

A photograph of a young man and woman smiling at each other in a kitchen. The woman has long blonde hair and is wearing a blue polka-dot shirt. The man has a beard and is wearing a blue button-down shirt. The background shows a kitchen with a window and shelves.

# 30 CLEVER HOME DATES

It's that time of night. The kitchen is clean. The kids are tucked in early. You made the commitment not to watch another episode of CSI or The Mindy Project.

Tonight is your home date. The night when you stay home, do something fun, romantic, adventurous, or creative. Well, at least as fun, romantic, adventurous, and creative as you can get while staying in the confines of your home with your children sleeping in the next room.

My husband, Brandon, and I have three biological children and one foster child, so we understand the need to think out-of-the-box when it comes to dating. We don't always have time or childcare to go on a "real date." But that doesn't mean we don't need or want alone time together. Which is why home dates are so crucial to creating and maintaining connection.

1. Cook something very intricate and adult, something the kids would never eat (think past chicken nuggets and pizza). Pair it with a bottle of wine and you're good to go!
2. Make a list of the Academy Award nominated movies, then work your way through the list (this might take you several date nights).
3. Make fondue.
4. Play board games like Battle of the Sexes, Loaded Questions, or What?!? Oh... The Game of Couples Banter.
5. Write each other a love letter.
6. Make a fire and have a carpet picnic.
7. Create your own wine tasting.
8. Read excerpts from your journal to one another (especially if you kept your journal from college, high school, or junior high).

9. Bake something together.
10. Have a YouTube date by taking turns finding hilarious clips on YouTube.
11. Play video games together.
12. Create a time capsule and burry it in the backyard.
13. Have a Nerf war in the backyard.
14. Conduct a "Year in Review." Ask yourself these three questions:
  - a. Where have we been?
  - b. Where are we now?
  - c. Where are we going?
15. Romantic alone time. Need I saw more?
16. Create an "At Home Spa" date.
17. Play "Would You Rather?" You can buy the card game or make up your own questions.
18. Give each other massages.
19. Look through each other's high school yearbooks and swap stories.
20. Go outside and stargaze.
21. Do a workout video or YouTube workout together.
22. Play Frisbee outside.
23. If you don't have kids, camp overnight in the backyard. If you do have kids, it's still fun to take the baby monitor outside, pitch the tent, turn on the lantern for romance, and spend some time outdoors.
24. Work on a home project together, such as painting a piece of furniture.
25. Put a puzzle together while sipping a latte or cappuccino.
26. Eat breakfast in bed (for dinner).
27. Plan your bucket list for the 1 next year, 5 years, 10 years, and life.
29. Write your family mission statement.
30. Look through your family photo albums together and reminisce.

If you found this helpful, you might want to check out my eBook, [How to Transform a Good Marriage Into a Great Marriage](#).

