Instrument Title: Mate Retention Inventory (Male, Self-Reported) MRI-MSR

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**MRI-MSR**

Instructions: On the following pages are listed a series of acts or behaviors. In this study, we are interested in the acts that people perform in the context of their relationship with their romantic partner. For each act, use the following scale to indicate how frequently you performed the act within the past ONE year:

0 = Never performed this act  
1 = Rarely performed this act  
2 = Sometimes performed this act  
3 = Often performed this act

Please write in the blank to the left of each item the number that best represents how frequently you performed the act within the past ONE year. For example, if you never performed the act within the past one year, write a “0” in the blank to the left of the item.

____ 1. Called at unexpected times to see who my partner was with.  
____ 2. Did not take my partner to a party where other men would be present.  
____ 3. Flirted with someone in front of my partner.  
____ 4. Spent all my free time with my partner so that she could not meet anyone else.  
____ 5. Became angry when my partner flirted too much.  
____ 6. Cried when my partner said she might go out with someone else.  
____ 7. Asked my partner to marry me.  
____ 8. Cut down the appearance of other men.  
____ 9. Spent a lot of money on my partner.  
____ 10. Gave in to my partner’s sexual requests.  
____ 11. Dressed nicely to maintain my partner’s interest.  
____ 12. Told my partner “I love you.”  
____ 13. Told my partner that I would change in order to please her.  
____ 14. Introduced my partner as my spouse or romantic partner.  
____ 15. Held my partner’s hand when other men were around.  
____ 16. Asked my partner to wear my jacket.  
____ 17. Told other men terrible things about my partner so that they wouldn’t like her.  
____ 18. Yelled at a man who looked at my partner.  
____ 19. Hit a man who made a pass at my partner.  
____ 20. Called to make sure my partner was where she said she would be.  
____ 21. Refused to introduce my partner to my same-sex friends.
22. Insisted that my partner stay at home rather than going out.
23. Picked a fight with a man who was interested in my partner.
24. Made my partner feel guilty about talking to another man.
25. Made up my face to look nice.
26. Got my partner pregnant so she would stay with me.
27. Started a bad rumor about another man.
28. Bought my partner an expensive gift.
29. Acted sexy to take my partner’s mind off other men.
30. Wore the latest fashion to enhance my appearance.
31. Went out of my way to be kind, nice, and caring.
32. Told my same-sex friends how much my partner and I were in love.
33. Kissed my partner when other men were around.
34. Asked my partner to wear my ring.
35. Told other men that my partner was not a nice person.
36. Stared coldly at a man who was looking at my partner.
37. Became a “slave” to my partner.
38. Ignored my partner when she started flirting with others.
39. Had my friends check up on my partner.
40. Went out with another woman to make my partner jealous.
41. Bought my partner a bouquet of flowers.
42. Cut down the strength of another man.
43. Took my partner away from a gathering where other men were around.
44. Threatened to hit a man who was making moves on my partner.
45. Gave my partner jewelry to signify that she was taken.
46. Told other men that my partner was stupid.
47. Monopolized my partner’s time at a social gathering.
48. Threatened to break-up if my partner ever cheated on me.
49. Bragged about my partner to other men.
50. Gave in to my partner’s every wish.
51. Got my friends to beat up someone who was interested in my partner.
52. Held my partner closer when another man walked into the room.
53. Snooped through my partner’s personal belongings.
54. Pointed out to my partner the flaws of another man.
55. Performed sexual favors to keep my partner around.
56. Wore my partner’s clothes in front of others.
57. Told other men that my partner might have a sexually transmitted disease.
58. Complimented my partner on her appearance.
59. Questioned my partner about what she did when we were apart.
60. Told my partner that we needed a total commitment to each other.
61. Took my partner out to a nice restaurant.
62. Mentioned to other men that my partner was taken.
63. Told my partner that the other person she is interested in has slept with nearly everyone.
64. Dropped by unexpectedly to see what my partner was doing.
65. Yelled at my partner after she showed interest in another man.
66. Told my partner that I was dependent on my partner.
67. Made sure that I looked nice for my partner.
68. Gave a man a dirty look when he looked at my partner.
69. Pretended to be mad so that my partner would feel guilty.
70. At a party, did not let my partner out of my sight.
71. Hit my partner when I caught her flirting with someone else.
72. Went along with everything my partner said.
73. Told other men to stay away from my partner.
74. Bought my partner some jewelry (for example, ring, necklace).
75. Told my partner I would “die” if she ever left me.
76. Read my partner’s personal mail.
77. Insisted that my partner spend all her free time with me.
78. Cried in order to keep my partner with me.
79. Told my partner that another man was stupid.
80. Was helpful when my partner really needed it.
81. Vandalized the property of a man who made a pass at my partner.
82. Said that I would never talk to my partner again if I saw her with someone else.
83. Had a physical relationship with my partner to deepen our bond.
84. Put my arm around my partner in front of others.
85. Threatened to harm myself if my partner ever left me.
86. Displayed greater affection for my partner.
87. Confronted someone who had made a pass at my partner.
88. Told others the intimate things we had done together.
89. Stayed close to my partner while we were at a party.
90. Talked to another woman at a party to make my partner jealous.
91. Bought my partner a small gift.
92. Told others my partner was a pain.
93. Sat next to my partner when others were around.
94. Made myself “extra attractive” for my partner.
95. Told my partner that another man was out to use her.
96. Did not let my partner talk to other men.
97. Gave in to sexual pressure to keep my partner.
98. Hung up a picture of my partner so others would know she was taken.
99. Became jealous when my partner went out without me.
100. Slapped a man who made a pass at my partner.
101. Pleased that I could not live without my partner.
102. Would not let my partner go out without me.
103. Acted against my will to let my partner have her way.
104. Showed interest in another woman to make my partner angry.

Thank you very much.

The above instrument was developed by David M. Buss, and first published in:


For additional psychometric evidence on the inventory, see:


Note. The instrument can be modified to the female form by changing the relevant pronouns. For example, the item “I yelled at the man who made a pass at my partner” could be changed to “I yelled at the woman who made a pass at my partner.” The instrument can also be modified to be used in third-person reports (e.g., “He yelled a the
man who made a pass at his partner” or “She yelled at the woman who made a pass at her partner”).