

cashew chicken cheesecake

1. Verb _____
2. Adjective _____
3. Adjective _____
4. Number _____
5. Number _____
6. Number _____
7. Verb - Present Tense _____
8. Noun _____
9. Noun _____
10. Verb - Present Tense _____
11. Verb - Present Tense _____
12. Adjective _____
13. Noun _____
14. Verb - Present Ends In Ing _____
15. Number _____
16. Adjective _____
17. Adjective _____
18. Noun _____
19. Noun _____
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34. Noun _____
35. Noun _____
36. Noun _____

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As my wife began to _____ Verb _____ over her cashew chicken, our marriage was forever changed.

We have never had a bad year

That is the truth. There have been moments that were _____ Adjective _____ or _____ Adjective _____ but there has never been a time when we have fought a lot. She gets the credit for that. I have given her plenty of reasons for us to have bad years!

There was one time when I made Shelley cry at Cheesecake Factory in downtown Boston. We had been married

_____ Number _____ years and Emily, our first born, was about _____ Number _____ months old. About _____ Number _____

months earlier we had moved from Little Rock, AR. to Boston, MA. to start a church. Life was crazy and fast.

Everything was different.

So, we were out on a date one night at Cheesecake Factory and I asked Shelley, "How are you doing?" I wasn't necessarily trying to start a deep conversation but almost instantly she began to _____ Verb - Present Tense _____ right into her cashew chicken. Uh Oh.

The conversation that took place at that moment _____ Noun _____ our marriage forever

As we talked, I realized that through the stress of _____ Noun _____, though everything was basically OK, I had done a _____ Verb - Present Tense _____ job of really knowing what was going on in Shelley's heart. I wasn't _____ Verb - Present Tense _____ her well. I was pretty much _____ Adjective _____.

One would think that I would have the sense enough to know that the _____ Noun _____, pregnancy, being a mom for the first time, _____ Verb - Present ends in ING _____ a church in our house, and living _____ Number _____,000 miles away from the nearest family would have a _____ Adjective _____ effect on Shelley's heart. You would think that I would have a clue that I would need to pay better attention to her. That says a lot about me!

That moment taught me a _____ Adjective _____ lesson about being a husband. As life changes we _____ Noun _____. As we change we need to learn to love differently. We should never believe that we are done learning to love our _____ Noun _____.

It was time for me to learn how to be a better _____ Noun _____ by learning to _____ Noun _____ better to her life. So we started having an intentional conversation every month that has been _____ Noun _____ for our marriage. At first it was _____ Noun _____ but over time has grown into sweet moments of intimacy for us.

To make it work we had to come up with rules for the talk. We wanted it to be a healthy conversation and not an argument. Here are the rules we set.

Each of us got a turn to _____ Noun _____.

We had to be _____ Noun _____ (of course) and _____ Noun _____.

We had to listen and NOT defend ourselves if we heard something we didn't like.

We had to _____ Noun _____ to doing _____ Noun _____ and helping each other along the way.

Then we would ask each other questions like these

Is there anything that you need from _____ Noun _____ that you are not receiving?

Am I doing or saying anything to _____ Noun _____ that you do not like?

Am I giving you the _____ Noun _____ you need?

Is there anything going on with you that I need to know about so that I can _____ Noun _____ you better?

At first these conversations could be a little _____ Noun _____ but over time they became amazing times of

_____ Noun _____ and _____ Noun _____. Now, we don't have to schedule those conversations. They just happen along the way of life.

Even though that moment in Cheesecake Factory was _____ Noun _____, I am extremely thankful that it happened.

That changed our marriage more than any other conversation we have ever had.

These conversations have shown me over and over what a loving wife I have. She listens. She encourages. She

speaks truth. She loves me well even when I am clueless.

