

Aug 20, 2018
(July Letter)

Dear Samantha,

I got your July letter just before I left the suite and found your June letter in my mailbox when I arrived on Ile Bigras last night. I enjoyed both of them.

Your June letter reminded me that making up was more important for the longevity of couples than how they fight. I used to think that managing how couples argue, fight, or make each other angry was most important for their longevity, but realized later that the repertoire of how they make up is more important. That is because there will always be disagreements and fights between partners, but if they don't have ways to make up then they will be in big trouble.

This has certainly been the case for Fran and I. For example, I have always found that Fran only rarely says that she is sorry. Maybe it's because she is rarely at fault in a dispute 😊, but I think it's just because she finds it uncomfortable (especially if she is "at fault"). However, she is good at letting me know that she is sorry in other ways – like making fun of what she did at a later point, referring back to the dispute in her conversation with others, and representing her behaviour as silly in some way, or making me a special meal (and only hinting that it may be because she is sorry). I just have to be patient if I figure that she is sorry about something.

On the other hand, I will say I'm sorry, but that doesn't always mean that she quickly accepts it. Usually I have to repeat myself or come up with something else to make it clear that I am sorry.

A bit of anger can also be very useful if it's handled right. The most spectacular example with Fran and I was on my 22nd birthday. She told me that she was planning a fancy restaurant meal for that night so I was all excited about it. A few days before the event she told me that she had invited a couple of our friends to the dinner as well. They were nice friends, but not my favorite, so I was disappointed (and a bit angry) that we were not going to have dinner on our own.

I was so angry about the way she had set up this date, that I missed all the clues that something else was going on. When the time came to pick her up at her house (in a snit), I was greeted by a houseful of friends who surprised me with a fantastic birthday party!

I'm not sure whether she set me up with the date story, but it worked wonderfully as a distraction for the other activities.

I hope that Mat got over his anger just as quickly!

Your June letter also indicated that you need a lesson in folding letters. We were always taught that folding 8.5"x 11" letters required a fold in half of the 11", then two folds of the 8.5" so that it was in thirds. This means it can fit nicely into a letter sized envelope.

For business letters in legal sized envelopes, folding the 11" distance twice, so that they make thirds is enough.

In both cases, the folds should be made so that it is easy for the reader to know how the folds should be open. The link <https://www.wikihow.com/Fold-and-Insert-a-Letter-Into-an-Envelope> gives more detailed instructions about these. It should help you when you write a letter to the Prime Minister or the Queen (or Fran)!

Love,