To Speak From Your Heart and Share Your Needs With Your Partner

Choose a time when both of you are calm.

"There's something important I'd like to discuss with you. Can we find a good time to talk today?"

Express your needs in a simple, concise way.

"I need to know you're ok and if our plans need to be adjusted. Would you send me a text when you're going to be late so I don't worry?"

Be an active listener.

Maintain eye contact, don't interrupt, nod your head when you agree, ask for clarification. "I want to make sure we're on the same page. I heard you say...did I understand you correctly?"

Use "I" statements to refer to your feelings and needs.

"I feel worried when you don't let me know you're running late."

Prevent confusion by asking open-ended questions.

"What did you hear me say?" "How do you feel about what I've shared?" "What can I do to help you understand better?"

