

# \$10 Date Ideas

Compiled by April and Eric Perry

*Below is a list of several simple date ideas that can provide you with tons of fun as you continue your courtship. We encourage you to add to this list and enjoy a weekly date night throughout your entire marriage.*

**Take YouTube dance lessons together.** Think about it: Even 30 minutes can bring you closer together and give you some great moves to show off at the next dance party. You can learn the Cha-Cha, Swing, Hip Hop, Ballroom . . . the sky is the limit.

**Make your own chocolate-covered strawberries.** It really doesn't get easier than this. Buy strawberries and easy-melt chocolate, and then enjoy them together on a cozy night in. You can cover them with chopped nuts, coconut, white chocolate, or sprinkles. This can even be a fun family activity.

**Record an audio file where you explain what you love most about each other.** You can use a tape recorder, a digital voice recorder, or a free online podcasting service ([www.freeconferencecall.com](http://www.freeconferencecall.com)). Just find a way that works for you, and invest some time creating an audio keepsake. Have fun with it - this will be something you can replay whenever you want to remember the magic.

**Pick beautiful wildflowers together** (or flowers that you don't think anyone will mind if you take). Go for a drive, pick out your favorites, and put them in a small vase in your home.

**Enjoy an at-home Karaoke night.** How fun would it be to pull out the Karaoke machine (or borrow one from a friend) and sing your hearts out together? If you don't have access to an actual machine, try [www.karaokeparty.com](http://www.karaokeparty.com). You can record your vocal masterpieces and even share them with the world.

**Go on an “A-Z” Date.** Alternate choosing activities that start with each letter of the alphabet. Each of you can get three “passes” if you don’t like the suggested activity, but this could become one of your favorite memories. “A” could be “Ask me what I like best about you.” “I” could be “ice cream,” “F” could be “foot massage.” The fun is in the creativity—and seriously, this takes two minutes to prep.

**Buy tickets to something fun—and make a “Countdown Calendar.”** You can generally find inexpensive tickets to a nearby event—a high school play, a discounted movie theater, etc. But the fun comes in creating the “Countdown Calendar,” where you take five or six index cards and label them, “Three Days Left,” etc. You could also write a brief love note on each card for your spouse to enjoy. The anticipation will make this date night wonderful.

**Make homemade pizzas with friends.** Double dates are wonderful. Buy or make some pizza dough, ask friends to bring some extra toppings, and then enjoy a nice dinner together, complete with some fun board games to follow. (We like Rummikub and Bananagrams.)

**Start recording the history of your relationship.** The two of you are making history . . . Investing a little time and money *preserving* that history is a gift you’ll give generations to come. You can make audio recordings, a blog, a scrapbook, a special journal (or something else you think will be great). Sitting down together and recording memories of your first date, the proposal, the wedding, etc., will create an absolute treasure for your whole family.

**Make a new breakfast recipe together.** Websites like [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com) have tons of great breakfast recipes, and who says you can’t have breakfast for dinner? Shop together for the ingredients, and enjoy a tasty meal.

**Buy/borrow a new lawn game and enjoy some active outdoor fun.** Lawn games aren’t just for kids...or residents of senior centers. Getting outside to play games together creates romantic memories and provides some much-needed fresh air. We like croquet, lasso-golf, and Swingball.

**Relive childhood fun by running through the sprinklers.** During the warmer months of the year, create a temporary oasis to take a break from the busyness and heat. All you need is a little grassy space, the garden hose, and a sprinkler head. If the neighbors stop and stare, just smile and invite them to join in the fun too.

**Get away with a half-gallon of the good stuff.** Pick a favorite serene spot where you can go just to relax - perhaps a favorite beach, a lake, the park, or even a hideaway in your own yard. Pack up a nice blanket, two bowls, two spoons, and a half-gallon (or more) of the flavors of ice cream you both like best. Steal away for a half-hour or more, relax and enjoy one another's company, and take time to talk, dream, and laugh together.

**Plan a private campout — right at home.** Set up a tent in your backyard or living room (a blanket-tent will do), and devote an evening to enjoying one another's company. It might be a good idea to have the makings of s'mores on hand, along with romantic music for the occasion. This could also turn into a fun movie night if you have a battery-powered laptop or if you set up the tent in front of the television. This is so easy, but so fun!

**Take turns planning a simple "Mystery Date" for each other.** Pick a time slot that will work for your spouse, and announce the date in a mysterious way (on a note in a cereal box, a message on a mirror in dry erase marker, etc.) The date itself can be quite simple: frozen yogurt, roller skating, etc., but it will be more fun because it's unexpected. Use a blindfold if you really want each stop to be a surprise.

**Make personalized fortune cookies.** There are tons of easy recipes and how-to videos online. Get the ingredients in advance, write up "fortunes" for each other, and make some sweet treats to enjoy throughout the week.

**Create a "Date Night Jar."** One evening, when the two of you are feeling rested and happy, cut a piece of paper into several strips and write out as many creative date activities as you can dream up. (Things like, "Learn to Play Chess," or "Rent Bikes at the Beach.") Then you can pick from the jar each week and recycle the ideas you liked the best.

(And if you come up with some dates you'd like to share with others, please send them to us so we can share the love! Enjoy your dates!