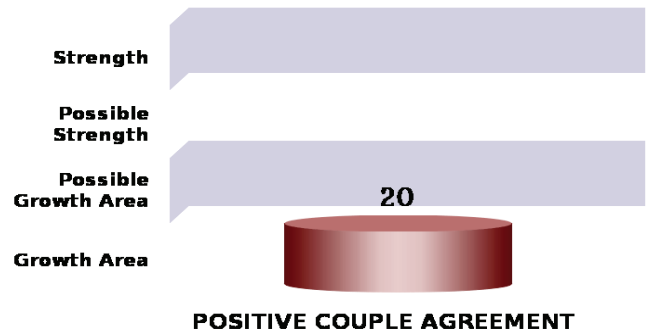
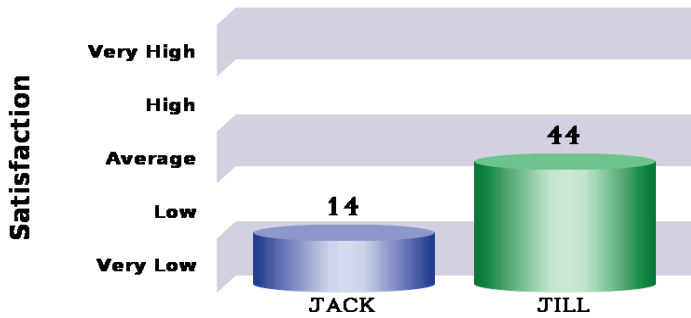


# Adoption Expectations

The **Adoption Expectations** category measures how realistic or unrealistic each individual is about adoption and the natural challenges faced by couples and families going through the process of adopting a child.



**Jack** has unrealistic expectations about the challenges and difficulties associated with adopting.

**Jill** is somewhat realistic about the challenges and difficulties associated with adopting, but may be unrealistic in some aspects.

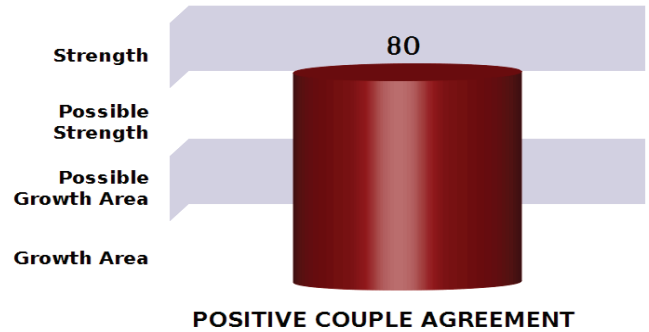
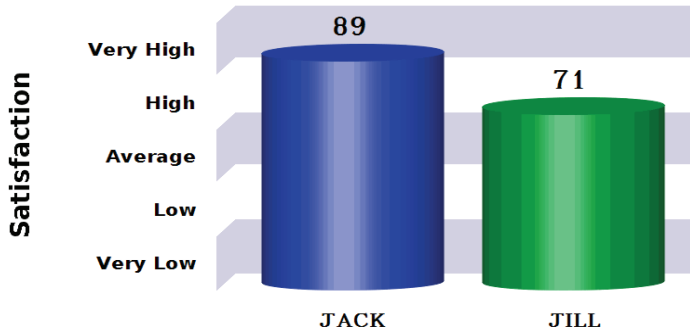
**Growth Area:** One or both of these individuals holds unrealistic expectations about most of the items in this category. Reviewing the myths that lead to later disappointment can help couples enter the adoption process with a mature understanding of the natural challenges they will face.

		Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Undecided 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
<b>Jack</b>	<b>Jill</b>					
2	2	<b>Positive Couple Agreement (20%)</b>				
4	4	- Adopting a child will not change much about the way our family operates.				
		+ I am aware the adoption process can often be difficult and frustrating.				
		<b>Disagreement (40%)</b>				
5	2	- I expect our family and friends to be fully supportive of our decision to adopt.				
4	2	- I expect to bond quickly and easily with our adopted child.				
4	2	- On some level, I believe my life would be incomplete without adopting a child.				
4	2	- The emotional satisfaction of adopting a child will far outweigh any challenges we may face.				
		<b>Indecision (0%)</b>				
		<b>Special Focus (40%)</b>				
4	4	- Adopting a child will bring us closer together as a couple.				
4	4	- Adopting a child will fill a large void in our lives.				
4	4	- I'm certain our adopted child will feel fortunate to be a part of our family.				
5	4	- Nothing could cause me to question our decision to adopt.				

