

## How to Flirt Online

---

Traditional flirting is highly dependent on body language—prolonged eye contact, a casual touch of the arm, a suggestive smile—as well as the tone of voice used when making conversation. With online dating, these types of visual and auditory cues are no longer available, making it much more challenging to convey your interest and pick up the signals someone may (or may not) be sending.

The good news is, once you get the hang of it, online flirting is an easy skill to master. Below are some fun, easy tips:

- **Don't give away too much.** While you shouldn't hide important information, you also don't want to inundate new friends with every last detail about yourself. Peel away the layers of your personality slowly, building a sense of mystery. If you divulge too much too fast, there won't be much left for future conversations. When you're tempted to keep talking about yourself, divert the focus by asking questions about the other person.
- **Keep it short and sweet.** At the beginning of an online courtship, avoid bombarding women with long-winded, rambling messages. Stick to short, bite-sized sentences that give the reader an idea of your personality without pouring it on too thick. Save the longer monologues for later, when your prospective partner has expressed a desire to learn more about you.
- **Understand chat acronyms.** You should have a basic understanding of these so can decipher the messages you're receiving. While you don't want to over-use them, it can be fun to toss in a few yourself. Some of the most commonly used acronyms include: XOXO (hugs and kisses), LOL (laugh out loud), AKA (also known as), BTW (by the way), ISO (in search of), F2F (face to face), IRL (in real life), and LDR (long-distance relationship). You can also use emoticons (smiley-faces, winks, frowns, etc.) to add inflection to a comment.
- **Don't be stingy with compliments.** If you find someone who piques your interest, tell them why. By expressing your admiration of their good qualities—whether it's their professional success, good parenting skills, or a great sense of humor—you'll boost their self-esteem while also conveying what's important to you in a partner. When you make them feel good about themselves, they'll be more likely to want to get to know you better. That said, don't go overboard—a surplus of flattery could make you appear desperate or phony.

- **Ask lots of questions.** It's a proven fact that people are attracted to those who take a strong interest in their life. Ask women about their jobs, hobbies, passions, favorite movies and music, and anything else they seem eager to talk about.
- **Be bold.** An online dating site is not the place to be overly coy. Everyone is there for the same reason, so there's no reason to hold back if you find someone who appeals to you. When you flirt with confidence, you'll get noticed and set yourself apart from all the other guys out there.
- **Be yourself.** It may be a cliché, but it's an important one. When chatting online, act natural. If you pretend to be someone you're not, your true colors will eventually emerge.

Above all, be sure to get a feel for boundaries before you begin flirting with someone. Start out conservatively, and once you begin to know each other you can slowly begin communicating in a more playful way. And when you're ready, you can take the flirting off-line in a face-to-face meeting.