

Collaboration vs Compromise

Keith Ferrazzi, in his book, *Who's Got Your Back*, said that he has a motto; "Collaborate, don't compromise." Compromise, he says, implies that one or both parties have to give something up to reach an agreement or accord. Collaboration, on the other hand, suggests that by working together, partners can develop a solution that doesn't require either partner to sacrifice or give something up. Both partners have helped to create, and thus both own the solution. Consider the definitions of each word...

Collaborate: to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor.
Merriam-Webster.

1. to work, one with another; cooperate, as on a literary work: *They collaborated on a novel*.
2. to cooperate, usually willingly, with an enemy nation, esp. with an enemy occupying one's country. *Dictionary.com*

—***Synonyms***

collude, join, assist, abet, working together, team up, work in partnership.

World English Dictionary

To work with another or others on a joint project or to cooperate as a traitor, esp with an enemy occupying one's own country

Compromise: a: settlement of differences by arbitration or by consent reached by mutual concessions b: something intermediate between or blending qualities of two different things
2: a concession to something derogatory or prejudicial <a compromise of principles> *Merriam-Webster*

a settlement of differences by mutual concessions; an agreement reached by adjustment of conflicting or opposing claims, principles, etc., by reciprocal modification of demands.
Dictionary.com

—***Synonyms***

cooperation, negotiation, concession, conciliation

World English Dictionary

Settlement of a dispute by concessions on both or all sides or something midway between two or more different things

The difference may be more of an attitude than actual differences in definition, but there is an important distinction between the two words. When couples have attitudes of collaboration, they work as partners to solve problems, meet challenges or just complete the day-to-day tasks required in life. Sure, compromise is a possible solution to many conflicts we face, but when it is the result of a couple working together, compromise is not a matter of giving something up or "losing." Couples need to build the attitude of collaboration into their marriage relationships.