



Conversation Guide For Men

**A Step-by-Step Guide on How to Pick Up
Women**

**Written by a Woman Who's Heard Every Line in
the Book – and Knows What Works!**

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Introduction – Getting Started

How can such a simple thing as striking up a conversation be so hard? Because we make it harder than it has to be, that's how. Most things aren't as difficult as we imagine they are, and few things are truly impossible. That applies to most things in life, and it certainly applies to talking to women.

If you're reading this, then you probably already are the one thing women want most – a man! Don't be fooled into thinking women are overly picky just because you've heard them talk about some gorgeous, rich celebrity they think is sexy. Don't compare yourself to some fantasy and think you pale by comparison.



Because that's what the celebrity is – a fantasy. He's a man most women will never meet, someone who will never ask them out for a drink, never hold them close in his arms for a slow, sexy dance – or a night of smoldering, hot passion. You, however, can do all of those things.

What us women need, and want, is a real man, one we can meet in real life. What we want is you. If you approach us the right way, that is. Handle us right and we're more than happy to be your every fantasy. What men forget is that women have fantasies, too. If you make us feel fascinating, desirable and beautiful, then you just satisfied some of our biggest needs. And believe me, once you satisfy our needs, we'll satisfy yours.

Why would I reveal all this to men, tell you how to talk your way into a woman's heart – and bed? Because too many times I've been attracted to men that I didn't know were also attracted to me. Later, after the sparks of interest had died, I'd learn the things they had been doing were their way of showing interest. But they never said the right thing, never came right out and let me know their interest was far more than friendly. And they never seemed to pick up the signals I was trying to send. So we both ended up frustrated. I'm tired of being frustrated, guys. Most women are. If you want us, let us know. Don't waste time. Don't let a spark of attraction go cold when it could easily be fanned into a flame.

One of the most exciting, sweet, hot, wonderful things in the world is getting to know someone new. Making that first physical contact through little touches on the arm, or back or hair. Moving on to bodies pressed together in a slow dance, or sitting close while reading a menu in a restaurant or a book in a library, or huddled in a doorway to escape the cold, or any of a hundred other ways you can find to make close contact with someone you desire.

Then there's moving on to more intimate exploration. The heat and excitement of sharing your body with someone who wants you as much as you want her – that's one of the best bits of life. And we all miss some wonderful opportunities for that because men and women don't know how to communicate.

Let's break down some of those barriers. You can look at it as trying to make the world a more wonderful place in which to live. You can look at it as a road to better health – we'll all have a lot less stress and be a lot happier because we'll be having more and better sex. You can look at it as just trying to get laid. However you look at, just take a little time to work on communicating with women. It'll do both sexes a lot of good.

Breaking Down Barriers

A Glance is Worth a Thousand Pick-up Lines ...

You've been there before. See a gorgeous girl at the end of the bar, watch her all night (shyly making sure she doesn't notice you watching), then see her leave alone – or with someone else who wasn't too shy to show his interest.



Or you see the girl in a store, selecting fresh fruit or flipping through pages in a magazine. Again you watch from a distance, looking away quickly if she glances in your direction.

Well, men, don't be so afraid to be caught looking. The instinct that forces you to look away if someone notices your glance is all part of a fear of rejection, a fear the woman won't be interested in return. But you'll find many times that she's flattered and that she'll start glancing your way a lot more often once she's noticed you checking her over. And what if she doesn't start looking back? You've lost nothing. Leave her alone and move on. But play the glance game right and you'll be leaving that bar with more than a hangover to show for it the next morning. Or you'll leave that bookstore with more than a couple of magazines to leaf through alone in your bed later. Wherever you are, you can leave with a lot more than you expected if you learn the rules of first contact.

And that's what a glance is. It's contact, it's showing interest, it's saying you're attracted. And what women love more than anything else is to feel attractive! We're not totally shallow, vain creatures. But we do have vanity. No matter how beautiful the woman, she craves attention. And most women have fears about their looks that most men can't imagine. I've read interviews with supermodels complaining of things they didn't like about their bodies. Supermodels. Women so gorgeous that they are paid thousands of dollars an hour simply to stand there and look gorgeous. And even they have doubts about their attractiveness. So don't assume the woman you desire is so beautiful and sexy that surely she knows it and that she doesn't need any reassurance from you – she does. She not only needs it, she craves it. Give it to her, and a woman who might not have given you a second glance will suddenly be dying to go home with you, dying to get more of that positive affirmation us women want so badly.

And when a woman looks up, repeatedly, to see a man looking at her, she's getting affirmation. She knows he finds her sexy. Her blood rises, her skin gets flushed. She gets a little excited. She can't resist looking his way again. The game is afoot.

Let me give you an example of how a look can lead to an introduction (and much, much more). Let's say you're seated at a bar and spot a cutie you'd like to get on closer terms with seated at the other end of the bar. Look her way every now and then, resting your eyes on her for 30 or 40 seconds until she notices that she's being watched. If she doesn't look your way in that amount of time, look away for a few moments before looking back. Staring for minutes on end could make her quite nervous in the off chance she saw you watching her out of the corner of her eye and didn't acknowledge it.

When she does notice your glance, she may look quickly away at first. The tendency to be shy and self-conscious applies to women as well. But don't give up, she'll look back. Keep looking

her way until she looks up again. When she does, if she doesn't shyly avert her eyes too quickly, go ahead and up the ante – take the risk of really showing her you're interested. You do this with a smile, maybe accompanied by raising your glass in her direction and nodding your head. If you're feeling bold and she's broadly smiling back at you, throw in a light-hearted wink. By light-hearted, I mean don't act like you're Mr. Serious Stud Winking at the Hottie. Act like Mr. Guy Who Finds You Attractive and Has a Good Sense of Humor. A sense of humor is a good thing; acting too serious or like you think you really are Mr. Wonderful is a bad thing. Even if you are someone that she will later learn really is Mr. Wonderful, you shouldn't act too aware of the fact. Humility about yourself mixed with a good dose of admiration for the lady you've set your sights on is a winning combination. Us woman eat it up like candy.

The Art of Conversation



Now you've made eye contact, exchanged smiles. You've had a nice moment already, and you haven't even said a word! Time for Level 2: Conversation.

Pick up your drink, feel confident about yourself (if you believe in yourself, it will show in your walk, your attitude – everything about you), and walk over to the lady that you're hoping to know on better terms.

Sit beside her, asking first if the seat is free, of course. If there's no seat there, go stand beside her – but not too close, don't press yourself up against her. Start off with the most often used greeting that always gets a response: "Hello" or "Hi." Follow up with a quick compliment. Something like: "I just had to tell you, you've got a lovely smile." Or beautiful eyes, or beautiful hair. Pick the feature that really attracts you the most (from the neck up only, men, don't get too bold too soon!) and compliment her on it.

Conversation Tip

Remember – women love compliments! Tell her you couldn't help but notice her beautiful smile, or you just had to come over to tell her she's got the most beautiful hair you've ever seen.

