



How to...

PUPPY LOVE

More than 27 million households in the US give their dogs Valentine's Day presents.



Craft Valentine's Day cards

Give friends and family a homemade surprise for the holiday.

Valentine's Day offers a great opportunity to show special people in your life — whether friends, siblings, parents, or other relatives — that you care about them. One way to mark the occasion is to give Valentine's Day cards. Homemade cards can be especially fun to share because you can personalize them to make your friends and family feel extra loved. Here's how to get started.

Gather supplies

Instead of buying new supplies for your cards, start with what you already have at home. Look in your craft area for colorful paper, stickers, markers, ribbons, and glitter. You can also use upcycled or recycled supplies, such as flyers you've gotten in the mail or colorful packaging from items you've purchased. This is a good time to think about how many cards you want to make so you can be sure you have enough supplies.

Start with a base

First, choose a piece of cardstock (thicker paper) or construction paper. You can pick a classic Valentine's Day color, like pink or red, or any shade you prefer. Fold it in half to make a card with a front and an inside. Or cut the paper into a shape (like a heart) to make a flat card with designs on the front and back. To cut the card into a heart, fold the paper in half first and then trace half a heart toward the folded edge. Next, use scissors to cut along the pencil line. Unfold your paper to reveal a heart shape.

Add a note

Once you have the shape of your card ready, write a message on it. You can write a longer note about why you appreciate the person you're giving the card to, include an inside joke, or write out a Valentine's Day saying. For example, you could write "Our friendship is blooming" and then decorate your card with flowers. Or perhaps the recipient of your card loves a certain animal, such as an owl. You can come up with a phrase that connects to that, such as "You're a hoot." You can brainstorm ideas for this on your own or ask an adult to help you look up lists of "Valentine's Day puns" online. If you find a saying you like, you can use it for inspiration to decorate the rest of the card.

Get crafty

Once you have your basic card and message, it's time to add your own design touches. One option is to layer on more shapes cut from paper. Use fun craft scissors (like waves or zigzags) to cut out hearts, stars, or other shapes of various sizes and glue them onto the card, either layered on top of one another or in different spots. Or, if you prefer, you can decorate the card with stickers, glued-on gems, or your own drawings. You could also print out a photo of the two of you together and glue it inside. For a finishing touch, add a border around the card's edge using a marker or gluing down ribbon. If you like, you could even tape a small candy or toy to the card.



Your card is your canvas.

4 fun facts about valentine candy

Many people like to give candy as a gift on Valentine's Day. Find out more about this sweet tradition.

So much chocolate

The first heart-shaped candy boxes were produced for Valentine's Day in 1861. Today, more than 36 million boxes containing more than 58 million pounds of chocolate are sold every year.



Something to talk about

Conversation hearts, another popular candy for the holiday, were originally produced in the 1800s on a machine that was intended to make throat lozenges. In 1866, the company started printing sayings on the candies. More than 8 billion conversation hearts are made each year.

Favorite gift

Although roses are a popular Valentine's Day gift, one study found that 69% of Americans would prefer to be given chocolates instead of flowers. And when it comes to a box of chocolates, caramels are the most popular flavor.



A kind gesture

In Japan, only women hand out chocolates or other gifts on Valentine's Day. They give them to the important men in their life, including relatives and coworkers, to show appreciation. A month later, on March 14, it's the men's turn to give gifts to the women in their lives.