

A COMPANION TO THE TWO-PEN RELATIONSHIP
WORKBOOK FOR COUPLES

The Two-Pen Conversation Deck

Thirty dual-write prompts for the two of you — your pen, their pen, then talk. For date nights, long drives, and the quiet Sundays after the workbook is full.

How to run a card

Every card works the same way — the Two-Pen way. You'll need the deck, two pens, and anything to write on: the backs of envelopes, a shared note on your phones, a five-dollar notebook that becomes an heirloom.

- 1 Pick one card.**
Any suit, any order. One card is a whole sitting — resist the urge to run three.
- 2 Write separately first.**
A few quiet minutes, each answering in your own words — no reading over shoulders. The first-honest-draft is the whole point of the two pens.
- 3 Read each other's aloud.**
Read your partner's answer, or let them read it to you. Ask one curious question before you say anything else.
- 4 Close forward.**
Every card ends the same way: a thank-you for something you just heard, or one small step, or one thing on the calendar. Warm close, every time.

Your own experience only. Every prompt asks about you, or about the two of you — never for a verdict on your partner. Write in your own words, about your own side of things.

Share only what you're ready to. Any card can be answered at whatever depth feels right tonight. "I'll tell you that one another day" is always a full answer.

Either of you can pause. If a card lands heavier than expected, either partner can set it down. Water, ten minutes, another card — or another night. Pausing is part of the method.

No score-keeping. The deck has no ledger. Nothing here is evidence for later.

Noticed & Appreciated

For remembering out loud.

1

A moment this month when I felt genuinely proud to be with you — the scene, and what you did.

CLOSE Say the thank-you that goes with it.

2

Something you do that quietly makes my days easier, that I probably don't thank you for enough.

CLOSE Thank each other properly, once, now.

3

A small, ordinary scene with you I'd happily relive — and what made it so good.

CLOSE Pick one you could recreate this month, and put it on the calendar.

4

Something I've watched you get better at since we met, and what it's meant to me.

CLOSE One sentence of congratulations each, said aloud.

5

The compliment I'd most love to hear from you — and one I've been saving up to give you.

CLOSE Trade them, out loud, no deflecting.

6

A time you showed up for me without being asked. What I want you to know about what that did.

CLOSE Each name one small way to show up for the other this week.

Still Curious

Because the person you married keeps becoming someone new.

7

Something I've changed my mind about in the last year — big or small — and what changed it.

CLOSE Ask each other one curious question about what you heard.

8

A dream I've never quite said out loud. (At whatever depth feels right tonight.)

CLOSE Thank your partner for what they trusted you with.

9

What a perfect ordinary Saturday looks like to me these days, hour by hour.

CLOSE Steal one hour from each version and plan a Saturday with both.

10

Something that's been sitting on my mind lately — and one small thing that helps when I'm carrying it.

CLOSE Each name the one helpful thing, so the other doesn't have to guess.

11

A place I'd love to see with you someday — and why that one, with you.

CLOSE Pick the nearer of the two and name the first tiny step toward it.

12

Something new I'd love us to learn or try together this year.

CLOSE Choose one to actually try, and set the first date.

The Us We're Building

Wishes pointed forward, at the two of you.

13

One thing about how we run an ordinary week that I'd protect no matter how busy life gets.

CLOSE Agree on the one thing you'll both guard this month.

14

What I hope people quietly say about the two of us ten years from now.

CLOSE Name one small habit that points in that direction.

15

A tradition we don't have yet that I'd love to start — weekly, yearly, or once-in-a-while.

CLOSE Pick one and schedule its first run.

16

The next thing I'm genuinely excited about for us.

CLOSE Tell each other what you're most looking forward to about it.

17

One small upgrade to our mornings or evenings I'd love us to try for a single week.

CLOSE Pick one experiment. One week. Start tomorrow.

18

What "home" feels like to me when it's at its very best — and one way to get more of that.

CLOSE Each choose one "more of that" you can give this week.

Closer

Warmth, said plainly.

19

When I feel closest to you — the actual moments, as specifically as I can name them.

CLOSE Notice what your moments have in common, together.

20

How I most like to be comforted on a hard day — what helps, and what (kindly) doesn't.

CLOSE Thank your partner for the instruction manual. Keep it.

21

A way you make me feel safe that I've maybe never named out loud.

CLOSE Let it land. Say thank you, nothing else needed.

22

The kind of everyday affection I never get tired of — the small gestures that always reach me.

CLOSE Each pick one from the other's list to give more freely.

23

A memory of us I go back to when we're apart, and why it's that one.

CLOSE Plan the next memory worth keeping — small counts.

24

Something I find beautiful about you that has nothing to do with how you look.

CLOSE Read them to each other twice. The second time is the one that lands.

Lighter

Because laughing together is also the work.

25

The funniest thing that's ever happened to the two of us — told from my seat.

CLOSE Compare versions. Argue cheerfully about the details.

26

If we had one whole day, no budget and no chores, here's the day I'd plan for us.

CLOSE Build the affordable version of one of them, and book it.

27

A tiny talent of yours I'm quietly a fan of.

CLOSE Request a live demonstration.

28

The song, meal, or place that is completely, unmistakably "us" to me — and why.

CLOSE Put one of them into this week somewhere.

29

My favorite inside joke of ours, and the exact moment it was born.

CLOSE If you remember it differently, both versions are now canon.

30

The story of us I most love telling other people.

CLOSE Tell it to each other tonight, the long version, with all the detours.

WHEN THE DECK RUNS LOW

Keep the pens moving

Thirty cards will carry you a long way — most couples find their favorites and run them again, and a card answered in March reads completely differently in November. Repeats aren't cheating; they're the point. You are both still becoming someone slightly new, and the deck only works because you keep showing up to find out who.

If a sitting ever goes sideways — a card lands heavier than planned, or the talk drifts somewhere hard — set the deck down and reach for what you already know: warm first, one small forward step, and the pause that either of you is always allowed to call. The deck is for closeness, not for working the hard things; the hard things deserve their own honest hour, in daylight, with the tools from the workbook.

And keep your weekly **Reset Ritual** running underneath it all — fifteen minutes, four beats, same time every week. The deck is dessert. The Reset is dinner.

Same side, always.

— *Philippe*

The Two-Pen Conversation Deck is a free companion to *The Two-Pen Relationship Workbook for Couples* by Philippe Martin. It is general information and encouragement for couples — not therapy, and not a substitute for professional advice. If something in your relationship feels beyond a deck of cards, a licensed couples therapist is the right next step, and reaching for one is a strength. © 2026 Philippe Martin · philippemartinbooks.com