

# What is love?

Fill in the blanks. Watch and listen the video from minute 1:19 to 3:07

Love is potentially the most intensely thought about thing in all of human history. And despite centuries upon centuries of obsession, it still \_\_\_\_\_ us. Some say it's a feeling, a magical emotion, a feeling for someone like you've never felt before.

But feelings are fluid, not very concrete foundation for a definition. Sometimes you hate the person you love. Plus, come on, you've felt feelings like it before, sort of in \_\_\_\_\_.

Your relationships with your family shape your relationships with partners. And your love for your partner may be in its own \_\_\_\_\_ relationship, healthy or totally weird, with the love of your parents and siblings.

Love is also a set of behaviors we associate with the feeling: Holding hands, kissing, hugging, public displays of affection, dating, marriage, having kids, or just sex.

But these loving actions can be \_\_\_\_\_ or culturally relative. You may love or be someone who can't have kids or doesn't want to, who believes in marriage but also in divorce, who's from a culture where people don't really date the way we think of dating, or who just doesn't want to \_\_\_\_\_ on the bus.

But if love is a thing that we can define, then how can it mean opposite things for so many people?

So, maybe love's just all in your head, a personal mystery winding through your neural \_\_\_\_\_ and lighting up pleasing, natural rewards in your nervous system.

Perhaps these rewards are addictive. Perhaps love is a temporary or permanent addiction to a person, just like a person can be addicted to a drug. I don't mean to be \_\_\_\_\_ like some pop song.

Evidence shows that chemicals in your brain stimulated by another person can make you develop a habit for that person. The person comes to satisfy a physiological \_\_\_\_\_, and you want more. But then sometimes, slowly or suddenly, you don't.

You've fallen out of love, become unaddicted, for a spell.