouse.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My feelings and intentions are often misunderstood.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)
I don't feel appreciated for all the good I do in this marriage.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I often just want to leave the scene of the argument.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I get disgusted by all the negativity between us.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I feel insulted by my partner at times.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I sometimes just clam up and become quiet.	True	. 🗆 (1)	False	□ (2)
I can get mean and insulting in our disputes.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I feel basically disrespected.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Many of our issues are just not my problem.	True	□ (1)	False	[](2)
The way we talk makes me want to just withdraw from the whole marriage.	True	□ (1)	False	☐ (2)
I think to myself, "Who needs all this conflict?"	True	□(1)	False	[](2)
My partner never really changes.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Our problems have made me feel desperate at times.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner doesn't face issues responsibly and maturely.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I try to point out flaws in my partner's personality that need improvement.	True	(1)	False	□ (2)
I feel explosive and out of control about our issues at times.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner uses phrases like "you always" or "you never" when complaining.	True	□ (1)	False	. (2)
I often get the blame for what are really our problems.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I don't have a lot of respect for my partner's position on our basic issues.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)
My spouse can be quite selfish and self-centered.	True	(1)	False	(2)
I feel disgusted by some of my spouse's attitudes.	True	(1)	False	□ (2)

WHEN WE DISCUSS OUR MARITAL ISSUES:	RESI	PONSE		
My partner gets far too emotional.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I am just not guilty of many of the things I get accused of.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Small issues often escalate out of proportion.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Arguments seem to come out of nowhere.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner's feelings get hurt too easily.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
often will become silent to cool things down a bit.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
My partner has a lot of trouble being rational and logical.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)

THE DISTANCE AND ISOLATION QUESTIONNAIRES

A. Self-Test Flooding

1. At times, when my partner gets angry I feel confused.	Yes	No
2. Our discussions get far too heated.	Yes	No
3. I have a hard time calming down when we discuss disagreements.	Yes	No
4. I'm worried that one of us is going to say something we will regret.	Yes	No
5. My partner gets far more upset than is necessary.	Yes	No
6. After a fight I want to keep away for a while.	Yes	No
7. There's no need to raise one's voice the way my partner does in a discussion.	Yes	No
8. It really is overwhelming when an argument gets going.	Yes	No
9. I can't think straight when my partner gets so negative.	Yes	No
10. I think, "Why can't we talk things out logically?"	Yes	No
11. My partner's negative moods come out of nowhere.	Yes	No
12. When my partner's temper gets going, there is no stopping it.	Yes	No
13. I feel cold and empty after one of our fights.	Yes	No
 When there is so much negativity, I have difficulty focusing my thoughts. 	Yes	No
15. Small issues suddenly become big ones for no apparent reason.	Yes	No
16. I can never seem to soothe myself after one of our fights.	Yes	No
17. Sometimes I think that my partner's moods are just crazy.	Yes	No
18. Things get out of hand quickly in our discussions.	Yes	No
19. My partner's feelings are very easily hurt.	Yes	No
 When my partner gets negative, stopping it is like trying to stop an oncoming truck. 	Yes	No ´
.21. All this negativity drags me down.	Yes	No
22. I feel disorganized by all this negative emotion.	Yes	No
23. I can never tell when a blowup is going to happen.	Yes	No
24. When we have a fight, it takes a very long time before I	162	140
feel at ease again.	Yes	No
Scoring: If a person answered "yes" to more than eight statements, this	e ie a etro	חת כותה

Scoring: If a person answered "yes" to more than eight statements, this is a strong sign that that person is prone to feeling flooded during conflict with the spouse.

B. Self-Test: How Lonely Is Your Marriage?

1. Marriage is a lot lonelier than I thought it would be.	Yes	No
2. We're not as close as I wish we were.	Yes	No
3. I feel an emptiness in this marriage.	Yes	No

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4.	I often feel bored when we do things together.	Yes	No
5.	I feel very restless and sad even when we're together.	Yes	No
6.	Lots of times I don't know what to do with myself.	Yes	No
7.	At times I feel bored and restless in this marriage.	Yes	No
8.	I long for someone I can be close to.	Yes	No
9.	I feel so lonely it hurts.	Yes	No
10.	Something is missing from my marriage.	Yes	No
11.	I wish people would call me more often.	Yes	No
12.	I often wish I had someone to be with.	Yes	No
13.	I don't feel that I'm an important part of someone's life.	Yes	No
14.	I don't feel that I belong to anyone.	Yes	No
15.	I often feel emotionally isolated.	Yes	No
16.	I feel abandoned in this marriage.	Yes	No
17.	There is no one I can turn to.	Yes	No
18.	I often feel left out.	Yes	No
19.	No one knows me.	Yes	No
20.	No one understands me.	Yes	No
21.	There is often no one I can talk to.	Yes	No
22.	I often feel a great need for companionship.	Yes	No
23.	I have become very withdrawn in this marriage.	Yes	No
24.	I feel disconnected.	Yes	No
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Scoring: If a person has answered "yes" to eight or more of the questions, he/she may have reached the end of the Distance and Isolation Cascade.

