

The Romance Novel Vocabulary Quiz

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. ___ BBW | A. carelessly or partially dressed |
| 2. ___ bodice ripper | B. one featuring Fabio, the male model |
| 3. ___ Harlequin | C. one told through a letter exchange |
| 4. ___ clinch cover | D. a romance plus heat |
| 5. ___ déshabille | E. familiar situation on a yacht or in a mountain cabin |
| 6. ___ dystopian romance | F. romance featuring big, beautiful women |
| 7. ___ epistolary romance | G. one involving the supernatural, castles, and bad weather |
| 8. ___ forced proximity | H. friend with benefits |
| 9. ___ FWB | I. romance publisher |
| 10. ___ Gothic romance | J. one set during the End of Times |

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