From there, introduce yourself and extend a hand. Now you've established physical contact! It may just be a handshake, but it's a start, and it can definitely lead to much more gratifying contact later on. She'll probably offer up her name in return, but if she doesn't, ask her what it is. It wouldn't hurt to offer to buy her a drink at this point. Even if she declines the drink, that doesn't mean she's not interested. If she says she's not finished with her current drink, use that as an opening to get to hang around and talk longer. Say something like, "Then I'll just have to wait until you're ready for another one." Say it with a smile; it'll come out cute and charming. You'll be able to see immediately if she thought it was cute and charming by her reaction. If she smiles or laughs and says "OK," you're on your way. Hang in there, buddy, because she's starting to get interested.

But let's back up for a minute. What if it didn't start with a glance from across the room? What if the babe you want was seated right beside you?

You still look her way, though raising the glass and giving a wink might be a bit odd in close quarters. Strike up the conversation the same way – "Hello," followed by a compliment. You may also want to time the beginning of your chat with something else that will give you something to talk about. For instance, a song that was a big hit when you were in school comes on. Whether in your case that was two years ago or twenty years ago, it's still going to bring back some good memories. Share that, it may be a song or story that makes her smile, too.

Say something like, "This really takes me back. They used to play this at every party I went to when I was in school (or at every dance, or we'd blast this so loud it made the walls shake – whatever your memory might be.)" Then ask her if she remembers the song, if she likes it. Ask her if she's got a song that always makes her smile when she hears it. Or ask her what kind of music she likes. This not only gives you something to talk about, it gives you more moments shared smiling. Which makes her think how good it feels to be around you. Which will eventually give you the chance to show her how really, really good you can make her feel.

Let's back up again. What if the place is so crowded people are milling about, bumping into each other? What do you do to catch her eye? In this case, it may even be acceptable to get her attention with a gentle touch on the arm or back – given the right circumstances. Making physical contact is good, but you don't want to do it in a pushy way. And those first touches should always be gentle – no poking of the shoulder or grabbing of the wrist.

Let's say you just walked into a crowded bar and there is no free seat. The woman you want to talk to may not even be seated. If there's a crowd, you can gently place a hand on her arm or the small of the back and say "Excuse me" as you pass – but don't pass far. The contact got her attention, and it really feels nice for the woman to get that gentle touch from a stranger, believe me. A soft, warm touch always feels good, and it's yet another sign that he finds her attractive. You can make sure to do this at a time when it's so crowded that you can't really move far, or you can chat with her as you wait to order your drink. And if it's crowded, there may indeed be a wait. I've met several men who became far more than acquaintances who were standing beside me and started a conversation while waiting to order a drink at the bar. I'll admit a secret here: I often sit at a point at a bar that is near a spot where people often make their drink orders because it is such a good spot to meet men.

Keeping it going

So now you've started a conversation and given her a compliment. Good start! Keep it going by asking the woman something about herself. People love to talk about themselves; all you have to do is set up the question and listen to the answer – become Mr. Interested and Attentive. The conversation will probably pick up steam and keep itself going effortlessly.

A simple question to start with is: "Are you from around here? Have you always lived here?" If the answer is "No," find out all the fascinating details about where she's from (at least you'll act fascinated if you want her to be thrilled with how great you are. And she will think you're great because it feels good to have someone listen to you and like what you have to say.)

But if she is a local to that area, use that as an opportunity to ask for "advice." Women love to help, tell you what they think of something and give opinions. So say something like, "I can never find much to do in this town. What else is there to do for fun around here?" This works if you live in the town or are just visiting. If you're from out of town, you can play up that fact

and she'll likely go on and on about everything her town has to offer. But even if you live there, too, this still works – you've simply run out interesting things to do and need her advice.

Conversation Tip

The chance to give advice or “help” makes all of us feel a bit intelligent and needed. That includes women! So get women talking, and feeling good about themselves (and feeling good about you for being the one to make them feel good), by asking for advice.

If she lists the places she loves to go, pay attention. When she hits on one that she really gushes about, that she really thinks is wonderful – whether it be a great dance club, or a restaurant, or a park with great walking trails – tell her that sounds pretty cool. Say you'd like to check it out sometime. This will keep the conversation rolling and have her telling you more about the place. If the conversation is going well at this point – if she seems pretty excited, is gesturing a lot, is smiling, won't shut up about the topic – you may have already reached the point of suggesting the two of you go to this favorite spot together. Say, “Maybe we could go there together, you could give me the tour.” If she smiles or blushes and says, “I'd like that,” you're in! Get her number now!

But let's say you really aren't looking to call her and ask her out, that you're just interested in taking her home that night (and I wouldn't be a woman if I didn't say here that I hope you're really planning to call her if you ask for that number!). But if you just want a hook up that night, you've really got a crap shoot on your hands as far as pretending to be interested in a date. You can ask her for the number anyway and say you'd like to take her to her favorite restaurant sometime (even when you aren't really thinking past getting her home that night), which may spark her interest in you and may help you get her into your bed that night. However, it could backfire. She may start thinking of you as a dating prospect, so she might totally rule out going home with you that night because she's afraid that would hurt the chances of any relationship possibility down the road. Women think like that.

So you take your chances if you mislead the woman. She might have been feeling a bit hot and horny and ready to get wild, but she'll push aside those feelings to avoid ruining what she thinks is a chance at a relationship or at least someone nice to date for awhile. It's far better to be honest about what you want, because she may want the same thing. That doesn't mean you offer up more information than you have to - just omit information that won't help your cause. You don't have to tell her that all you want is to bang her senseless tonight and to hell with taking her to a movie next week. But you also don't have to act like you're interested in a date when you're not. That could backfire. So just act interested in her, and attracted to her, and let her draw her own conclusions about where you want it to lead. It's not your fault if she draws some wrong conclusions.

But what if she didn't jump at the offer of seeing her favorite spot with you? What if she gives a negative response, like “I don't know, I'm pretty busy.” Or, “No, I'm really bored with that place now, it's just fun the first few times you go.” Then ask her what else she likes to do, or ask when she will have free time. A negative response from her could mean she's not interested in being picked up, or it could mean she hasn't realized yet that you are trying to pick her up. Keep trying a little longer, because nothing attracts a woman like knowing that a man is interested in her. Call it vanity, call it ego, call it what you will – but use it to your advantage. Remember, we love attention, and we love to talk. And we'll adore you if you can at least pretend to pay attention. So nod and smile, looking the woman in the eye as much as

possible so that she feels you're really paying attention, really interested. And you really should pay attention, because you'll get a few tidbits of information you can use later.

If you didn't get the number yet, then you're still working on it or else you're just working on getting her home that night. So try another tried and true conversation maker: "What do you do for a living?" Whatever it is, act interested. Tell her it's interesting. "You're a waitress? I bet that's hard work. But you probably meet some interesting people." She's a lawyer? "Hey, that sounds interesting. I bet you've had some interesting cases." She'll probably be off and running with stories about crazy people at the restaurant or weird legal cases, and all you have to do is listen and laugh. But if she just gives short (one- or two-word) answers about her job and doesn't give details, or if she only has negative things to say about her job, drop the topic quick. It could be that she hates her work and wants to relax without your reminding her about her sucky, rotten job.

