



PRESSEINFORMATION · PRESS RELEASE
COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE · COMUNICADO DE PRENSA
INFORMAÇÕES PARA A IMPRENSA

Cards, kisses and lots of love

On 14th February it's once again time for all lovers to celebrate their emotions. For anyone who wants to give a gift to their loved one or even buy themselves a present if they are single: our ideas and surprises will make the heart sing.

Say "I love you" in another way

For most couples, saying those three magic words for the first time is a big step. But many other phrases are also important in a relationship. One of the strongest tokens of love is the phrase: I love you just as you are. This demonstrates that it's really all about the person and not one's own ideal. On Valentine's Day write these messages on red post-it notes and place them where your partner is sure to notice them: bathroom mirror, jam jar, smartphone, handbag.

Give him the perfect gift

On the day of love, women often receive flowers, but is anyone thinking about the men? This time, yes. If your partner loves fast cars, take him for a spin after work in a rented sports car. Maybe the man of your dreams would also love to spend a few hours as a pilot in a flight simulator – gift experience websites offer simulated flights in many cities. If he enjoys painting, or would like to learn more about art history or technical drawing: Faber-Castell offers excellent seminars at its Academy in Stein by Nuremberg. Take a look: <http://www.akademie-faber-castell.de/en/faber-castell-academy-study-education-youth-arts.html>. Vouchers can also be issued for the seminars. More information: verwaltung@akademie-faber-castell.de

Give her the perfect gift

Some women want flowers on the day of love, others prefer a romantic dinner. Most women would like more help in the home throughout the year. Dr Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the German Parliament, is also aware of this, and on the 100th anniversary of the introduction of women's voting rights, he reminded us that cleaning, washing and tidying are also jobs for the men. So this year, you can give the perfect gift on Valentine's Day: housework vouchers. Pretty examples are available on the internet. But remember: give the voucher with a bouquet of her favourite flowers.

Take yourself out on a date

Valentine's Day and single? Still a cause for celebration. Because, as a single person, you must admire, respect and accept yourself every day. So, on 14th February, give self-love a boost. How do you treat yourself? Take a short break, attend a cookery course - or write a list of at least 25 things that you like about yourself. Your curves, having a direct nature, being able to let go. This list is important because you can look at it when you're having a bad day and give yourself a boost with your own declarations of love.

Speak through the words of others

When it comes to our deepest feelings, we often have to search for the right words. Many people notice this in particular when they try to write a love letter. There are professional writers of love letters who can help. But it doesn't often have to be like that. For many lovers, it is more important that the gesture comes from the heart. It is also lovely and touching to cite well-known quotes while looking them straight in the eye. A quote for anyone who has been in a relationship for a longer time: "Love is not just looking at each other, it's looking in the same direction" from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. If you so desire, write the quote on a home-made card. The Petit Prince hand lettering tutorial is perfect for this: <https://www.fabercastell.com/tutorials/Artists/handlettering-petit-prince>

Stay offline on the day of love

How often on a typical day do you look at your smartphone whilst sitting next to your partner? This is valuable time that you could be spending together. Researchers at the University of Virginia have determined that it is sufficient for couples to look at one another, talk to each other and really take each other seriously for just 90 seconds each day. Attentiveness is the magic word when it comes to love. So on Valentine's Day your partner is most important, not your smartphone. If you can't spontaneously think of anything to say: take a piece of paper and a pen, write down compliments and press them into the hand of your loved one. This is fun and an opportunity to learn something new about each other.

Realise your heart's desires

A week before Valentine's Day, write down three or four little ideas on a note and place them in two glasses. Use two glasses because on the day of love, you can then realise one of your own ideas and one of your partner's: plan the next holiday over wine and pizza. Write down what else you want to experience together. Let off heart-shaped balloons with wishes for the relationship. Go dancing and kiss like teenagers.



Pure romance: On Valentine's Day, handwritten messages remain extremely popular.
Product: Guilloche fountain pen from Graf von Faber-Castell. Photo credits: Faber-Castell



Celebrate love with personal words on Valentine's Day – and calligraphy.
Product: Tamitio Calligraphy Set by Graf von Faber-Castell. Photo credits: Faber-Castell

Faber-Castell is one of the world's leading companies for high-quality products for writing, drawing and creativity as well as decorative cosmetic products. With over two billion pencils and pens per year and around 8,000 employees, Faber-Castell is one of the most important manufacturers of wooden pencils in the world. Today the company is represented in over 120 countries and has its own production facilities in nine countries and sales subsidiaries in 23 countries. The industrial company Faber-Castell, which was established in 1761, is one of the oldest companies in the world and has been owned by the same family for nine generations. The company owes its leading position in the international market to a traditional commitment to the highest quality and the large number of product innovations.

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