

The Newly-Dead Game™

Instructions for Playing *The Newly-Dead Game*™

Supply List

- Official Rules for *The Newly-Dead Game*™
- Official *Newly-Dead Game*™ Question Cards

In Addition, You Will Need...

- One pad of white paper sized 9" x 12" for each contestant to write his/her answers. (Two couples = four pads. Three couples = six pads. Four couples = Eight pads.) Most office or craft stores carry multi-packs of inexpensive newsprint-grade paper pads.
- Black felt-tip Sharpie-type markers for contestants to write their answers – each contestant will need a pen.
- In addition to participating couples, you'll need someone to act as the emcee/scorekeeper.

Room Set Up

Set up four to eight chairs for participating couples. Before starting the game, ask participants to turn their chairs slightly away from each other so they can't peek at each other's answers.

Rules and Procedures

- A. The emcee will ask all four couples four questions related to the participants' last wishes.
- B. Each participant is to answer what they think would be *their partner's* preferences – *not their own*.
- C. Participants should use a separate sheet of paper for each answer, so we don't spoil the surprise for the other questions.
- D. Questions are worth 5, 10 or 15 points. The harder the question, the more points you get when you get it right. If both individuals in that couple get the right answer, they get 10, 20 or 30 points for that question. If just one person gets the answer right, the couple gets 5, 10 or 15 points. If neither gets a right answer, the couple gets zero points for that question.
- E. Order of questions:
 - a. Question 1 should be a 5-pointer (*easy, to get things rolling*)
 - b. Question 2 should also be a 5-pointer (*though a 10-pointer is okay*)
 - c. Question 3 should be a 10-pointer (*getting harder as we go*)
 - d. Question 4 should be a 15-pointer (*hardest questions also give last place couples a chance to catch up and win*)
- F. The emcee will *ask all four* of the questions *before* having the participants share their individual responses.

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Rules and Procedures (Cont.)

- G.** Once the answers for all four questions are written, review each answer – one question at a time – with each couple. Complete each Q&A with every couple before reviewing the next question.
- H.** For each couple, the emcee repeats/restates the question, asks one person what their answer is, then asks the partner to show what they wrote down. Then switch and pose the question to the other person and ask the partner what they wrote down. (*See the sample dialogue that follows.*)
- I.** If there's a tie, the couples with the highest scores will participate in an additional tiebreaker question.
- J.** If there's a question regarding the acceptability of an answer, ask the audience (if you have one) to decide by voicing their approval or disapproval. Otherwise, the decision of the emcee is final.
- K.** Add up the scores and declare one couple the winner!

How to Conduct the Game

A. Prepare the question cards.

The electronic download includes a PDF of 28 question cards plus four scorecards. The cards come on 8½" x 11" sheets with four cards per sheet. Print the sheets on 70 pound or card stock paper. You can copy *The Newly-Dead Game*™ logo on the back of the cards if desired — a separate artwork sheet is included.

B. Give each participant a pad and marker pen.

You might have a “Vanna White”-style assistant pass these supplies to the participants, or place them on each chair in advance.

C. Introduce the couples.

After asking the participants to come forward and sit down, introduce each couple. State their names and ask how long they've been together. Engage in some banter about where they're from, how long they've lived in the area, what they do for a living, any kids, etc.

D. Outline how the game will be played.

The emcee explains the Rules and Procedures and makes sure everyone understands how the game is played.

E. Emcee pointers.

The emcee needs to be careful when asking for the answers. *Remember you are asking the spouse how they think their partner would answer.*

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How to Conduct the Game (Cont.)

Start by restating the question. While it doesn't matter who you ask to answer first, remember that you are asking what they think their partner would want for their final arrangements.

Here's an example with a couple, Jeff and Melissa:

Emcee: "The question is, what disposition method would your partner prefer – Earth being burial, Fire being cremation, Air being donation to science, or Water being burial at sea or alkaline hydrolysis? Melissa, what do you prefer: Earth, Air, Fire or Water?"

Melissa: "Earth."

Emcee: "Jeff, what did you predict Melissa would say? Show us the answer you wrote."

Jeff shows his pad of paper: "Fire." (*Wrong answer!*)

Emcee: "Oh, you said Fire, that's too bad. Looks like you've got some talking to do. Let's see how well Melissa knows your preference, Jeff. Is it Earth, Air, Fire or Water?"

Jeff: "Fire."

Emcee: "Melissa, what did you predict Jeff would say?"

Melissa shows her pad of paper: "Fire." (*Correct!*)

Emcee: "That's correct! Jeff and Melissa, you get five points for this question. Let's see how our other couples answered."

The emcee then runs through the same question with the other couples. After everyone has answered and the scores have been tallied for that question, move on to the next question.

Continue until all four questions have been reviewed. Give a score total recap/tally after each question has been answered by all couples.

