

In his 1901 study “The Kiss and Its History,” Kristoffer Nyrop, the Danish philologist, attributes to an unknown 18th-century German jurist this splendidly PowerPoint-esque taxonomy of the different varieties of osculation:

LAWFUL KISSES

- A. Spiritual kisses.
- B. Kisses of reconciliation & peace.
- C. As customary kisses; partly,
 - a. By way of salutation.
 - 1. At meeting.
 - 2. On arrival.
 - 3. At departure; partly.
 - b. As mark of courtesy.
 - c. In jest.
- D. As kisses of respect.
- E. As kisses on festive occasions.
- F. As kisses of love, between:
 - i. Married people.
 - ii. Those engaged.
 - iii. Parents & children.
 - iv. Relations.
 - v. Intimate friends; or,

UNLAWFUL, when they are given:

- A. Out of treachery or malice.
- B. Out of lust.

— LOVE IS ... —

*Love:—What a Volume in a Word:
An Ocean in a Tear,
A Seventh Heaven in a Glance,
A Whirlwind in a Sigh,
The Lightning in a Touch, &
A Millennium in a Moment*

— MARTIN FARQUHAR TUPPER

— COURTLY LOVE —

Below are the rules of courtly love given by Andreas Capellanus in his 12th-century Latin treatise on the subject, “The Art of Honorable Loving”: Thou shalt avoid avarice – embrace prodigality. ♥ Thou shalt keep thyself chaste for thy beloved. ♥ Thou shalt not knowingly break up a correct love affair of others. ♥ Thou shalt not love whom thou cannot marry. ♥ Be mindful completely to avoid falsehood. ♥ Thou shalt not have many who know of thy love affair. ♥ Be obedient to ladies’ commands and strive to ally thyself in the service of Love. ♥ In giving and receiving love’s solaces let modesty be ever present. ♥ Thou shalt speak no evil. ♥ Thou shalt not be a revealer of love affairs. ♥ Thou shalt be in all things polite and courteous. ♥ In practicing the solaces of love thou shalt not exceed the desires of thy lover.

[Adapted by R. J. Schoeck from a translation by John Jay Parry from the Latin.]

Love Has Pruned the Alphabet to Only U&I

— ROY FARRELL GREENE

A begins *Amor*, the Latin for love,

B begins *Beauty*, which that passion does move.

C stands for *Cupid*, that wounder of hearts,

D for with which he does mischief, his *Darts*.

E begins *Eyes*, which lovers oft name,

F what they raise in their heart, a fierce *Flame*.

G lovers do use to set forth their *Grief*,

H directs you to *Hope*, the poor lover’s relief.

I tells you great **J**oy blessed lovers **J** do find.

K in *Kissing* their charmers, when once they grow kind.

L stands for *Languish* and *Lover*, *Love* letter;

M if you’re too *Modest*, you’ll be lik’d ne’er the better.

N tells you that *Nothing’s* oft true love’s reward,

O *Oaths*, to which lovers have little regard.

P stands for *Pity*, *Pangs*, *Passion* and *Pain*,

Q *Quiet*, which lovers do hope for in vain.

R begins *Rapture*, and *Raging* and *Rove*,

S *Sighs*, words much us’d in making of love.

T tells us that ladies *Torment* us and *Tease*,

V tells us *Variety* always will please.

W for *Woman*, *Wounds*, *Wonder* and *Woe*.

X I think is like love, it *crosses* me so.

Y ends the love letter in writing of *Your*,

Z *Z—ds* cries the lover, who pain can’t endure.

— ANONYMOUS, C.1823

The Mirror of Literature, Amusement, & Instruction, 1823, R. Percy & J. Timbs

In “Don Quixote”, Miguel de Cervantes alludes to the “four S’s” that true lovers should possess, which derive from a poem by his friend Luis Barahona de Soto, “Las Lágrimas de Angélica.”

Sabio ♥ **S**olo ♥ **S**olicito ♥ **S**ecreto
*S*apience ♥ *S*olitary ♥ *S*ollicitous ♥ *S*ecret

In the same book, Cervantes spells an abecadarium for lovers:

*A*gradecido • *B*ueno • *C*aballero • *D*adivoso • *E*namorado • *F*irme
*G*allardo • *H*onrado • *I*lustre • *L*eal • *M*ozo • *N*oble • *O*nesto
*P*incipal • *Q*uantioso • *R*ico • *y las SS que dicen* • *y luego T*ácito
*V*erdadero • *L*a *X* no le quadra, porque es letra áspera
*L*a *Y* ya está dicha • *L*a *Z* Zelador de tu honra.

A number of translators have attempted to fashion an English version of this alphabet, including this 1749 adaptation by Charles Jarvis: “Amiable, Bountiful, Constant, Daring, Enamored, Faithful, Gallant, Honorable, Illustrious, Kind, Loyal, Mild, Noble, Obliging, Prudent, Quiet, Rich and the S’s as they say [i.e. as above], lastly, True, Valiant and Wise: the X suits him not because it is a harsh letter, the Y, he is Young, the Z, Zealous of your honor.” The translation of the S’s is from Ulick Ralph Burke’s 1877 book “Spanish Salt.”

A footnote in Sir Richard Burton’s epic 1888 translation of “The Thousand and One Nights” claims that the Hindus recognized 10 stages of lovesickness:

1. Love of the Eyes . 1
2. Attraction of the Mind . 2
3. Birth of Desire . 3
4. Loss of Sleep . 4
5. Loss of Flesh . 5
6. Indifference to Objects of Sense . 6
7. Loss of Shame . 7
8. Distraction of Thought . 8
9. Loss of Consciousness . 9
10. † DEATH † . 10

— INGREDIENTS —

In his bizarre 1887 book “Romantic Love and Personal Beauty,” Henry T. Finck gives an “approximate list of the ingredients in the love of savage and semi-civilized people.” Oddly, the author, whose views on race and definition of “savagedom” leave a great deal to be desired, seems to find nothing odd in parsing love to four decimal places:

<i>Ingredient</i>	%
Selfishness	25.7684
Inconstancy	20.3701
Jealously	0–20.7904
Coyness	0–10.5523
Individual preference	0–5.0073
Personal beauty	0–5.7002
Monopoly	0–7.3024
Pride of possession	4.5082
Sympathy	[sic] 0.0000
Gallantry	0.0006
Self-sacrifice	traces
Ecstatic adoration	traces
Mixed emotions	traces

— HOLLYWOOD LOVE —

According to Rob Wagner’s 1918 book “Film Folk,” Hollywood’s “regular formula for love at first sight” then consisted of: “Enlarging the eyes, to indicate *wonder*; then a smile, suffusing the face, to register *satisfaction*; ending, however, in the pointed brows, the sign by which one *interrogates*. The next spasm is the heaving chest, to indicate that the heart has been *stirred to its nethermost depths*. Now, ‘*determination to have her at any cost*’ must be shown. This is accomplished by a toss of the head, a forward thrust of the chin and a tense clenching of the fists.”