C. Self-Test: Can You Work Things Out?

1.	Talking things over with my partner only seems to make them worse.	Yes	No
2.	I'd rather just keep things to myself.	Yes	No
3.	I am a very private person about my feelings.	Yes	No
4.	When I'm in a bad mood, I'd much rather just go off by myself.	Yes	No
5.	I don't see much point in discussing my troubles with my partner.	Yes	No
6.	Talking about our problems only gets them more muddled.	Yes	No
7.	There are some people you just can't talk to, and my partner's one of those.	Yes	No
8.	I'd rather try to work out our marital problems alone.	Yes	No
9.	Our conversations about our problems never seem to get anywhere.	Yes	No
10.	I don't place a lot of faith in delving into my problems with		
	my spouse.	Yes	No

11. I have given up on trying to talk things out. Yes No12. I don't see any potential gain in trying to talk things over with my partner. Yes No

Scoring: If the person answered "yes" to four or more of these statements, he/she has given up working things out with the spouse. This attitude almost inevitably leads to the next step in the Distance and Isolation Cascade.

D. Self-Test: Do You Lead Parallel Lives?

We don't eat together as much as we used to.	Yes	No
Sometimes it seems we are roommates rather than a married couple.	Yes	No
We have fewer friends in common than we used to.	Yes	No
We seem to do a lot more things separately.	Yes	No
It seems that we have fewer and fewer interests in common.	Yes	No
Sometimes we can go for quite a while without ever talking about our lives.	Yes	No
Our lives are more parallel than connected.	Yes	No
. We often don't talk about how our separate days went.	Yes	No
. We don't spend very much time together anymore.	Yes	No
. We spend a lot of our free time apart.	Yes	No
. We don't set aside much time just to talk.	Yes	No
. I don't think we know each other very well anymore.	Yes	No
. We don't have dinner together very much anymore.	Yes	No
. We rarely go out on dates together.	Yes	No
. A lot of good times these days are with people other than each other.	Yes	No
. We seem to be avoiding each other.	Yes	No
. We are like two passing ships, going our separate ways.	Yes	No
	We have fewer friends in common than we used to. We seem to do a lot more things separately. It seems that we have fewer and fewer interests in common. Sometimes we can go for quite a while without ever talking about our lives. Our lives are more parallel than connected. We often don't talk about how our separate days went. We don't spend very much time together anymore. We spend a lot of our free time apart. We don't set aside much time just to talk. I don't think we know each other very well anymore. We don't have dinner together very much anymore. We rarely go out on dates together. A lot of good times these days are with people other than	Sometimes it seems we are roommates rather than a married couple. We have fewer friends in common than we used to. Yes We seem to do a lot more things separately. It seems that we have fewer and fewer interests in common. Sometimes we can go for quite a while without ever talking about our lives. Yes Our lives are more parallel than connected. Yes We often don't talk about how our separate days went. Yes We don't spend very much time together anymore. Yes We spend a lot of our free time apart. Yes We don't set aside much time just to talk. I don't think we know each other very well anymore. Yes We don't have dinner together very much anymore. Yes We rarely go out on dates together. A lot of good times these days are with people other than each other. Yes We seem to be avoiding each other.

Scoring: If the person answered "yes" to five or more of the statements, then he/she and the spouse may well be leading parallel lives. Realizing that the situation has deteriorated to this extreme is the first step toward rediscovering one other.

EMOTIONAL DISENGAGEMENT AND LONELINESS

STATEMENT	RESPONSE			
I often find myself disappointed in this marriage.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I have learned to expect less from my partner.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I find myself quite lonely in this relationship at times.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
It is hard for my deepest feelings to get much attention in this marriage.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I often try to avoid saying things I will later regret.	True	□ (1)	False	(2)
I feel like I have to be so careful, it is like walking on eggshells.	True	□ (1)	False	[] (2)
Suddenly, once again, I find I have said the wrong thing.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
There is not much intimacy in this marriage right now.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Our marital problems are not really solvable.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
Sometimes our marriage feels empty to me.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
This marriage is not quite what I expected, and I feel let down by it.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
We are pretty separate and unconnected emotionally.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
We don't really talk very deeply to each other.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
There is not enough closeness between us.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I sometimes think I expect too much and should settle for less in my marriage.	True	☐ (1)	False	□ (2)
I am coping with a lot of marital stress, but it will be okay eventually.	True	□ (1)	False	<u> </u>
I have adapted to a lot in this marriage, and I am not so sure it's a good idea.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
There's certainly not much romance in this relationship.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
I can't really say that we are very good friends right now.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)
l am often lonely in this marriage.	True	□ (1)	False	□ (2)

INNOCENT VICTIM AND RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION SCALE

Fill out this scale while thinking about your last argument with your partner.

During our last discussion:

1. I felt hurt.

Yes

No

2. I felt misunderstood.

Yes

No

3. I thought, "I don't have to take this." No

Yes

4. I felt innocent of blame for this problem.

Yes No

I thought to myself, just get up and leave.

I was scared.

Yes

Nο

No

7. I was angry.

Yes

No

I was worried.

Yes

No

9. I felt disappointed. Yes No

10. I wanted my feelings to get some attention here.

Yes

11. I felt injustly accused.

Yes

No

No

12. I thought, "My partner has no right to say those things."

Yes

No

Nο

13. I felt let down.

Yes No

14. I felt sad.

Yes

15. I was frustrated.

Yes No

16. I felt personally attacked.

Yes No

17. I wanted to strike back.

Yes No

18. I felt like I was warding off a barrage.

Yas No

19. I felt like getting even.

Yes No

20. I wanted to protect myself.

Yes No

21. I knew I was right.

Yes

22. I had a pretty low opinion of my partner's personality at the time.

No

Yes No

Scoring

1. Tally the number of "yes" responses to statements 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, and 20. A score of 4 or more suggests you tend to have an innocent-victim reaction during negative times in your marriage.

2. Tally your "yes" responses to statements 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22. A score of 4 or more suggests you tend to have a righteous-indignation reaction during negative times in your marriage.