

# PASSIONATE LOVE SCALE

## Reference:

Hatfield, E. & Sprecher, S. (1986). Measuring passionate love in intimate relations. *Journal of Adolescence*, 9, 383-410.

## Description of Measure:

A 30-item scale (often shrunk into a 15-item measure) designed to measure an individual's level of passionate love toward another person. Each item has a blank space where respondents are directed to fill in the name of their partner. Each item is answered on a 9-point scale ranging from 1 (not at all true) to 9 (definitely true).

## Abstracts of Selected Related Articles:

Hendrick, C., & Hendrick, S. S. (1989). Research on love: Does it measure up? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 56, 784-794.

Assessed 5 measures of love: the Love Attitudes Scale, the Triangular Theory of Love Scale, the Passionate Love Scale, the Relationship Rating Form, and a measure of love and attachment (Shaver & Hazan, 1987). The measures were given to 391 unmarried college students. Correlations revealed predictable relations among the subscales; however, psychometric analyses revealed problems in some of the measures. Factor analysis yielded 6 factors for the Love Attitudes Scale and 1 for the Passionate Love Scale, similar to previous research. Results for the Triangular Theory of Love Scale and for the Relationship Rating Form suggest strong interdependency among each measure's subscales. Factors analysis of all subscales together yielded 5 distinct factors, reflecting themes of passionate love, closeness, ambivalence, secure attachment, and practicality.

Fehr, B. (1988). Prototype analysis of the concepts of love and commitment. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 55, 557-579.

Analyzed lay conceptions of love and commitment from a prototype perspective. In Study 1, Ss listed the features of love and/or commitment. In Study 2, centrality (prototypicality) ratings of these features were obtained. In Study 3, central features were found to be more salient in memory than peripheral features. In Study 4, it was shown that it sounded peculiar to hedge central but not peripheral features. In Study 5, central features of love were expected to be more applicable than peripheral features as relationships increased in love. Similarly for commitment, central features were expected to be more applicable than peripheral features as relationships increased in commitment. In Study 6, violations of central features of love were perceived as contributing to a greater decrease in love than were violations of peripheral features. Similarly, violations of central features of commitment were perceived as contributing to a greater decrease in commitment than were violations of peripheral features. I concluded that the findings across several studies fit best with Kelley's (1983) description of love and commitment as largely overlapping but partially independent.

Fehr, B., & Russell, J. A. (1991). Concept of love viewed from a prototype perspective. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 60, 425-438.



Even if superordinate concepts (such as "fruit," "vehicle," "sport") are prototypically organized, basic-level concepts (such as "apple," "truck," "hockey") might be classically defined in terms of individually necessary and jointly sufficient features. A series of 6 studies examined 1 basic-level concept in the domain of emotion, "love," and found that it is better understood from a prototype than a classical perspective. The natural language concept of "love" has an internal structure and fuzzy borders: Maternal love, romantic love, affection, love of work, self-love, infatuation, and other subtypes of love can be reliably ordered from better to poorer examples of love. In turn, each subtype's goodness as an example of love (prototypicality) was found to predict various indices of its cognitive processing. Implications for a scientific definition and typology of love are discussed.

**Scale:**

1. Since I've been involved with \_\_\_\_\_, my emotions have been on a roller coaster.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
2. I would feel deep despair if \_\_\_\_\_ left me.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
3. sometimes my body trembles with excitement at the sight of \_\_\_\_\_  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
4. I take delight in studying the movements and angles of \_\_\_\_\_'s body.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
5. Sometimes I feel I can't control my thought; they are obsessively on \_\_\_\_\_.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
6. I feel happy when I am doing something to make \_\_\_\_\_ happy.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
7. I would rather be with \_\_\_\_\_ than anyone else.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
8. I'd get jealous if I thought \_\_\_\_\_ were falling in love with someone else.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
9. No one else could love \_\_\_\_\_ like I do.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
10. I yearn to know all about \_\_\_\_\_.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
11. I want \_\_\_\_\_ -- physically, emotionally, mentally.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
12. I will love \_\_\_\_\_ forever.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
13. I melt when looking deeply into \_\_\_\_\_'s eyes.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true



14. I have an endless appetite for affection from \_\_\_\_\_.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
15. For me, \_\_\_\_\_ is the perfect romantic partner.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
16. \_\_\_\_\_ is the person who can make me feel the happiest.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
17. I sense my body responding when \_\_\_\_\_ touches me.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
18. I feel tender toward \_\_\_\_\_.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
19. \_\_\_\_\_ always seems to be on my mind.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
20. If I were separated from \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time, I would feel intensely lonely.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
21. I sometimes find it difficult to concentrate on work because thoughts of \_\_\_\_\_ occupy my mind.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
22. I want \_\_\_\_\_ to know me – my thoughts, my fears, and my hopes.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
23. Knowing that \_\_\_\_\_ cares about me makes me feel complete.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
24. I eagerly look for signs indicating \_\_\_\_\_'s desire for me.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
25. If \_\_\_\_\_ were going through a difficult time, I would put away my own concerns to help him/her out.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
26. \_\_\_\_\_ can make me feel effervescent and bubbly.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
27. In the presence of \_\_\_\_\_, I yearn to touch and be touched.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
28. An existence without \_\_\_\_\_ would be dark and dismal.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
29. I possess a powerful attraction for \_\_\_\_\_.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
30. I get extremely depressed when things don't go right in my relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.  
not at all true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true

Note: Items 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 29, 30 make up the shortened version.

### Scoring:

Scoring is either kept continuous or broken into the following classifications (for the 15 item shortened version):

- 106-135 points = Wildly, even recklessly, in love.
- 86-105 points = Passionate, but less intense.
- 66-85 points = Occasional bursts of passion.
- 45-65 points = Tepid, infrequent passion.
- 15-44 points = The thrill is gone.