After the fourth round is over, announce each couple's score. If there needs to be a tiebreaker, add a fifth question for the top-scoring couples. Make the tiebreaker one of the more difficult 15-point questions.

F. *Tips for making the game run smoothly.*

A scorekeeper who can prompt the emcee as needed is helpful to keep the game on track.

A card for names and scores is included with the question cards so the emcee can easily write down the names for each couple and keep track of their scores as the game proceeds.

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5-Point Question

What disposition method would your partner prefer based on the four elements of Earth, Air, Fire, or Water? Earth means burial, Air means body donation, Fire means cremation, and Water means disposition at sea or alkaline hydrolysis.

What will it be, Earth, Air, Fire or Water?

Alkaline hydrolysis is a proven, low-cost, and eco-friendly disposition method that is just starting to become commercially available through funeral homes.

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5-Point Question

Is your partner an organ donor?
Yes or No?

Don't wait until he or she dies to find out!

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5-Point Question

What is your partner's mother's maiden name?

This question is vital for death certificate information.

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5-Point Question

Who would your partner want to conduct his or her funeral or memorial service?

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5-Point Question

What musical instrument would your partner like played at his/her service?

Playing the stereo does count!

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5-Point Question

Does your partner have a listing of your online passwords, or some way to access them?

Yes or No?

In our increasingly online world, you don't want to take your passwords to the grave with you!

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5-Point Question

What charity would your partner want to support with memorial donations?

When you know this in advance, it helps reduce stress.

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5-Point Question

Does your partner have a will?

Yes or No?

Do you? If not, why not?

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5-Point Question

What's your partner's birthplace, the city name?

This question is vital for death certificate information.

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5-Point Question

How would your partner feel about being viewed after he/she dies?

Okay, Not Okay, or Don't Care?

You'll want to know you're doing what he/she wanted.

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5-Point Question

Where is contact information for your partner's family and friends kept?

1. A personal phone book
2. Within their cell phone
3. A list on their computer
4. Don't know/Other

Knowing how to contact family and friends, as well as access this information, reduces stress.

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5-Point Question

In what publication(s) would your partner want an obituary placed?

These could include local newspapers, those in other cities where they've lived, trade publications, or alumni magazines.

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10-Point Question

Other than name and dates, what epitaph would your partner want written on his or her memorial marker?

Perhaps a favorite saying, or term of endearment?

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10-Point Question

What's the preferred outfit or piece of clothing your partner would want to enter eternity wearing?

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10-Point Question

Who would your partner want to give a eulogy at his/her funeral?

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10-Point Question

What would best describe your partner's favorite kind of celebrations: informal potlucks, casual cocktails, rowdy parties, or formal dinners?

This is great guidance for his or her final celebration!

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10-Point Question

Outside of family, who are the two closest friends of your partner that he or she would want called right away with the news?

*5 points for each correct name
(a total of 10 points possible)*

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10-Point Question

What are your partner's siblings' names, and where do they live? (city name) Step-siblings count!

If no brothers or sisters, contestants should simply write "no siblings."

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10-Point Question

What is your partner's most prized possession, and who would they want to inherit this item?

*5 points each for item and person
(a total of 10 points possible)*

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10-Point Question

Does your partner have advance medical directives written down? If so, where are they kept?

*5 points for each question
(a total of 10 points possible)*

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10-Point Question

What one song would your partner want played at his or her funeral or memorial service?

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10-Point Question

What meaningful food or favorite drink would your partner like served at the reception after the service?

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15-Point Question

On a scale of one to five, if your partner became critically ill, how would he/she want to be treated – one being “let me die at home with no medical intervention save pain relief,” and five being “don’t give up on me, try any intervention possible.”

From one to five, where does your partner fall within that range?

This question is important for discussions on end-of-life values.

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15-Point Question

How many credit cards does your partner possess?

You need to know so they can be closed!

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15-Point Question

Does your partner have a favorite saying or philosophy, and if so, what is it?

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15-Point Question

If you both died in an accident together, who would your partner say is in charge of making the funeral arrangements?

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15-Point Question

If funerals or memorial services were automobiles, what would your partner prefer?

1. a limousine (top-of-the-line event)
2. a compact car (basic, no-frills service)
3. a pickup truck (do-it-yourself service)
4. a hybrid vehicle (green burial)

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15-Point Question

If you were to set up a household shrine in your partner's memory, what one item would he or she say should be included?

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The Contestants

Couple's Names

Score per Round
1 2 3 4 Total

1	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=
2	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=
3	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=
4	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=

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	_____	+	+	+	=
3	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=
4	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=

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	_____	+	+	+	=
3	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=
4	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=

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	_____	+	+	+	=
3	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=
4	_____	+	+	+	=
	_____	+	+	+	=

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