

Every couple is different. But the longer you've been together, the more likely it is that you've established some sort of couple identity. Whether it's a common past time or a shared work ethic that unites you, your couple personality can help you plan the perfect proposal, custom tailored for the woman of your dreams.



THE POWER COUPLE

You've earned your dream career and found your dream mate (and no, it's not your iPhone). It's only natural that two successful people like yourselves have found your way to each other.

THE CLASSIC APPROACH Spare No Expense on the Fancy Date

Power people make quite the chunk of change because of their dedication to their careers. It's quite possible your equally successful lady has been wined and dined by you before. Even though she's used to your romantic, fancy dates, kick it up a notch. Does she enjoy fancy dinners? Rent the whole restaurant just for the two of you. Used to taking a cab together and going out in her classy, little black dress? Send a limo to deliver the stylish dress she's been eyeing in the store window. Even if it takes some extra saving, if showering your woman with glitz and glamour is your thing, make sure you go above and beyond for this special night.

MODERN IDEA: The Faux Promotion Party

You're successful people. There's no denying that. So, I bet you she wouldn't be the least bit surprised if you announced that you're receiving a special honor at work and you need her to accompany you to a party dedicated to your greatness. As the proud girlfriend, who can identify with how hard you dedicate yourself to your career, she'd be more than happy to be your plus one. However, you're really inviting her to your engagement party (hiding her friends in the back with your co-workers as the decoys). Get your boss in on it too, and right when he's about to announce your "career honor," call her to the front and explain that the greatest honor you could ever receive isn't anything that has to do with your career, but rather her hand in marriage.

THE TRAVELING COUPLE

You love taking fun trips together. Whether it's trying the new restau-

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rant down the street or flying to a fun city for a romantic weekend. The best part is, you have the greatest travel buddy for life.

CLASSIC: Propose at an Exotic Location

Take your soon-to-be bride on the trip of her dreams. Visit someplace exotic or somewhere she's only ever dreamed of going. Try to find a magical spot to pop the question. Maybe see a beautiful castle in Ireland, have an intimate picnic in a desert oasis, or get down on one knee on the boat while exploring the Great Barrier Reef. Make sure to take LOTS of pictures and even if you aren't crafty, try to make a scrapbook afterward with all your adventurous proposal memories (Shutterfly.Com does great work for the scrapbooking challenged).

MODERN: Propose at an Airport

You both may enjoy traveling to new and exciting places together, but what about the unexpected? Why not go on that same awesome trip mentioned in the classic proposal, but don't propose until at the airport? As you both descend on the escalator toward baggage claim, you could have friends meet you with signs spelling out "Will you marry me?" All your past amazing trips had to start somewhere like an airport. Why not start this new journey in life in one as well? For a real modern twist, propose BEFORE the trip. Then you have the whole vacation to celebrate your new future together. And the best part? She would never expect an airport proposal. Just take care to make it special and not lackluster.

THE FUN COUPLE

You both have a reputation for just being really big kids. When it comes to dates, you've always preferred hot dogs to filet mignon and cotton candy to Baked Alaska.

CLASSIC: Go on Super Fun Date

Is the state fair in town? Do you have access to a theme park you love? Is there a playground nearby where the two of you often swing like kids at night? Take your sweetie on the date of her dreams with



junk food, games and even prizes. Just because marriage is an adult step, that doesn't mean you have to be boring and stuffy about it. Be yourselves and live life in the moment. Add an extra splash of charm by proposing in a photo booth at the end of your childhood-reliving date, presenting the ring in the last frame. There's nothing like a snapshot of the actual moment your future wife says, "Yes!"

MODERN: Make Your own Game.

If there's one thing that's true about the two of you, it's that you love to have fun. Chances are you are the Charade champions among your circle of friends. So, since you treat life like one big game, why not ask her to spend the rest of her life with you by playing one? Design your own game (board or card), and try to personalize it with things about the two of you if you want to be extra sentimental. Maybe even commandeer an old "The Game of Life" board and make each square about your own personal love story. Then (after rigging her to win of course), give her a heartfelt speech about how fun she has made your life and without her, everything would be dull. Not only has she won the game, but she has won your heart. Then show her the ring!

THE NIGHT LIFE COUPLE

You're the couple who could spend all night dancing, partying and losing track of time. Nothing is more thrilling than a night on the town living it up with your favorite night owl.

CLASSIC: Propose in Bed

Let's be honest, your fast-paced lifestyle isn't really proposal friendly. Going from club to club, dodging crazies and surrounding yourself with the best and loudest music you can find—although thrilling—doesn't make for an eloquent proposal. Plus, you don't want to risk losing the ring during all the partying. Do yourself a favor and switch

gears with this proposal. While you both enjoy the fast-paced ecstasy of nightlife, nothing beats the post-partying rest at the end of the night. Wait until you're cuddled up sweetly in bed (either before falling asleep or after waking up the next morning after the night of your life) and pop the question in bed. (Make sure to comment on her adorable bed head or at least have breakfast on standby).