Also, be armed with a joke or two. It can be cheesy, old, silly, whatever – as long as it's funny and something that won't totally turn her off to you. Things that are mean-spirited, political or religious could trip you up. Let's say you tell a joke making fun of fat women. What if her best friend or her sister is overweight? She'll take it as a personal assault on her friend or family and will be turned off. What if you make fun of a politician she supports? Or a religion she practices? These are potential landmines just waiting for you to trip onto and blow your chances with the babe. Don't do it. Steal a line from some "clean" comedian or talk show host. If she recognizes the source, so what? Say, "Yeah, I watch his show every week. I love it. Did you see the one where...." Now the two of you can talk about the show or comedian you both like. Light, meaningless chatter is your friend. Keep her there at your side, smiling, talking about fluff that's not that important, skipping over anything negative or sad. She'll enjoy being by your side and being admired.

As you talk, find ways to tell her she's hot. It can be in words: "I'm sorry to stare, but you have the most beautiful eyes," or "You just look so gorgeous in that dress. Please don't take this the wrong way, but you've got great legs." And don't worry, she won't take it the wrong way! She'll take it that you noticed she's hot, and that will make her feel sexy.

But you can also let her know you've noticed how sexy she is in other ways. A light touch on the arm or leg as you talk, or taking her hand in yours briefly as you comment on how pretty or unique her ring or bracelet is. You can brush her hair back from her face as you tell her how beautiful and soft it is. You'll know she's interested in you if she doesn't draw back from this contact and if she responds with likewise touches to you, or if she leans in your direction as you talk. If she leans away, she might still be a bit reserved, so keep working on her – just lay off the touching for awhile.

Just make sure to ask for her number before you leave. Say, "I've really enjoyed talking with you and would love to get together sometime. Can I get your number?" And if you have to leave before she does, make sure she knows it's because you have to get up early or the friends you rode with are leaving or you have to catch the last bus or whatever the case may be. Otherwise, she might think you're bored with her, and you don't want your little hottie to think that.

If you just can't wait to call her for a date and want a shot at getting your hot little hands on her even hotter body right then, there are two tried and true methods to let her know what you want without coming right out and saying you'd like to screw her 'til the sun comes up.

One is to ask her where she's going next. When she says she's going home, ask if you can go with her. Or say you'd like to continue the conversation and ask if she'd like to come to your place for a drink. She'll know you're really offering her a lot more than a drink. She may say

“No, thanks.” That’s fine, don’t think this means she’s not interested in you at all. It just means she’s not going home with a man she just met. Tell her, “Ok, have a good night and I’ll give you a call next week.”

Do keep in mind, though, that if she does go home with you for the drink, that doesn’t mean she’s agreed to anything more. It is possible she really just wants to continue the conversation – and that’s it. Play it by ear when she gets to your place, and if she rejects your advances, back off. She liked you enough to come to your place for a drink, so she’ll probably be happy to go out with you if you call later for a date. Don’t blow it all by being too pushy if she’s pushing you away.

Meeting Women Anywhere

Ok, so we’ve talked about how to strike up a conversation and win over a babe in a bar. However, those same tips for striking up the conversation can be used anywhere there are women – which is everywhere!



You might not even be thinking of trying to score when some beautiful lass catches your eye. Or, you might have gone out with the intent of trying to hook up. Either way, you can easily strike up a chat.

Planning to Hook Up

If you have some free time and plan to spend an afternoon or evening looking for a little action in places like parks, stores or libraries, it doesn’t hurt to do a little preparation in advance. Read an entertainment magazine or watch an entertainment gossip/news show on television. Watch some of the most popular television shows or movies during the week. Read a newspaper. Look at entertainment events calendars for your town and see what bands, festivals or other events are going on or coming up in your area. Believe it or not, all of this is fuel to use when you want to fire up a conversation with a beautiful girl that catches your eye, and it can help you get a date.

Why? Because television, magazines and movies are common ground. If it’s a popular show or gossip about some celebrity, chances are most people have at least heard of that show or celebrity. And the woman you’re chatting up may be a big fan of that show, or band, or whatever it is. This information you stored up before leaving the house could come in handy at some point when you’re chatting away and looking for something to talk about. It also could come in handy if, during the course of the conversation, the woman mentions she likes a certain actor, or band, or whatever. You can say you know that actor’s new movie starts next week, or that the band she likes (or one that plays the same type of music) is playing in the pub down the street. You can invite her to go to the movie or pub, or wherever it is, with you. And since you’ve already been chatting together about the topic and you know she likes whatever it is, she’ll probably be thrilled you asked and say “Yes.” So do your homework, it can pay off.

Conversation Tip

Do your homework! Read an entertainment magazine, watch television, read a newspaper. All of this could give you topics of conversation when you most need it – when you're trying to chat up a woman!

Bookstores

You know you're looking to meet someone. So why not go out and really look for someone to meet? Plan your trips with that in mind. You don't really need a book or magazine? Who cares, go to the bookstore anyway! The most interesting things aren't on the shelves – but some pretty interesting things will be there browsing away. And remember – single women go there trying to meet someone, too! Many of them hope a guy will take an interest and start a conversation. The hope of a little flirting keeps lots of bookstores and coffee shops buzzing with customers, so you might as well prowl on this very fertile ground.

Good places to look for ladies are at the magazine racks, where people will mill around and stay awhile as they flip through magazines. See a hottie you like? Go over to the section she's looking at and browse those magazines, too. Pick up the same one she's looking at if you can. Flip through it, standing near her, and then comment on something in the magazine. "I can't believe they're canceling that TV show!" or "I can't wait to get that band's new album, I've heard it's really good." Just say whatever applies to the type of magazine she's got. Chances are she'll jump at the chance to chat about a topic she's obviously interested in or she wouldn't be looking at that magazine.

Or, if she's looking through a ladies magazine that most men don't read, pick up a similar-type men's magazine. She's got a magazine about women's fashion? Pick up a magazine about men's fashion. She's got one with spicy articles about sex, health and dating? Pick up a men's magazine that talks about that, too. Then comment to her on how it's funny that the men's and women's magazines carry similar articles, and how the perspective is different in some ways and alike in others. If she keeps chatting with you and smiling, keep talking away and eventually start to ask her about herself. Then either invite her for a cup of coffee right then to continue the chat or, just like in the bar scenario, tell her you've enjoyed the chat and would like to continue it sometime and ask for her phone number.

If, however, she answers all your comments with one-word responses and then looks away from you to continue reading the magazine, or steps slightly away from you, she may not be interested. Don't take it too hard, she may not be in the mood for being picked up, or she may have a boyfriend. Just move on to another section of the bookstore and find someone else.

