

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 (hairdresser/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.