

The Romance Novel Vocabulary Quiz, KEY

Instructions: Match the definition or description on the right with the most appropriate term used by modern romance writers and publishers on the left. Source for most of these terms: *NY Times Book Review*, July 19, 2026.

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| 1. <u>F</u> BBW | A. carelessly or partially dressed |
| 2. <u>D</u> bodice ripper | B. one featuring Fabio, the male model [large pecs and long, blond hair] |
| 3. <u>I</u> Harlequin | C. one told through a letter exchange |
| 4. <u>B</u> clinch cover | D. a romance plus heat |
| 5. <u>A</u> déshabille | E. familiar situation on a yacht or in a mountain cabin |
| 6. <u>J</u> dystopian romance | F. romance featuring big, beautiful women |
| 7. <u>C</u> epistolary romance | G. one involving the supernatural, castles, and bad weather |
| 8. <u>E</u> forced proximity | H. friend with benefits [or "frisky friend" w/ sexual benefits] |
| 9. <u>H</u> FWB | I. romance publisher [clown, buffoon; odd name for publ.] |
| 10. <u>G</u> Gothic romance | J. one set during the End of Times |

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| 1. <u>D</u> BDSM | A. love or lust at first sight |
| 2. <u>G</u> No pecs, no sex. | B. happy ever after [common conclusion] |
| 3. <u>B</u> HEA | C. timeless romance trope [blacks/whites, old/young, straight/gay] |
| 4. <u>H</u> HFN | D. one featuring bondage, discipline, sadism, or masochism |
| 5. <u>A</u> insta-love | E. a wallflower who finds love after a make-over |
| 6. <u>I</u> polyamory | F. romance featuring male lovers with a taste for blood |
| 7. <u>J</u> queer/Sapphic | G. unspoken rule for male protagonists |
| 8. <u>E</u> ugly duckling | H. happy for now [but no guarantees of forever] |
| 9. <u>F</u> vampire | I. boy meets girl meets boy meets girl meets boy [ad nauseum] |
| 10. <u>C</u> opposites attract | J. romance featuring gay and/or lesbian characters |

More:

A hook-up = meaningless sex, 1-night
 Christian romance - "A Love Triangle" or "A 3-way w/ God"; sex w/in marriage
 Holy Bedlock = -u-
 Donnet romance - A wish
 Washboard weeper - 1940s, a soap opera
 "As the stomach churns" - Carol Burnett's parody
 "Wine o'clock" - time for love making
 Dromance - 2 males, not always gay
 Candles in bedroom - task lighting?
 5-day telenovela vendor - Mex. TV, M-Fri.
 Marriage of convenience - one in which one person
 needs \$ or protection/shelter.

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Key
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