

Instructions

What you consider to be a luxury, your spouse or partner may consider a necessity, and vice versa. This exercise is designed to get you thinking and talking about financial values in terms of goods and services that are important to you both.

In the space next to the items listed below, use one of the following terms to rate each item:

1. Necessary

2. Very Useful

3. Desirable

4. Luxury

5. Not Desirable

Respond with your true feelings and not as you think you are supposed to respond. Do not consult with your partner when completing the worksheet. Compare results and discuss significant differences.



Financial Planning:

- _____ Emergency savings account
- _____ Retirement savings
- _____ Additional investments (non-retirement)
- _____ Debt elimination
- _____ Extra expenses when spouse is deployed
- _____ Additional life insurance
- _____ Credit cards
- _____ College education for children
- _____ Additional education



Entertainment:

- _____ Dining out
- _____ Hobbies
- _____ Going to the movies
- _____ Event tickets
- _____ Health club membership
- _____ Sports equipment (golf clubs, home gym, etc.)
- _____ Latest gaming system
- _____ Upgraded TV (home entertainment system)
- _____ Online and mobile subscriptions



Major Purchases:

- _____ Home ownership
- _____ Annual vacation
- _____ Family car/truck/SUV
- _____ Boat/RV/ATV
- _____ Live off base
- _____ Swimming pool



Family / Personal:

- _____ Visits to family
- _____ Charitable donations or tithing
- _____ Extra money for R&R while deployed
- _____ Personal care (hairstylist/nails)
- _____ Clothes shopping
- _____ Latest smartphone

Note: Couples facing relationship stress due to differing financial values may wish to discuss their responses with a Personal Financial Manager (PFM) or Command Financial Specialist (CFS) to help get on the same page and discuss priorities.