Asking for help or advice, as always, gets the woman's interest. See someone you like looking over writing journals or diaries? Walk over, look at journals a moment, then tell her there's so many to choose from that you just can't decide. Say you've decided to start keeping a daily journal or diary but don't know what kind to get. She'll love the chance to give advice on all the different types of journals and what one works best for you. Most men wouldn't even know there are different types of journals or diaries, but women sure do. Let her tell you, act a little bewildered by it all, and let her enjoy giving advice to a "helpless" man. A male friend of mine met a woman that became a very hot fling after he asked her advice on journals in a bookstore. I guess she wanted to make sure he had something interesting to write about!

Or go to any section of books you're really interested in and strike up a conversation there. Thinking of taking a trip? Go to the travel section. If any lovely ladies are around, make their

day by asking for help finding a book, then discuss the book or travel destination with her. Do you like to cook or want to learn? Like music? Science fiction? Biographies? Do the same thing at any of those sections. And if the chat goes well, invite the woman for coffee or just say you've really enjoyed talking to her and would like to get together sometime to talk more, and ask for her number. See how the same conversation tricks can work in many different situations? Once you've learned to break the ice, you can meet women anywhere. Here are some more examples:

Shopping for Love – and Vegetables!

Need to pick up something at the market? Great, use that as a chance to pick up a treat far more tasty than the goodies in your basket!

The same conversation rules apply. Comment on the products, ask for help or advice. In the produce department, seek out a woman who's alone and browsing over the fruit or veggies, someone who looks like she's taking her time making a selection. Go over and browse the fruit too, and comment on how you never can pick the best apples, or a ripe melon, or whatever type of fruit is at hand. Say, "Excuse me, do you know how to pick a good melon (or ripe strawberries, etc)?" If she has advice, seem interested, tell her you never knew you could tell it was ripe by the color, scent, etc. (whatever method she used). Thank her for the help, and say, "By the way, my name's Doug (or whatever your name is)." If she doesn't introduce herself automatically, say, "And what can I call you?"

Then you can be a bit more personal in further discussion by calling her by name. Like, "Well, Susan, thanks again for the help. Maybe I can repay you sometime by buying you a cup of coffee? Could I call you sometime?" If the chat so far has been brief, you probably do just want to start with offering to meet her at a coffee shop. It might seem like too much, too soon if you offered dinner or a movie after only talking for a few minutes. If things go well over coffee or a beer, you can ask for more of a "real" date like dinner.

However, the chat at the supermarket could extend to strolling around the store together as you shop, joking and commenting on products and their silly ads on television, and asking about what she does for a living and her hobbies. Then you could ask right then for dinner or a movie instead of just coffee.

And keep in mind, dinner or a movie are just examples of possible dates. If she mentions liking to go on hikes and you like that too, suggest the two of you do that together. Or it could be riding bikes, or going to a museum, or going to the beach, or listening to live bands. If there's something she's mentioned that she likes to do and you enjoy the same thing, suggest the two of you do it together. You already know she likes that activity, so it's a great way to get her to see you again. And, as you'll both be doing something you enjoy, you'll probably have a good time doing it, learn more about each other and start to ignite some sparks.

Getting Playful in the Park

A park on a sunny afternoon is a great place to take in a little fresh air – and some lovely scenery walking past! And don't be fooled into thinking women are all innocent in their trips to the park – they like to check out men as much as the men are checking them out!

First off, go to the park armed with a small notepad of some sort in your pocket or business cards in your wallet, and bring a pen. All the better for getting and giving phone numbers. If you use business cards, you can give her one of yours and use another to write her number on the back for yourself to keep. Or bring a magazine or newspaper you can use to write her

number down on. Or just bring your cell phone and you can input the name and number of any women you successfully chat up! Whatever your method, make sure you have a way to record those digits!

Hook-up Tip

Make sure you always have some way to take down a name and phone number. You can write it on one of your own business cards, or a napkin, or a newspaper, or enter it in your cell phone. Hell, write it on paper money if you have to! Just be sure to have some method to save those digits!

Second, if you have a dog, bring him! You've heard many times about walking a dog being a great way to meet women – because it is! You don't even have to be the one to start a conversation when you've got a dog. Women will ask you about the dog, stop to pet it. Tell the perky, pet-loving princess all about your dog, then ask if she has pets and what kind. If she doesn't have pets, ask why not? If your dog does tricks, no matter how stupid, show them to her. The stupid ones are cute and funny, and you'll seem cute and funny, too, as you lead your dog through the tricks.

And this next thing is very important – **tell her how much your dog likes her and that he never takes to strangers this fast** (even if he does, tell her he doesn't. This lets her feel that she's somehow special and that you, and your “best friend,” have noticed). Then smile and say, “But Fido (or whatever your dog's name is) always did have good taste.”

If that hasn't got her smiling and blushing, try to get her talking about any pets she has or had in the past. Ask for tips for handling your dog. Offer tips about her pets. Just keep her chatting on this topic you both have an interest in. Then say, “Well, Fido sure likes you. What's that boy?” Bend down on one knee and put your ear to the dog's mouth like you're listening to him tell you a secret. “You would? OK.” Then look the lovely lady in the eye, smile and say, “Fido sure would like to see you again. Care to join us for a picnic here next weekend?” Sound silly? Sure it is! It's also cute and endearing and charmingly sweet, as far as the woman's concerned, anyway. Even when the guy is someone the woman might not have given a second look at before, it's hard to resist a man who's basically told her she's so appealing that even a dog with its innate sixth sense can tell she's something special. And it's hard for a woman to turn down a guy when his dog is sitting there looking adorable and wagging his tail at her in excitement.

I once went out with a guy mainly because his cat ran out to me as I walked by his apartment. This cute, furry kitty came out and rubbed against my legs and I just had to stop and pet it and talk to it – I know, I'm a sucker for anything cute and huggable. Most women are. The cat's owner came out and apologized for his pet bothering me, and of course I said it was no bother and asked the cat's name. We talked about the friendly feline for awhile, then he started asking what I do, did I live nearby. When he said he'd like to get together sometime and talk more, I said sure – but I wasn't really sure if I wanted to see him again or just get some more of that adoration that pets give so well. But after wine and candlelight at his place later, I forgot all about kitty.

But if you don't have a dog or cat, no worries. A park is still a great place to meet women. **Here's a trick to try: bring a Frisbee.** You're alone, in the park, trying to toss a Frisbee to yourself. It's kind of comical, kind of silly. And kind of endearing – to some women, anyway. Some might not stop and smile at your antics. Those women are probably more hard-hearted, a bit stuck-up – in other words, really hard to pick up. The woman who's inclined to be more positive and be charmed by a bit of humor is the one who's more likely going to give you a

number. You'll do a lot better going after women who really want to be picked up, as opposed to wasting time on an ice princess who has a bitter chip on her shoulder.

