

Table 1.1 Defining Features of the Two Main Domains of Mating Intelligence

	<i>Courtship Displays</i>	<i>Mating Mechanisms</i>
Definition	Displays of intellect, personality, emotions, and creativity that are attractive to potential mates	Cognitive processes that deal with mating-relevant issues
Example	Ray Charles' vocal and piano virtuosity	Paying attention to cues regarding whether one's mate has cheated sexually
Relationship to mating	Indirect	Direct
Focus	Focus is on some area that is not tied directly to mating (e.g., social extraversion, linguistics, art, poetry)	Focus is on specific aspects of mating (e.g., assessing mate value, analyzing cues of infidelity)
Purpose	To help attract high-quality mates	To help people navigate the waters of human mating

Table 6.1 Male Short-Term Mating Judgment Example

	<i>A</i>	<i>B (rated as sexual by trained judges)</i>	<i>C</i>
Item	I'm pretty busy working all week, but that doesn't stop me from having fun, usually out and about a couple nights during the week and always doing something fun and exciting on the weekend.	I've been described as a very energetic individual. I like to think of myself as someone with a lot of positive energy. I'm new to the area, looking to meet new people. I'm a man in a uniform looking for some fun.	I'm spontaneous and I like to try new things. I enjoy diversity, cultures, art, science, nature, good food and intelligent conversation. I'm happy in the city or the country. I like to draw strange portraits. I believe there is an order to the chaos and vice versa.
Actual male percentages (guessing female choices)	26%	49%	25%
Expected percentages (based on actual female choices)	23%	29%	48%

*This table was reproduced with permission from Geher's (2009) article published in *Evolutionary Psychology*. For each of the 10 clusters of personal ads, an analysis was computed to determine whether males' guesses regarding what females wanted in short-term mates were significantly discordant from females' actual reported desires.

Table 6.2 Female Short-Term Mating Judgment Example

	A	B (rated as sexual by trained judges)	C
Item	Who said chivalry was dead? Open doors for me, and I will be your mate. I will rub your back when you throw up and listen to you complain about your boss. I will make your favorite sandwich when you wake up hungry in the night.	I am searching for a fling of epic proportions, someone to caress my face as we kiss and who will write me love notes and leave them under my door—but will not get upset with me if I decide to kiss another man. Human beings are not meant to be paired for life, like lobsters.	I am the kind of girl who loves to sing. I know all the words to Grease , and I think that love can be a musical. I love to break out into song on a daily basis. I am looking for someone who can make my heart sing.
Actual female percentages (guessing male choices)	35%	53%	17%
Expected percentages (based on actual male choices)	54%	24%	22%

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For each of the 10 clusters of personal ads, an analysis was computed to determine whether females' guesses regarding what males wanted in short-term mates were significantly discordant from males' actual reported desires.

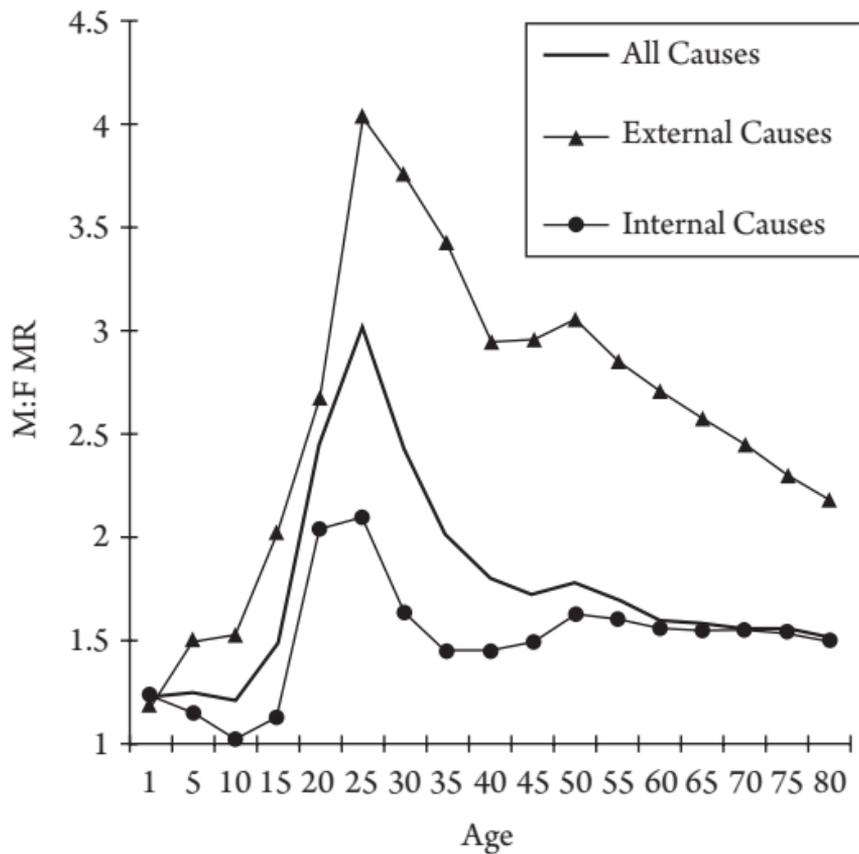


Figure 9.1: 2001 U.S. male-to-female mortality ratio for all causes, external causes, and internal causes of death. (Kruger & Nesse, 2007).

Take the Test!