**PREPARE/ENRICH Exercises:** *Discuss each item and the potential downside of holding these unrealistic expectations.*

# Adoption Considerations

The **Adoption Considerations** category looks at a range of pre-adoptive issues couples should discuss and understand. It measures their readiness and commitment to the process of adopting a child.



**Jack** feels very ready and committed to adopting a child.

**Jill** feels ready and committed to adopting a child.

**Relationship Strength:** The couple has positive agreement with most of the items in this category. Review some of their Agreement Items, which represent strengths in their relationship. They may also have 1 or 2 Disagreement, Indecision, or Special Focus items to discuss. Congratulate them! They have discussed and agreed on many important issues surrounding adoption.

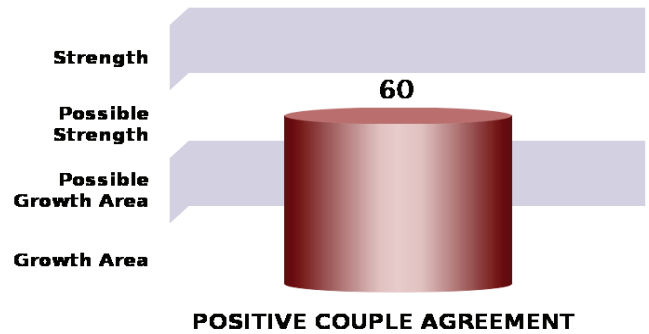
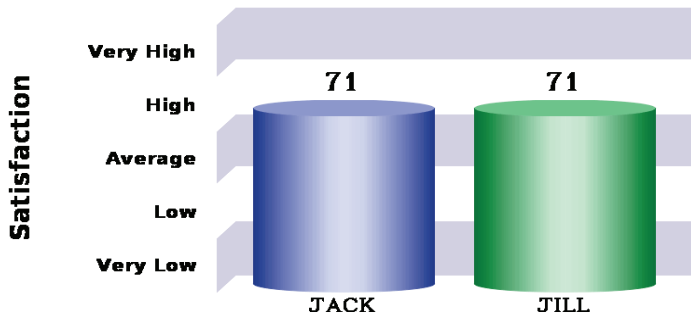
Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Undecided 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
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Jack	Jill	Positive Couple Agreement (80%)
5	5	+ I am committed to making this adoption permanent.
2	2	- I am concerned about our financial ability to adopt.
4	4	+ I am prepared for the stress associated with the adoption process.
1	2	- I sometimes have doubts about our decision to adopt.
5	4	+ We are both committed to adopting a child.
5	4	+ We are both flexible and willing to adjust our lives to make this adoption work.
5	4	+ We both embrace the mission of providing a home for a child in need.
4	5	+ We have discussed and agreed on the age range and background of the child we are willing to adopt.
		<b>Disagreement (10%)</b>
4	2	+ We have considered how contact with our child's birth family might affect our family.
		<b>Indecision (0%)</b>
		<b>Special Focus (10%)</b>
4	5	- Infertility issues are a main reason we've chosen to adopt a child.

**PREPARE/ENRICH Exercises:** *Identifying Most Critical Issues*

# Adoptive Parenting

The **Adoptive Parenting** category measures agreement on issues related to adopting and parenting a child. This category explores a couple's plan to care for a child while also maintaining balance in their relationship.



Both individuals feel good about their communication and agreement on issues related to adopting and parenting a child together.

**Possible Strength:** The couple agreed on several of the items in this category. For those that plan on adopting, it is not too early to begin discussing how they want their family to function as they share parenting responsibilities.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Undecided 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
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Jack	Jill	
<b>Positive Couple Agreement (60%)</b>		
5	5	+ I am confident we can provide a safe and positive environment for the child we adopt.
5	4	+ I am willing to go to great lengths to provide for whatever special needs our adoptive child may have.
4	5	+ I have confidence in my partner's ability to be a great parent to our adopted child.
4	4	+ I understand the challenges associated with the attachment needs of adopted children.
1	1	- My partner and I have different ideas about the type of religious upbringing we will provide for our adopted child.
4	4	+ We have discussed what our childcare options will be (stay-at-home parent, daycare, etc.)
<b>Disagreement (20%)</b>		
4	2	+ We have discussed how we will provide structure and discipline for the child we adopt.
2	4	+ We have discussed the need to nurture our couple relationship, even after the adoption.
<b>Indecision (0%)</b>		
<b>Special Focus (20%)</b>		
2	2	+ We have discussed what each of our roles will be as we parent our adopted child.
4	4	- We have no clear plan for how to manage the fatigue and stress associated with adoptive parenting.

**PREPARE/ENRICH Exercises:** *Children & Parenting: Discussion Questions*