So, back to the Frisbee. You're tossing it up in the air to yourself not far from a woman, or a group of women, sitting there chatting in the park or reading or just stretched out on a blanket relaxing. Toss it for a while, then say out loud to yourself: "I sure wish I had someone to play with." Maybe look towards the ladies and smile, then look away and go back to tossing it to yourself. Then toss it to where it lands near the lady you like – making very sure not to hit her with it! Make it seem like an accident, and go fetch it. Unless she's in total bitch mode, she'll pick it up to hand it to you. It's like a reflex – someone drops something, we all go to pick it up. When she does, thank her, and ask her if she'd like to play. No? "Come on, it's a lovely day in the park, and you're just sitting here?" She might get up and play. If she does, great, play awhile and then ask some questions about her (where do you work, live, what do you do for fun), then offer to thank her for the game with a cup of coffee or invite her for a rematch sometime, and get her number.

If she doesn't want to play, say, "So, you're not into Frisbee. What do you like to do?" If she still seems disinterested at this and gives a short reply that doesn't invite further conversation, hit the road and find friendlier ground. Remember, not every woman is single. And some have been hit on so much lately they just want to be left alone for awhile. These women probably won't be fun to be around anyway, so leave them alone. They'll eventually get lonely enough that they'll go out looking for a little male company and they'll become the ones that are ready and willing to be picked up.

Other ideas for hooking up in the Great Outdoors: Bring a book and read, paving the way to chatting with other bookworms; go jogging and spark a lot of talk with female joggers about how fast or how far they go, good spots to run, good times of day, what to wear, and so much more; ride a bike; roller skate; or just walk around and when you get the chance comment on the lovely pond or beautiful day to some lovely lady. If she responds, get the chat rolling any way you can – more about the park, or scenery, or weather, then on to asking about her. It really is that easy many times. Women like men. We want to meet men. We want attention from men, want that affirmation that we are desirable.

Some women need a little work to warm them up, so keep at it – for a while. If the woman obviously doesn't want to be bothered and gets rude with you to drive the point home, leave her be. You don't want to keep trying and find her muscular boyfriend coming around the corner to drive you away from his lady fair or some such scenario. If a woman is really negatively turning down your efforts, drop it. Lots of other women want attention, don't keep at one who really wants to be left alone. It won't get you anywhere – other than possibly explaining to a passing policeman why you won't leave the lady alone. Approach and try a few chat tricks, but if she's rude or gives very short answers without asking you questions in return, or even actually walks away, then leave her alone and find another one of those fish in the sea.

Getting Creative – and a Bit Sneaky!

Do you feel like being a bit creative or using an unusual approach, just to spice up your own fun in the hunt for a hottie? Here are a few tactics that are a bit creative – and maybe a little sneaky. But if they work, where's the harm?

Don't I know you?

We've all heard of the old line of asking: "Don't I know you from somewhere?" Try a new twist on this that could take you a lot farther than just dropping your tactic and walking off when she says you're mistaken.

Walk up to your lady of choice – and this can be in a bar, at a park, in a restaurant, in line at a store, virtually anywhere – and say, "Hi, Susan, how's work?" She'll reply, "I'm sorry, I'm not Susan." So you reply, "Oh, you're not Susan Jones that works at Jackson Hospital?" Here, she might only say, "No," and if she does, then you say, "I'm sorry for the mistake. My name's Doug Johnson, what's yours?" At this point, hopefully, she'll give her full name. Then you can say, "And you don't work at Jackson Hospital?" At which point she may say where she really does work. If she doesn't seem talkative and won't offer up her name or where she works, just apologize again and walk on.

However, people tend to volunteer extra information – especially people of the female persuasion, without too much prodding. Remember, we do love to talk! So, when you first asked if she was Susan Jones from the hospital, she may go ahead and say, without any prompting, "No, I'm Barbara Taylor and I work at Cellular Advantage." Either way you get it, now you know her name and where she works! So say, "I'm sorry, I could've sworn you were the woman who works with my sister (or brother). But now that I think about it, you're even prettier than Susan is. Anyway, I'm Doug Johnson, and it was nice meeting you." And walk away. If you were in line at a store during this conversation, keep chatting, asking more about her or laughing about your mistake and making chitchat until she or you gets through the line. Then smile, say, "Nice meeting you," and leave.

Within two or three days, call the place she works. Say, "Hi, this is Doug. I'm the one who mistook you for a woman who works with my sister at the hospital. I'm sorry to call you out of the blue like this, but the other day you just seemed so nice and friendly, and I don't meet many women like that. I'd really like to get to know you better, and I was wondering if you'd like to meet me for lunch later this week?"

At this point, she'll be a little taken off guard, but very flattered that you would look her up. And she may not quite remember what you look like, but that's OK – now she's going to deal with personality more than looks, and the fact that you found her so attractive and interesting that you called her at work is very flattering. She'll think of you as having a sweet, charming personality. Remember, if you make us feel good about ourselves, we think highly of you. She may be a little reluctant to meet as she doesn't really know you, which is why you suggest meeting somewhere public rather than picking her up at her place, and you suggest lunch, so that it's a public place in the daytime. She'll feel safe giving it a shot. If she agrees, give her your number in case she needs to reach you, but don't ask for her home number – this way, she still feels a stranger isn't getting too pushy. She may volunteer her home number at this point, but if she doesn't, that's fine, too.

If she still says she's not sure she'd be comfortable meeting because she only spoke to you for a moment, ask if you can call back in a few days to give her time to think about it.

Or suggest she bring a girlfriend along and you'll treat them both to a drink after work. It's best to get a date with the woman alone so you can chat without what may be a pushy or annoying friend along for the ride, but if the woman's a little uncertain, she will be more likely to come if she has someone with her. And who wants to turn down a free drink? And who doesn't loosen up after they've had a free drink or two? You'll probably be able to convince her to go on a real date later – without the third wheel tagging along!

Getting frisky with flowers

Another very winning option is to send flowers to her at work before you call. Send a pretty arrangement in a vase – but not roses! The florist will have plenty of suggestions for other arrangements that are sure to make a gal's heart flutter. Save the roses for when she knows you better – a dozen long-stemmed red roses may seem a bit much coming from someone she only barely met. Include a card with the flowers that says something like: "I enjoyed meeting you Monday at the bookstore – I'm the one who thought you were Susan. I promise to never mistake you for anyone but your own lovely self again if you'll meet me for lunch later this week. If you'd like to reach me, my number is 555-5555. Sincerely, Doug."

This being a somewhat long note to include with flowers, don't order the flowers over the phone – go to the flower shop and write the note out yourself. Find out when they will be delivered, and then call the flower shop to confirm they were in fact delivered. Then call the woman at work after you know she already received the flowers, introduce yourself, and ask if she got the flowers – that's if she hasn't already called to thank you! Either way, the phone call after the flowers arrive is a great time to follow up on asking about that date.

