

For Women Only: What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men – Survey

How Men Think and Feel

Survey from “For Women Only: What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men”

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Question 1:

Imagine you are sitting alone in a train station and a woman with a great body walks in and stands in a nearby line. What is your reaction to the woman? (Choose One Answer)

- a) I openly stare at her and drool forms on my lower lip.
- b) I’m drawn to look at her, and I sneak a peek, or glance at her from the corner of my eye.
- c) It is impossible not to be aware that she is there, but I try to stop myself from looking.
- d) Nothing happens; it doesn’t affect me.

Question 2:

Many men have a mental set of sensual images that rise up or can be conjured up in their minds. Does this apply to you? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Yes, and these images are regularly changing – for example, the great body from the previous question could be recalled hours or days later.
- b) Yes, but they are mostly images from years gone by.
- c) No, I don’t have a mental set of sensual images.

Question 3:

Think about what these two negative experiences would be like: to feel alone and unloved in the world OR to feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone. If you were forced to choose one, which would you prefer? Would you rather feel...? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Alone and unloved
- b) Inadequate and disrespected

Question 4:

Even though the situation may not be directly applicable to you, imagine that you have kids and they have done some minor damage to the kitchen wall, and it is obvious to both you and your wife/significant other that it needs to be fixed, and that it will be your job to do it. Some time later, your wife/significant other pointedly reminds you that it still needs to be fixed. What goes through your mind? (Choose All Correct Answers)

- a) Oh, sweetie. I'll turn off the football game right now and do it.
- b) I feel bad about not having done it sooner, and appreciate the reminder.
- c) I feel bad about not having done it sooner, but I resent her nagging me.
- d) She thinks I'm a second-rate husband for not doing this.
- e) I've failed. She shouldn't have to be asking me. I let her down.
- f) It needs to be done, but it's just not as much of a priority for me. It'll get done eventually.
- g) I feel like she's accusing me of being lazy or not caring about the family.
- h) She doesn't trust that I know what I'm doing and that I'll get to it when I can.
- i) I do so much for this family! I can't believe she's mad at me for not getting to this one thing just yet.

Question 5:

Note: The original question about whether the men were insecure or felt like imposters provided a confusing spread of responses, and several men indicated that the use of the word "imposter" in the question put them on the defensive. The survey consultant indicated that this may have skewed the results. We re-worded the question on the follow-up survey. These follow-up questions will be listed at the end of this survey questionnaire.

Question 6:

In your work life, do you have thoughts like "I'm not appreciated around here"? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Yes, frequently
- b) Yes, sometimes
- c) No, I rarely have thoughts like that
- d) No, I generally feel appreciated

Question 7:

In your home life, do you have thoughts like "I'm not appreciated around here"? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Yes, frequently
- b) Yes, sometimes
- c) No, I rarely have thoughts like that
- d) No, I generally feel appreciated

Question 8:

Imagine that your wife/significant other has complained that you have been working too much. Select all the thoughts that would likely go through your mind (not just those that are true statements). (Choose All Correct Answers)

- a) If I don't work this hard, I feel like my job might be at risk, and I do have to provide for my family.
- b) I probably could work a lot less if I chose to stand up to my boss.
- c) There is no way to support our family lifestyle without working this hard – I guess I could find a job that worked fewer hours, but it wouldn't pay enough.
- d) I've got to work a lot to get ahead, and I want to get ahead.
- e) I need to work this much in order to stay on top of my job, or else I might let the organization down.
- f) Does she think I like working this much? I don't want to be away from her and the kids!
- g) I do want to be working this much –I enjoy work.
- h) I do want to be working this much because I don't enjoy being at home.

Question 9:

Under what circumstances do you think about your responsibility to provide for your family? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Only when I'm unemployed or facing financial challenges
- b) It's occasionally in the back of my mind
- c) It's often in the back of my mind
- d) It's something I'm conscious of most of the time
- e) Never

Question 10:

Suppose your wife/significant other earned enough to support your family's lifestyle. Would you still feel a compulsion to provide for your family? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Yes
- b) No

Question 11:

Regardless of whether you are able to plan romantic events, or whether your wife/significant other appreciates it, do you, yourself, desire romance? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Yes, very much
- b) Yes, somewhat
- c) I can take it or leave it
- d) I don't care for it

Question 12:

Men sometimes have different notions of what is romantic. If you take sex out of the equation, which of the following do you find more romantic for yourself? (Choose One Answer)

- a) The traditional notion of a romantic event - for example, a candlelight dinner, a cozy snuggle by the fire, or watching a sunset on the beach.
- b) The idea of getting out and doing things with my wife/significant other and playing together - for example, hiking together, golfing together, or driving around and exploring.
- c) Neither seems romantic to me

Question 13:

Suppose you had to plan an anniversary event for your wife/significant other. Do you know how to put together a romantic event that you know your partner would enjoy? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Yes, I can do it with style
- b) Yes, but I'm not sure that I would do a very good job
- c) No, she may not like what I did
- d) No, I really don't have a clue

Question 14:

Is this statement true or false? "I want my wife/significant other to look good and feel energetic. It is not as important that she look just like she did the day we met. It is more important that she make the effort to take care of herself for me now." (Choose One Answer)

- a) True
- b) False

Question 15:

Even the best relationships sometimes have conflicts on day-to-day issues. In the middle of a conflict with my wife/significant other, I am more likely to be feeling... (Choose One Answer)

- a) That my wife/significant other doesn't respect me right now.
- b) That my wife/significant other doesn't love me right now.

