

Give Your Spouse A Gift They'll Like

Here's the thing to remember about giving your spouse a gift they'll like: It's rarely about the gift...it's about the thought you put into to (some have learned the hard way).

Just follow these tips and you'll be fine.

1. Ask or seek clues discretely

I'm not sure why people skip this step.

Unless you want to surprise them, just ask. But if you want to surprise them, and don't read minds, start here:

- Past conversations. I hope you've been listening throughout the year because chances are your spouse has dropped hints; the more recent the conversation, the better.
- If past conversations aren't any help, ask them to go to the mall with you. If your mall is closed, look at stuff online or in a catalogue together, *casually*; be cool. Notice what interests them.
- What are their hobbies and interests? Maybe they'd like a new golf club, or a gourmet cooking class, some camera gear, or something for arts and crafts, etc. If you can't think of anything related to their hobbies, consider a gift certificate that's at least related to their passions and interests.
- Checking their social media posts might give you some creative ideas. Yes, snoop a little.

2. Make it Special

When is a gift more than a gift? When you make it an experience. Use a little creativity to make your gift extra special.

- Instead of handing them their gift, make it a treasure hunt; hide the gift and leave clues around the house.
- Combine gifts: A new dress is a nice gift but combining it with a gift certificate to the spa or a wonderful dinner turns it into an exceptional gift.
- Homemade gifts are always appreciated because they take thought and effort, which shows you care. You'll get brownie points for creativity, too. These might be a little cliché but they'll get your creative juices flowing: Give *personal* gift certificates for massages, or their favorite home-cooked meals, or go through the effort of making a romantic candle lit dinner, or create a special experience to relive a favorite memory.

Remember, all you really have to do is focus on your partner - on their likes, wants, desires - and don't obsess so much over the gift. When you put thought and effort into making your spouse feel special, the gift usually takes care of itself.

Until next time, this is Mike Tucker and I want YOU to be mad about marriage!