I can't stress this enough men – women love flowers! Getting flowers from a man makes us feel warm and fuzzy and flattered and sexy and just really makes us think kindly of the gent who gave them to us. And, better still, we love getting them at work! Think about it: All the co-workers saw flowers be delivered to her. It creates a stir, a bit of excitement. She's the center of attention, and for a very positive reason – someone thinks she's special enough to send her flowers. Co-workers will flutter around, ask who they're from, what's the special occasion. She'll be blushing and completely unsure of why she got the flowers. Then she'll read the card and realize it's because someone found her so completely irresistible that he sent her flowers – and a request for a date – after only a few minutes in her presence. That's a wonderful feeling for the woman. So now you've made her feel wonderful and done something spontaneous and kind for her – she's got lots of reasons to give you a chance, and she probably will!

Hook-up Tip

Women love flowers! Getting them makes us feel flattered and sexy, and it makes us think the sender was sweet and worth giving a try. And getting them at work is especially great – it makes us the center of attention. We love it!

Flowers also work well as an icebreaker if the woman you've been dying to ask out is someone you see regularly at her place of work.

Let's say you've got a thing for the beautiful waitress at a restaurant you frequent, or the checkout clerk at your grocery store, or the a clerk at a bank, or any number of places. If the woman is wearing a nametag, take note. Otherwise, next time you see her at work, just say, "Gee, I see you in here all the time and don't even know you're name. Mine's Doug, what's yours?" If she does have the nametag, say, "I see you all the time, and it doesn't seem fair that I know your name and you don't know mine. I'm Doug."

Then say or do something that will make you stand out in her memory – but not in a bad way! Nothing annoying or rude, fellas! For instance, say, "I bet you hear this a million times a day, but let me be number one-million-and-one to say you've got beautiful hair (or smile, or eyes)." The reason you want to make sure and say the "million-and-one" part is because she probably does hear compliments like that a lot, and she needs something that will make you stand out in her memory.

Then, later that day or the next, if you're sure she'll be working, send her flowers with a card thanking her for brightening up your day with her kindness and smile and saying you'd like to take her to lunch or dinner. Sign it as "Doug" (or whatever your name is), "The guy who was number one-million-and-one to compliment you on your beautiful hair this morning." Include your phone number, too.

Her nametag might not have had a last name, so make sure and give the florist a description and say what part of the store she works in. Then just drop by or call the store 30 minutes or so after the flowers are delivered. You will be seen in a very favorable light, believe me.

Another option is to bring flowers to her yourself. This is cheaper than having them delivered, especially since many grocery stores and street vendors sale flowers at much lower costs than florists do, but it requires more courage. You would still write a note saying, "I think you're really special, and I'd love to take you to lunch sometime. If you're interested, call me at 555-5555. Doug." If you feel shy and don't want to say much, just hand her the flowers and say, "Hi. These are for you. You brighten my day every time I come in here, so I thought I'd return the favor. Enjoy." And walk away. If she asks you "Why?" before you can get away, just say something like, "Because beautiful women should get flowers often."

One word of caution: Beware of asking out a woman who works at a business that you love to go to every day or that it would be very inconvenient to stop using. Because if she turns you down or if you go on a date and realize you're not that interested in her after all, you might feel uncomfortable going back to the business and running into her. So if it's the only nearby coffee shop that you stop at every day, think carefully about whether or not you'd still want to go in there if things don't work out with her. If you don't think it will matter, or if you want her so bad it's worth the risk of having to find a new favorite coffee shop, then go for it!

Quick Pick-up Ideas

Here are a few quick ideas you can use to get a conversation started. Once you get talk rolling, follow up with asking her about herself, introducing yourself, etc.

Making Beautiful Music

This one works if you're at a bar or restaurant with a jukebox. If there's a lady you like standing or sitting near the jukebox, walk over and start browsing some tunes. Turn to her and say, "I just can't make up my mind. Care to help me pick out a few songs?" She probably will, and you can discuss music a bit before introducing yourself, getting her name, offering to buy her a beer or a coffee, asking if you can join her, etc.

Competing for Attention

This tactic applies if you're out with a male friend and she's out with some girlfriends playing some type of game. She could be shooting pool (playing billiards), bowling, playing darts, or any number of other games. While she's waiting for her turn, tell her that you and your pal have wagered a beer on who will win, "so don't let me down!" This also gives you an excuse to move to a closer seat and watch the game, encouraging her and cheering her on now and then – not constantly, and don't sit too close. You don't want to be an annoyance, just someone who's cheering her on and making the game more of a fun competition. Then, if she wins, buy her a beer in thanks for helping you win your bet. If she loses, say, "What the hell, you gave it a good try, let me buy you a drink."

If you're alone, challenge the lady or ladies to a game and say the winner has to buy the next round. Use the time while waiting for your turn to chat and get to know her. If you win and they buy the round, make sure to offer to buy the following round to show you're a good sport. You'll also get to hang around and flirt a little longer!

Techno Flirting

If you see a cutie in a coffee shop, or a park, or on a train, or wherever, and she's using a laptop computer or fancy-looking cell phone or some other high-tech device, comment on it. Say you've been thinking of getting a new laptop, or a phone like that, and ask her about it.



Ask what kind it is, what she thinks of it, does she like it, could she recommend it. Then just go from there, introducing yourself, getting her name, and eventually saying you'd love to go for coffee and talk more.

Hot News and Movie Magic

You see her reading a newspaper in a coffee shop, park, train, etc. Ask to borrow the movie section so you can see what's playing that night. Casually ask if she's seen any good films lately. If she seems excited or really interested in a particular movie, invite her to catch a show with you.

The Taste of Success

When there's a real looker in line with you at the coffee shop (or ice cream shop, etc.) debate out loud what to order. "Hmm, the mocha latte or the hazelnut cream?" Then ask her advice. Turn to her or tap her gently on the arm and say, "I can't decide what to get. What do you recommend?" Which gives her a chance to give advice, which women love doing. You can continue to strike up the chat, maybe even offer to buy her coffee as a thank you for her help, and maybe even ask if you can join her. If she's in the mood to flirt, this method works very well.

Making the Date

However you did it, you got the phone number! Score! But that's only half the battle – now you've got to use it.

Some of the methods for picking up a woman had you asking for the first date right then, like if you asked her for coffee right then or on the first call after sending flowers asked her out for a drink after work that day. But let's talk about what to do if you didn't set up the date on first contact with your little hottie, so now you want to call and ask her out for a little wining, dining or whatevering. Here's what to do.

When to Call

Men and women are very different, as I'm sure you've noticed. That includes the way we think and perceive things – especially the passage of time. For example, I've given my number to men who've waited two weeks to call. Two weeks?! Don't they have any idea how long that is in girl time?! Well, I'll convert it for you: Two weeks waiting for a call to come feels more like two months to a woman. In that time, she's already spent days wondering if you'd call. She may have altered her life waiting for that call, though most women would never admit that to a man. This is a bit of a secret, but it's true, sometimes women make fools of themselves waiting for a guy to call. For example, if the woman uses her main phone line to connect to the Internet, she may not have gone online for fear she'd miss your call. She may be holding off firming up plans with friends (or another man she's less interested in) as she waits to see if you'll ask her out that weekend. She may have gone out and bought a new outfit in anticipation of a date that weekend, thinking you will call within a few days of getting her number.