Question 16:

When (or if) your wife notices when you do something and sincerely thanks you for it, choose the impact it has on you, in terms of how happy or filled up it makes you. For example, "Thank you for mowing the lawn even though it was hot outside." (Choose One Answer)

- a) It deeply pleases me – it's a small thing that has a relatively big impact
- b) It feels nice, but not much impact

- c) It doesn't do much for me

Question 17:

Imagine your wife/significant other is overweight, wears baggy sweats when you are home, and only does her hair/makeup to go out. She hates being overweight, but nothing much changes and lately you've seen her eating more sweets. What goes through your mind? (Choose All Correct Answers)

- a) It doesn't bother me at all.
- b) I know it shouldn't bother me, but it does.
- c) I wish I could tell her how I feel, but I can't because it would hurt her feelings.
- d) I want her to make an effort to take care of herself – not just for herself, but also for me.
- e) If she really cared about me and what would please me, she would make more of an effort.
- f) She should know that taking care of herself is important to me – I shouldn't have to tell her.
- g) I'm disappointed that she doesn't seem to "get" that this is important to me, but I understand that it is hard for her, too.
- h) This question doesn't apply to me, because my wife/significant other already looks great all the time, and I can't imagine her otherwise.

Question 18:

Imagine your wife/significant other is overweight and really wants to make an effort to get in shape for you. But her slate is already full; she has no time during the day, and in the evening she has to watch the kids or drive them to their activities. How much effort, financial expense, or additional responsibility would you be willing to take on so she can do what's necessary to get in shape? (Choose One Answer)

- a) I'd do whatever it takes to help her and gladly make a significant effort.
- b) I'd be willing to make a reasonable effort.
- c) I would lend a hand, but I'd privately be annoyed.
- d) I'd prefer not to do much, it's really her responsibility.

Question 19:

Imagine that you and your wife/significant other are out with a mixed group of friends and you are explaining an issue that you know well. Now imagine that your wife/significant other vocally disagrees with you at several points and keeps pushing, despite your efforts to move on. How does that make you feel? (Choose All Correct Answers)

- a) I feel disrespected.
- b) I'm embarrassed about the way she is behaving.
- c) I want my wife/significant other to make me look good, but at the moment I think the other men feel sorry for me.
- d) I not only feel disrespected, but I actually feel somewhat unloved by her.

Question 20:

Imagine that your wife was an interested and motivated sexual partner, and you therefore had an active love life. How would having sex with her as often as you wanted affect your emotional state? (Choose One Answer)

- a) It would have little or no effect – sex seems unrelated to my emotions or how I feel about the rest of my life.
- b) It would have a positive effect – it would give me a greater sense of well-being and satisfaction with life.

Question 21:

Imagine that your wife offers all the sex that you want but does it reluctantly or simply to accommodate your sexual needs. Will you be sexually satisfied? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Yes
- b) No

Question 22:

With regard to sex, for some men it is sufficient to be sexually gratified whenever they want. For other men it is also important to feel wanted and desired by their wife. How important is it to you to also feel sexually wanted and desired by your wife? (Choose One Answer)

- a) Very important
- b) Somewhat important
- c) Not very important as long as I get enough sex
- d) Irrelevant, as long as I get enough sex

Question 23:

I am not always as confident as I look.

- a) I feel like this regularly/sometimes
- b) I rarely or never feel like this

Follow-Up Survey

Question 1:

Men who are taking risks and progressing in their careers will inevitably face many situations that are somewhat unfamiliar and challenging. Think back over several situations like that in your career. Which one of these feelings were you most likely to experience? (Choose One Answer)

- a) I can handle it, no problem.
- b) I'm somewhat out of my depth here, and I hope it doesn't show.
- c) I feel a bit like an imposter; I'm not fully qualified to do this and I hope no one finds out.

Question 2:

Think about several instances when you've had a tiff with your wife/significant other and she wanted to talk about it. In a situation where you don't want to talk about it, please check ALL the reasons why. (Choose All Correct Answers)

- a) Because I'm not clear what I'm thinking and/or can't articulate it yet; I'm trying to sort out my feelings
- b) Because talking about our argument right then won't lead to a solution
- c) Because I need time to figure out a solution before I burden her with it
- d) Because I'm mad at her and therefore don't want to talk to her
- e) Because I don't want to say something in the heat of the moment that I'll regret later

Question 3:

Suppose you are doing some minor project, and it's not something you discussed with your wife/significant other. She gets that "What were you thinking?" look on her face and clearly has a question about what you are doing. Choose the situation that happens most frequently. (Choose One Answer)

- a) She's right – I didn't think about this.
- b) I did think about it, and I decided that this was the appropriate action.
- c) I did think about it, and even considered her potential objection, but decided my action was the best.

Question 4:

Regarding the subjects in this survey, what is the one thing that you wish that your wife/significant other knew, but you feel you can't explain to her or tell her? (Please be specific and included details)