In this final section of this chapter, you'll find the Mating Intelligence Scale (in full) along with a scoring key and a breakdown of which items go with which facets of mating intelligence. Have fun!

FOR MEN

1. ___ I think most women just like me as a friend.
2. ___ I have slept with many beautiful women.
3. ___ I'm pretty good at knowing if a woman is attracted to me.
4. ___ I'm definitely not the best at taking care of kids.
5. ___ I'm good at saying the right things to women I flirt with.
6. ___ I haven't had as many sexual partners compared with other guys I know (who are my age).
7. ___ I have a difficult time expressing complex ideas to others.
8. ___ I am good at picking up signals of interest from women.
9. ___ I'm definitely near the top of the status totem pole in my social circles.
10. ___ I doubt that I'll ever be a huge financial success.
11. ___ If I wanted to, I could convince a woman that I'm really a prince from some little-known European country.
12. ___ Honestly, I don't get women at all!
13. ___ Women tend to flirt with me pretty regularly.
14. ___ If a woman doesn't seem interested in me, I figure she doesn't know what she's missing!
15. ___ Women definitely find me attractive.
16. ___ I've dated many intelligent women.
17. ___ People tell me that I have a great sense of humor.
18. ___ When I lie to women, I always get caught!
19. ___ I am usually wrong about who is interested in me romantically.
20. ___ It's hard for me to get women to see my virtues.
21. ___ At parties, I tend to tell stories that catch the attention of women.
22. ___ I'm not very talented in the arts.
23. ___ I can attract women, but they rarely end up interested in me sexually.
24. ___ When a woman smiles at me, I assume she's just being friendly.

FOR WOMEN

1. ___ I can tell when a man is being genuine and sincere in his affections toward me.
2. ___ I doubt I could ever pull off cheating on my beau.
3. ___ I look younger than most women my age.
4. ___ When a guy doesn't seem interested in me, I take it personally and assume something is wrong with me.
5. ___ Good-looking guys never seem into me.
6. ___ I have a sense of style and wear clothes that make me look sexy.
7. ___ I attract many wealthy, successful men.
8. ___ Honestly, I don't think I understand men at all!
9. ___ With me, a guy gets what he sees—no pretenses here.
10. ___ If I wanted to make my current guy jealous, I could easily get the attention of other guys.
11. ___ Men don't tend to be interested in my mind.
12. ___ I'm definitely more creative than most people.
13. ___ I hardly ever know when a guy likes me romantically.
14. ___ I laugh a lot at men's jokes.
15. ___ If a guy doesn't want to date me, I figure he doesn't know what he's missing!
16. ___ I am not very artistic.
17. ___ My current beau spends a lot of money on material items for me (such as jewelry).
18. ___ I am usually right on the money about a man's intentions toward me.
19. ___ I really don't have a great body compared with other women I know.
20. ___ Intelligent guys never seem interested in dating me.
21. ___ I believe that most men are actually more interested in long-term relationships than they're given credit for.
22. ___ Most guys who are nice to me are just trying to get into my pants.
23. ___ When it comes down to it, I think most men want to get married and have children.
24. ___ If I have sex with a man too soon, I know he will leave me.

How high is your mating intelligence? The Mating Intelligence Scale included here was created by us for a *Psychology Today* article on mating intelligence, published a few years ago. There are two versions, one for heterosexual males and one for heterosexual females. Each test is designed to provide a rough guide to your relationship effectiveness—not a definitive statement about individual character. To take the test, simply answer True or False for each of the 24 items under the test that pertains to you. Scroll to the end for scoring—and note that however you score, mating intelligence is a malleable dimension of human psychology!

How to Tally your Mating Intelligence Score

FOR MALES

Give yourself one point for every T answer to questions 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 21. Add one point for every F answer to items 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24.

FOR FEMALES

Give yourself one point for every T answer to questions 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, and 24. Add one point for every F answer to items 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 23.

Based on a recent study (O'Brien et al., 2010), male scores tend to average about 12.3, whereas the female average is about 10.5. And there is a lot of variability in scores within each sex.

<i>Mating Intelligence Facet</i>	<i>Male Version</i>	<i>Female Version</i>
Accurate Cross-Sex Mind-Reading (this facet addresses how well you can read the mating-relevant thoughts of the opposite sex)	Items 3, 8, 12, 19	Items 1, 8, 13, 18
Adaptive Self-Deception in Mating Domain (this facet addresses the tendency to inflate your value as a mate in your understanding of yourself)	Items 4, 9, 10, 14	Items 3, 4, 15, 19
Adaptive Mate-Deception (this facet addresses how well you can deceive mates in a way that may be adaptive)	Items 5, 11, 18, 20	Items 2, 6, 9, 10
Effective Behavioral Courtship Display (this facet addresses your abilities related to creative intelligence, which are attractive to potential mates)	Items 7, 17, 21, 22	Items 11, 12, 14, 16
Adaptive Bias (for males, this facet speaks to oversexualizing women; for females, this facet speaks to commitment skepticism)	Items 1, 13, 15, 24	Items 21, 22, 23, 24

Self-Reported Mating Success (this facet is something of an outcome hypothesized to follow from mating intelligence—how successful are you in the mating game?)

Items 2, 6, 16, 23

Items 5, 7, 17, 20

Boldfaced Items are “reversed”—thought about as reflecting “low mating intelligence”

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Note that this scale and these instructions were published in *Psychology Today* (January, 2007). The re-publication here was done with the written consent of *Psychology Today*.