

## LOVE MAKING VIGNETTE

This question asked respondents how they would address a situation in which they were : making love with a partner who is stroking them in a way they find unpleasant.” The idea was to explore assertive and yielding responses in a situation that was (potentially) “more intimate” than the watering of plants. (There were no gradient to this vignette.

Here we provide two examples and then given coding for the four modes.

**TWO EXAMPLES** of men who are different in age and marital status.

**Example One.** A male 27 single, said he was: assertive (4) on 7 pt scale and yielding and wanted to be more yielding (6); He was a 4 on assertiveness and wanted to be a bit more assertive 5. His first response (70% likely) was “make subtle hints” which he said was appropriately assertive; his second response (tell her to stop), (30%) likely he saw as overly assertive. In the vignette of the attractive stranger, “you are attracted to and would like to contact a stranger across the room. You notice him/her looking at you frequently,” His response was “if I were attracted, I would act on it” and he saw this as appropriately assertive.

**Example Two.** Another example was a male 43 married, clinical psychologist and MFCC. He saw himself as 5 on yielding and wanted to be less so—; and a 5 on assertive and wanted to stay the same. 3). His first response would be “tell her it’s not pleasurable)(80%) (which he said was appropriateley assertive); and “change tempo and put self into a pleasurable giving” (20%) which he saw as appropriately yielding.

**Examples of coding for this scenario** (verbal and non verbal responses (in terms of four modes).

**Negative yielding:** say nothing.; suffer through; “grin and bear it.”

**Positive yielding:** change positions and put self into pleasure giving...; stay with it and see if it become pleasurable. If it doesn’t tell him I find it unpleasant) (q1 after q2?). Decide to wait and talk about it later

**Assertive** (A continuum of responses; where would you draw the line between when it shifts from appropriateley assertive to overly assertive? We thought it had something to do with tone and positive frame:

**Postiive:** gently move hand and say I'd like it better this way; guide him non-verbally; guide him verbally. talk to him or her about problem; tell him/her what you would prefer; tell in loving way what you would want; thank them for the attention and show the person what you like; stroke partner the way you would like to be stroked; combine verbal and non-verbal guidance to show what I find more pleasurable; let them know lovingly how it is unpleasant—no rebuke; tell them it turns you off and please don't do it;

**A bit more “yang” but still positive assertive:** say it's not pleasurable; tell partner to stop verbally; physically (pull away); turn away; Tell them it hurts, complain, say something is wrong (Johanna's comment: I like what you say about “tone” determining quadrant. These seem a little “harsh” in the sense they don't offer a positive, kind alternative (q1) but have a bit of a judgmental, critical quality. However, if the unpleasant involves some “hurt” eg., “partner doing something that hurt you” then these sort of comments would seem appropriately assertive, with their additional “yang”

**(Examles of Ovelrly assertive** (not found in study but for instructive purposes: more aggressive verbally or non verbally: e.g., You're a terrible lover; you're not very skillful in bed; you're not succeeding in making this satisfying for me.

**Ambiguous in terms of coding:** make subtle hints (change positions, wiggle); Find an excuse to move that makes it impossible to continue. Are these somewhat “assertive” non verbally but pretty passive in terms of direct verbal communication? How to rate it? Sybil said each was “overly yielding” Johanna said I think these seem a little closer to q4 than q1. They're not completely passive, but they're very indirect and ambiguous. They seem hard to interpret by the partner.

**Future Research:** . There are some problems with this question (from hindsight). Future research should gather matched groups: e.g., new relationship, longer married couples, and just say “while making love with your partner s/he is stroking you in an unpleasant way.” How would you respond? Also, the data should be broken down by quadrant responses and gender and age of respondent. Finally, additional gradients might be added: e.g., unpleasant, “hurts”, etc.