

HOW TO WRITE A LOVE LETTER

By Josie and Martin Brown

Cyrano's prose made Roxanne's heart pound with passion. When Elizabeth Barrett Browning poetically counted the ways in which she loved her husband, the whole world swooned. But that was then, and this is now. Is the love letter a thing of the past? Hardly. Expressing one's devotion will never go out of style. Sure, it would be easier to zip over to the gift shop and pick out a greeting card. But why settle for something that almost – but doesn't quite – capture your thoughts? Instead, find a box of stationery and create a priceless keepsake that communicates all your deepest feelings. Here are some tips to help you write a love letter that will stand the test of time.

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Darling,

Have I told you lately that I love you? If not, allow me to make up for lost time.

Not a minute goes by that I don't think about you. We are two halves of the same heart, beating as one. The love that flows between us is born of desire and driven by devotion. Time and circumstance have proven that our love is stronger than any crises that may come our way.

You are so very special to me! Why? The reasons are many.

- When the world lets me down, you're there to pick me up again.*
- Your touch always makes me tingle.*
- My fears fade away in the warmth of your smile.*
- Your kisses thrill me.*
- Life's pleasures always mean so much more when I am with you, and*
- You are always there when I need you.*

Sweetheart, I cherish you. May we move to the future with the love we have felt in the past. May we always be soul mates sharing our lives together.

Forever with love,

MARK THE DATE. Both of you will want to cherish the day this special memento was given and received.

A SALUTATION CAN NEVER BE TOO SAPPY. Corny, you say? Your true love won't think so, particularly if it comes straight from your heart.

YOUR FIRST PARAGRAPH SHOULD DECLARE YOUR LOVE. Don't be shy. Come out with the purpose of your letter.

NEXT, AN AMOROUS ANALOGY. What will you compare your feelings to and why? Make your lover visualize the depth of your devotion.

INCLUDE A "LOVE LIST". Here you'll note the many little things that make your mate so very special to you.

CLOSE WITH COMMITMENT. Let your love one know your partnership will last an eternity.

A FINAL TIP: The day has not come when Cupid can be replaced by a modem. Despite the convenience and speed of e-mail, a virtual valentine doesn't have the same feeling as pen and scented parchment. So write right.