



Julia Hansen

Hands down, my very favorite cookbook is the red and white picnic-patterned Better Homes and Gardens cookbook. It has been around for 78 years and is said to be America's No. 1 cookbook. The cookbook has hundreds of recipes varying from simple chocolate chip cookies to more difficult roast rack of lamb with peach-ginger chutney. With more than 600 pages, you are sure to find a recipe that will satisfy any craving you have. Recipe categories include breads, poultry, vegetables and fruits, cookies, soups and stews, beverages, pasta and many more. There also are sections of the cookbook that are wonderful learning tools that teach cooking basics that are helpful for rookie cooks. Next time you are at home, look around. It is a pretty sure bet that one of these cook-

books is in your parents' kitchen and your grandma's kitchen too. Because this cookbook has been around so long, it has been in the kitchens of generations of people. My mom uses the cookbook often, and when I asked her about it she said my great-grandmother and grandmother also used it. She also said the cookbook has changed over time to follow recipe trends for as long as she remembers.

I can remember my mom making the Jam Thumbprint Cookies when I was younger and loving both how the cookies looked and tasted. When I told her I was featuring the recipe this week she was excited and said the recipe is a classic Better Homes and Gardens recipe. Classic recipes always are good to make because they have withstood the test of time. Perhaps my mom's 75th edition of the cookbook will seem dated to future generations, but the classic recipes like the Jam Thumbprint Cookies still will be there. You know what they say, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

## Cooking with Julia: Thumbprint Jam Cookies

### Thumbprint Jam Cookies

#### Ingredients:

2/3 cup butter, softened  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 egg yolks  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/3 to 1/2 cup strawberry, cherry or apricot jam or preserves

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 slightly beaten egg whites  
1 cup finely chopped walnuts



#### Directions:

1. Beat butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar. Beat until combined, scraping bowl. Beat in egg yolks and vanilla until combined. Beat in as much flour as you can. Stir in any remaining flour. Cover and chill dough about one hour or until easy to handle.  
2. Grease a cookie sheet. Set aside. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll balls in egg whites, then in walnuts. Place one inch apart on the prepared cookie sheet. Press your thumb into the center of each ball. Bake in 375 degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Transfer to a wire rack and let cool. Just before serving, fill centers with jam.

Recipe courtesy of Better Homes and Gardens 75th Edition Cookbook

## Differing definitions, commitment levels can cause relationship woes

A common misconception is floating around, and as a columnist in a powerful and influential position, it is my responsibility to set the record straight. I would like to make it known that, yes, there is a distinction to be made between dating and going out. This isn't a mere opinion, either. It's an undeniable fact and one everyone must become well-acquainted with.

Dating is the more casual, less-defined, somewhat gray area in the realm of relationships. It involves exactly what it hints at: dates. When a young lady or young man is approached by someone with romantic intentions with an offer for dinner, it is a date, and if the offers from one person become frequent or even expected, it is safe and correct to call this a dating relationship. However, just because two people make macaroni and cheese together every Thursday and hold hands during movies does not signify that they are going out. It is not safe to call the young lady a girlfriend or the young man a boyfriend. This blunder has the potential to cause all sorts of problems, so it must be avoided at all costs.

To bestow the title of girlfriend or boyfriend requires an essential strategic move: ask. Examples of a suitable question include, "Will you be my girlfriend?" or "Will you go out with me?" (Note that the second question

must be made unequivocal so the recipient does not confuse it with an offer to go out for just an evening.)

Although many women insist on being asked and refuse to perform that high-pressure, sometimes awkward task themselves, a new generation of headstrong and independent-minded ladies has produced a few bold ones who have no problem taking charge and doing the dirty work. In any case, until such a distinction is made in the relationship, it remains open and undefined.

The following actions are not acceptable without the prior establishment of an undeniable relationship, as they can result in confusion, resentment or disagreement: the use of the titles "boyfriend" or "girlfriend," invitations to be in a Facebook relationship or the expectation that either member should be exclusively bound to the other.

Perhaps this all sounds a bit inflexible. It is, and here's why: People think differently sometimes. That statement could rock your world. In all seriousness, it is essential to be on the same page in a relationship because when two people think two different things are happening, it is frequently disastrous.

Here is a personal example. I sort of dated (key words) a sweet guy toward the end of my senior year of high school. We told jokes to each

other in Spanish class, and he asked me to the Prom via a note in the mail. That summer, we saw two movies, took walks with his beagle, worked on a puzzle, set off fireworks, ate ice cream on my deck and went swimming with our friends. We never actually held hands. We had acknowledged our feelings for each other, but he never asked me out, and judging by the tame nature of our relationship, I simply dubbed us "sort of dating." When we said goodbye for the last time before college in August, I thought that was it. Shortly thereafter, though, I received a notice online requesting that I be in a relationship with him. I was baffled. It was true that we hadn't broken up, but we hadn't really gotten together either, so that made it pretty confusing. What could I do but tell him I had no idea and had different plans?

Not only do two people sometimes think differently, but they sometimes want different things. One person might want a long-term, steady relationship when the other only wants some casual company. By not establishing desires and intentions, couples open themselves up to a lot of potential dissatisfaction. The best way to prevent the disappointment of misunderstanding or rejection is to define a relationship. This also could be purposely leaving it undefined, saying, "I'm not ready to make this serious,



Kelly Schute

## We need to talk

but I like what we have." The longer two people continue in an ambiguous union, the greater chance they create for discontent.

Everyone has heard this advice before, but with different titles. It always has been called "Communication is Key," "Just Talk About It" or something along those lines. The age-old wisdom holds true that discussion with agreement (or the agreement to disagree) is one of the best ways to ensure satisfaction in a relationship.

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