

Objects and behaviors (external) that are often confused as needs, which are actually strategies to meet needs (internal):

(with some possible needs listed in parenthesis)

Money (autonomy, sustenance, support) Sex (intimacy, expression, play) Touch (intimacy, affection, companionship) Conversation (expression, understanding, connection) Time Together (connection, fellowship, closeness) Food (energy, comfort, relief, nourishment) Exercise (health, recreation, play, stimulation) Work (purpose, meaning, sustenance) Car (mobility, autonomy, convenience) House (protection, comfort, shelter) Chocolate (chocolate is, in fact, a need :) )

Needs that contribute to our physical well-being:

(with some possible strategies listed in parenthesis)

Energy (food, stored calories, oxygen)Nourishment (vitamins, minerals, nutrition, water)Vitality (exercise, nutrition)Rejuvenation (sleep, rest)

Any word that follows "I need you to..." is a strategy to meet a need and is being stated as a demand:

ObeyGiveComplyBe ResponsibleConformListenRelentLoveRespectAcceptValidateListen

Words that imply intent and assume facts not in evidence (feelings & needs):

Lie Cheat Manipulate Steal Attack

lgnore Abandon Misbehave Disobey



Adapted from Nonviolent Communication by Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D.