

## International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate the one you love; husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend, parent/child, and friends. We give gifts of flowers, poetry, and songs. Children in schools give cards to everyone in their class and teachers usually reserve an hour in the day for a party with sweets, games, and the exchange of cards.

In high school, flowers, gifts and cards are given, usually between boyfriend and girlfriend, but also between friends. Husbands and wives usually exchange cards and or gifts. Valentine's Day has become a big business in the US. Here is what one source estimated.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US. Half of those valentines are given to family members other than husband or wife, usually to children. When you include the valentine-exchange cards made in school activities the figure goes up to 1 billion, and teachers become the people receiving the most valentines.<sup>[53]</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's_Day)

*Do you celebrate Valentine's day in your country?*

*If so, how do you observe it?*

*How will you celebrate Valentine's Day this year?*

Read the following idioms. Explain what they mean and use them in a sentence.

### POSITIVE IDIOMS ABOUT LOVE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

To have a soft spot in your heart

To be mad about someone

To have a crush on someone

To have your heart skip a beat

### NEGATIVE IDIOMS ABOUT LOVE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY:

To break someone's heart

To be heart-broken

To be going through a rough patch

To be on the rocks

Here are a few more sayings about love. Define and use them in a short story.

Have one person begin a story about love and each person in the circle contribute something they make up. For example, the story could begin with, "One day, there was a guy who noticed a beautiful girl at the coffee shop." The next person adds a sentence and then the next person adds a sentence and so forth. Conclude the story with one of the following statements.

Puppy love

Love to death

Love is blind

Head over heels in love

**Consider these quotes.** Explain them in your own words and tell why you agree or disagree with the quote.

"Love is the subtlest force in the world." Mahatma Gandhi

"The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love."  
St. Paul to the Corinthians

"'Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all." Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Do you have a favorite quotation about love? Please share it with your group.