MODERN: Find a Silent Disco

Ever hear of the new phenomenon that's hopping the pond and becoming a new trend in the U.S.? Silent discos are dance clubs where everyone wears big headphones blaring the dance music. Not only is it a quirky new trend worth giving a try, but the perk to the headphones is that whenever anyone wants to have a conversation in the club, all they have to do is take off their musical headgear and use their inside voices. No more shouting, "What?!" into each other's ears. When the moment is right, you can propose right there on the dance floor in romantic silence, while still being surrounded by the thrilling party atmosphere you both love as a couple.

THE SPORTY COUPLE

Whether you're rooting for the same team or glaring sweetly at each other while donning opposing team jerseys, you're that fun, competitive couple who looks forward to sporting events like a kid waiting for Santa.

CLASSIC: The Big Sign

While sometimes overdone, for the right lady, this classic approach is just what she needs. Score tickets to the sporting event you and her have been DYING to go to and arrange to ask her with a REALLY big sign. This could be the Jumbotron, a blimp, a sky writer or even fellow fans you find in a crowd who are willing to hold up "Will you marry me" signs. Extra points if it's the actual players holding the signs. Be careful not to make this cheesy and be positive this is the sort of thing you lady would like before attempting such a public proposal.

MODERN: The Friendly Game

Plan for a day with lots of friends, barbeque and game of soccer, football, rugby (or any sport you like). All your friends would love to be a part of this day, especially since there's food involved. Make sure she plays on the other team, or if she prefers to sit on the sidelines and cheer you on, that's ok too. Tell both teams that they have to come up with some sort of "half-time show." You'll need to either make or order custom jerseys for your team with one or two letters on each shirt spelling "Will you marry me?" Keep the players scrambled as they play. She won't even notice since she'll think you're just being weird having "W" on someone's jersey instead of number 5. At the half-time show, have the other team go first. Then



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when it's your turn, do a song, dance, or chant that somehow honors your girl and end it with all your friends finally getting in order, revealing the message on their shirts. She'll never see it coming!

THE OUTDOORSY COUPLE

Just like you are one with each other, you both enjoy being at one with nature. You like to get away from the hustle and bustle of the world and enjoy stopping to smell the roses—especially together.

CLASSIC: The Weekend Getaway

You've always enjoyed hiking and picnics, so why not make a special weekend of it? Either invest in top of the line camping gear or get extra fancy and rent a cabin somewhere in the heart of nature. Make sure to bring marshmallows for s'mores and get ready to cuddle by the fire. There are tons of romantic opportunities to pop the question: sunrises, sunsets, star-gazing—seriously, you can't go wrong. Fresh picked wildflowers would be a perfect touch as well. The bright side is, even if the weather is less than ideal, this weekend will

still score high on the romantic scale (hello, Notebook-esque kissing in the rain scene).

MODERN: The Hiking Adventure

Plan an epic hiking path somewhere through the woods, park or mountains. It doesn't matter if it's your regular route or one you've never taken together. However, be sure to scout out the area thoroughly beforehand. Once you've planned your route, make some sort of markings or signs to designate the path. They can be as simple as tree scratches or as obvious as arrows (try to make them not look like an animal did it though). When you're on the hike with your sweetie, you'll both "stumble" across the strange markings. Convince her that you guys should go on an adventure and see where they lead, all the while acting like you're surprised to see them too. At the end of the great hike, you'll find a small box. Have her open it only to see a note that says, "Look behind you." And there you'll be, already down on one knee with the ring in hand. Extra points will be scored if you had a romantic picnic planned nearby.

THE FASHIONABLE COUPLE

You're that couple that looks like they've walked straight out of a magazine. You both enjoy looking your best and you don't mind going with your lady when she decides to pick out a new outfit.

CLASSIC: The Shopping Spree

Your lady loves fashion, so why not treat her to the ultimate shopping spree of her dreams? Take her to a store she loves or has always wanted to go shopping in and help her pick out any outfit of her choosing — your treat. Tell her it's for the very special date you have planned. Once your love is pampered, take her out for the



most lavish date she's ever been on. She'll love looking like a model as the two of you hit the fancy restaurant or theater. As you're about to get to your date destination, tell her you have one more accessory that will complete her new look: the engagement ring.

MODERN: The Photo Shoot

Start with the same idea as the classic shopping spree proposal, but take it to the ultimate level. After you've gotten your future bride all dolled up and feeling like a star, tell her you have a big surprise planned. Bring her to a romantic picturesque place and tell her you've booked a photo shoot for the two of you. Totally splurge on booking a real photographer or beg a friend just starting out in the biz who'll do it for free or at a discount. She'll love the attention of looking like a model with her favorite good-looking man. But when she least expects it, drop to your knee and propose. The photographer will be able to catch the whole thing as it unfolds. Talk about having a killer Facebook album afterward.

By Nikki Roberti

IMPORTANT PERSONALITY TRAITS TO CONSIDER:

- If she's shy...**
Don't propose publically.
- If she hates clichés...**
Don't do overdone proposals. No baseball Jumbotrons or flash mobs for you.
- If simple things make her happy...**
Sometimes less is more. Don't let your proposal be lost in flashiness.
- If she loves surprises...**
Don't tell her you've already bought the ring.
- If she likes over-the-top grand gestures...**
Make sure you take time to plan instead of acting on a whim.