

Intimate Relationships

FOURTH EDITION

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TABLE 2.4. The Relationship Assessment Scale

Circle the answer below each question that best describes your current romantic relationship.

1. How well does your partner meet your needs?				
1	2	3	4	5
not at all	somewhat	moderately well	very well	extremely well
2. In general, how satisfied are you with your relationship?				
1	2	3	4	5
not at all	somewhat	moderately	very	extremely
3. How good is your relationship compared to most?				
1	2	3	4	5
not at all	somewhat	moderately	very	extremely
4. How often do you wish you hadn't gotten into this relationship?				
1	2	3	4	5
never	rarely	occasionally	often	very often
5. To what extent has your relationship met your original expectations?				
1	2	3	4	5
not at all	somewhat	moderately well	very well	extremely well
6. How much do you love your partner?				
1	2	3	4	5
not at all	somewhat	moderately	very much	extremely
7. How many problems are there in your relationship?				
1	2	3	4	5
none	a few	some	many	very many

To determine your score, reverse the ratings you provided on items 4 and 7. If you circled a 1, change it to a 5; if you answered 2, make it a 4; 4 becomes 2, and 5 becomes 1. Then add up your answers. The higher your score, the more content you are with your relationship.

Source: Hendrick, Dicke, & Hendrick, 1998.

Participants' Interpretations of the Questions

Self-reports always occur in response to a researcher's instructions or questions. If the participants misinterpret what the researcher means or intends, their subsequent self-reports can be misleading. For instance, what do you think virginity means? Berger and Wenger (1973) found that 41 percent of their participants (who were both men and women) accepted "she brings herself to climax" as a possible way for a woman to lose her virginity! Thus, even an apparently simple question such as "Are you a virgin?" could be misunderstood, generating false conclusions. In fact, undetected problems with people's comprehension of terms describing sexual behavior may be a major problem in sexuality research (Wiederman, 2004).