If she had a really great time with you the day you met, or was really flattered by how attentive you were and how sexy you made her feel, she may be excited about getting that call, waiting for it. Make her wait too long and she gets emotionally burnt out on waiting, feels stupid for doing little things to alter her life because she didn't want to miss your call, and generally just disappointed in you. Maybe that's not your fault, but that is how women are. Not a good way to start things off.

So, when to call? Within three days, four at the latest. More than that and she will have already run the gamut of emotions hoping to hear from you and planning for a weekend date that she will realize won't happen that weekend after all because you didn't call yet. And she may be tired of putting off other guys who are asking her out because she'd rather go out with you – if you'd only call. So after about four days, she just will make other plans and may be thinking of you as someone who disappointed her. As I said, not a good start.

Hook-up Tip

Call within four days of getting the woman's phone number, otherwise she'll get tired of waiting and might lose interest. Even if you won't be free to take her out for a week or more, let her know you're interested and set up the date for when you will be free.

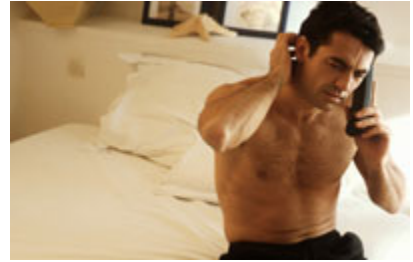
However, do not call sooner than two days unless things went amazingly well and the two of you had a great conversation and really connected the first time you met. Either way, call within four days. Even if you are going to be unavailable that coming weekend due to other plans or work, you should still call to keep that momentum going and so that she doesn't get disappointed waiting for you to call. And you should still ask her out on that first phone call. If you have to, explain that you already have obligations this weekend, but would love to get together the next week. I've had guys call me several times without asking me out, and I started to wonder if they were really interested in seeing me or if they just liked to chat. By the time they worked up the courage to ask me out (or finally had a free day to ask me out), I wasn't interested anymore.

Even if you realize you're tied up with work and other obligations for a few weeks, still call within four days, explain the situation to the woman, and set a date for a few weeks away, if possible. And then call at least once a week until you get to that first date. Men and women can build up so much momentum from a first meeting, especially if they hit it off and truly clicked right away. But this fades away and is quickly forgotten by both sides if it's left to go cold too

long. Don't let that happen when you've met someone you really like and she seems interested in you as well. Seize the moment!

Making the Call

What I'm saying is, don't be afraid to use those digits! Before calling, think about what you'd like to say. And think about what you'll say if you get an answering machine. This can throw anyone off a bit if he had opening chitchat all planned out, then has to talk to a machine.



So plan a pleasant message, maybe even write down what you'll say if you get a machine – and make sure you include your phone number, even if you gave it to her before. But by the same token, don't be so certain you'll get a machine that you're thrown off guard when a person answers and all you can do is stammer in surprise that you're not talking to a machine.

Also, before calling, make sure you're in a good mood and have some high energy. A smile really can be heard in someone's voice, and a positive, energetic outlook is more appealing than someone who seems moody and negative. So listen to a song that always gets you going before you call, or just give yourself a pep talk about how this girl would be crazy not to go out with you, or do whatever you have to do to get your senses humming and have yourself feeling good and positive.

Here's a sample of how the call could go:

"Hello?"

"Hi, is Susan there?"

"This is Susan."

"Hi, this is Doug. We met at the bookstore Monday."

"Oh, right, hi Doug."

Here is where you talk about something relating to whatever you discussed or learned about her interests when you first met. Let's say she suggested a book you should read. If you've started it, tell her that and what you think of it so far. If you saw her buying a book, ask her how she likes it. The opening chat here depends on where you met and what you talked about then. For instance, if you met in a bar, you might jokingly comment on how the band was so loud that your ears rang for hours after you left and ask how she fared, or comment that you woke up with a hangover, or that you expected to have a hangover but didn't, and ask how she felt the next day. Just use whatever refers back to something you've already done or discussed together.

Also, maybe ask her how her week's been, how's work. If the two of you discussed any television shows when you first met, if a new episode of the show has aired since you met, discuss that. People can easily go on and on about fictional characters on television, and it can make for pretty fun conversations. Don't overlook the power of light chatter like that – it can

give you something pleasant to talk about when you don't know each other well enough to have much else to discuss yet.

Then, you need to move on to asking her out. It's best to go ahead and ask her to do a specific thing, like go to dinner or for a drink, on a specific day. Be flexible, of course, because she might not be free that day or might not be interested in doing the specific thing you suggest, but don't just say, "We should get together sometime." Pin down something specific if at all possible, and do it on the first phone call. Say something like, "I really enjoyed meeting you the other day, and I'd love to see you again. Can I take you to dinner Friday night?" Depending on what you know about her and other things you've discussed, you may not pick dinner as the first date. You may ask her to go bowling, or to go see an exhibit at the museum, or to go to a play, or to hear a great band somewhere.

I will suggest, though, that dinner is a good first date. You can sit and chat over a meal, and this is where you'll get to know each other a bit more. You can go to the loud bar or bowling alley afterwards, if that's where your interests lie. If you do want to go to a restaurant for the first date, suggest a few different ones to her. Have some in mind that you know have nice atmosphere and good food. Or maybe suggest a restaurant the two of you discussed before, something she said she liked or would like to try.

A bad first date, however, is a movie. There may be some circumstances where it's a good idea – like if your first meeting involved a lot of talk about movies, especially if it was some movie you were both dying to see. Basically, if you picked her up by talking about movies, it's not a bad idea. Otherwise, I think it's much better to have a first date be somewhere that you can chat a little. What's more, the movie could have some strong sexual scenes or violence that might make the woman a little uncomfortable on a first date.

For example, when I was 17, I went on a first date with a guy that I really barely knew, he had picked me up with just a little chat that didn't tell either of us much about the other. He took me to a movie that turned out to have some very sexual scenes and some innuendo. Maybe it was because I was a little younger and less experienced than now, but because I didn't know him well, it made me a bit uncomfortable sitting in a darkened theater close to him with those scenes playing larger than life before us. Add to it that he lacked any finesse – as shown by the fact that he nudged me with his elbow and asked if I got the sexual innuendos – and the outcome was that I didn't go out with him ever again. It all added up to a very unpleasant evening, and it was one in which we didn't really get a chance to talk much. I never got to know him or feel at ease, and that's essential if you hope to get on more intimate terms with a woman.

Also, ask her if she'd like you to pick her up at her place or if she'd like to meet at the date site. Even if you live in a city with good public transportation and neither of you have cars, you still should offer to "pick her up" – which in this case would mean showing up at her door to accompany her on the train or whatever. But many women feel more comfortable meeting the guy in public for a first date, just as a safety precaution. So don't feel slighted if she doesn't give you her address on the first date – it's pretty common practice for women not to share that info right way.

Wherever you decide to go for that first date, make sure you give her your number so she can call back just to chat or if she has to change plans. And, if you've set the date up more than a few days in advance, call her back on the day before the date and let her know you're looking forward to the date and are just calling to confirm the plans. This shows you're thoughtful and that you haven't forgotten about the plans. It will also ease your mind, because you'll know she hasn't forgotten, too.

The Big Day – Date Night!

Now the day has come, your big date. And if you're like most people, you're stressed out about making a good impression and worried about what you'll talk about. Relax, it's not that hard. Just be yourself.

First off, try to relax yourself and be in a good, loosened up mood before you go. As with making the first phone call, a good way to do this is just listen to some music that always puts you in a good mood before heading out on the date. You want to be relaxed, smiling and ready to have a fun evening. If you're feeling that way, it'll show and your date will have a good time, too.

For the sake of running through an example date, let's say you're going for dinner. But the conversation you make over dinner could pretty much apply, with a few alterations, if your date were anything from a picnic in the park to going on a hike.

So, you're meeting for dinner. You've probably agreed to meet at the bar at the restaurant. The most important thing you can do to make a good impression from the start? Be on time! Try to plan to get there at least 15 minutes before the time you're supposed to be there for the date. This gives you leeway in case traffic's bad on the way over, and it gives you time to get your bearings and focus on feeling relaxed once you arrive.

Greeting Your Gal

If you arrive first, stand when your date gets there – just because women are independent these days doesn't mean we don't really appreciate a man who's a gentleman! Say, "Hi, it great to see you." If you're waiting in the bar, suggest the two of you go to a table. If you were already seated at the table, pull out a chair for her. If she's got a coat, help her take it off.

If she arrives first, just walk up and say something like, "Hi! How are you? Looks like you beat me here. Let's get a table."

Let the conversation begin!

Once you're seated, start simple. Talk about making it there through the heat or cold or rain, ask how her week was. Give her a chance to talk about herself. She may ask you the same questions, so tell her about your week, too – just don't go on too long or in too much detail about boring stuff. She doesn't need play by play detail about how you cleaned out your closets and bought shoes, not unless some of that involves a funny story.

Early on you'll be ordering, so a good topic is food. If you've eaten there before, suggest things you know are good. Suggest an appetizer or a wine. If possible, ask what she would like to order before the waiter comes, then you can place the order for both of you. This is kind of classy, kind of smooth.

Next, continue talk on some subject you know she's interested in. Television shows, books, movies, whatever. Or ask her to tell you more about what she does for a living, or what she's studying in school. Then offer up more about yourself, where you work, what it's like there, how long you've been there. If you have a funny story, tell it. This applies to your home too. Have crazy roommates? Give her the scoop. Have loud, psycho neighbors? Tell her about it. Did you do something stupid that's a funny story? Share it – you'll seem funny and like you're

someone who's not got such a big ego he can't admit messing up. Be able to laugh at yourself and she'll see you're not uptight.

What you should steer clear of though, is talk of old girlfriends. Say little or nothing about them. If you had great relationships in the past and are still friends with ex-girlfriends, this looks good for you and might be something you let her know eventually – but not on the first date unless she brings it up. You don't want her worried that you're just a breath away from going back to your ex. And if you hate your ex-girlfriend and think she's a nutcase, this could be bad to share as well. Stories of how awful she is will make your date wonder how much of all that was your fault. And if you seem really hostile about your ex, your date will wonder how much hostility you might have toward her if things don't go well. So leave old girlfriends or dates in the past for now.

Another source of conversation is your surroundings. Talk about how you love the way the place is decorated, or that it reminds you of a French bistro or whatever the case may be. Talk about the service, like how quick or courteous or funny the waiter is. But if it's really bad service, don't go on and on about how bad it is – this would be a boring topic, and negative, to boot. Don't dwell too long on anything negative. Mention how bad the service is, but make a joke of it and laugh about how the waiter put his thumb in your drink. Then go on to another topic.

And whatever you do, be friendly and courteous to the wait staff. Nothing looks worse than a guy who is rude or arrogant to a waiter or waitress. It casts a very bad light on a guy if he can't speak to a waiter in a friendly voice and doesn't say "Thank you." And leave a decent tip, as well. This all reflects on the kind of person you are, and your date will notice. Don't try to show off and leave a 50 percent tip, but leave about 20 percent – the generous end of the norm is what you want to go for so you don't seem cheap, but you don't seem like someone who's putting on airs, either.

Also, sometime early on, be sure to compliment your date's looks. Say, "You look beautiful. I love that dress. And I really love the way you have your hair, it looks great on you." Another winner, perhaps to be said when you're close to her (like when you're holding out her chair or helping her off with her coat), is: "You smell wonderful." Women love that. She could be wearing perfume, or it could be a scented soap or shampoo, but she will have used some product that night that's meant to smell divine. She'll like it that you noticed, and it will all be part of how you make her feel attractive and desirable. All that from three little words like, "You smell wonderful." Now that's value, buddy.

There's lots of small talk you can make here and there, like talking about how good the food looks, tastes and smells. Asking her if she's enjoying the meal. Offering to let her taste your meal, even. But don't miss the chance for more meaningful talk, things that will tell you more about her and what she's like, what she's looking for. Things that will tell you if you want to keep seeing her and if so, what's the best way to get her to keep seeing you or even the best way to get her home with you. She'll give you the hints if you listen.

Ask what she likes to do for fun, if she has any hobbies. Even if you touched on that when you first met, this is a fine time to go over it again. This will give you clues to future date options. It also gives you the chance to grab onto something she says and share a related interest or story of your own. Show her that you're interested in what she has to say and that you've got a thing or two in common. But try not to come off as bragging, just chat. Remember – light and fun is the key. You want to impress, but you don't want to seem arrogant or stuck on yourself. Just talk, joke around, seem interested, and pay her a compliment once in a while.

However, a big no-no is being too fawning, too worried that everything is just perfect. I went out with this guy who kept asking me if everything was alright. Is the food OK? Would you like something else instead? He asked me that a few times, even after I said it was great. As though I was going to send dinner back to the kitchen and order something else after I tried the food! I can tell you, I wouldn't do that unless the food was so bad it made me gag! His fawning made me a bit uncomfortable and hindered chat a bit. I was afraid to discuss the food too much or he might think I wanted to send it back. The restaurant also didn't have the beverage I wanted. Which was fine with me, I just laughed and said, "Most restaurants don't carry that, but I thought I'd ask anyhow." So my date, before we went to a bar for drinks after dinner, stopped at a grocery store and bought the beverage I liked and brought it into the bar! He probably thought he was being sweet, but it was a bit embarrassing to me to bring my own drink into a bar, and it was really no big deal that I couldn't get the exact drink that was my favorite. Not to mention that the grocery store atmosphere took away from the date. We were both dressed up, had just eaten at a very expensive restaurant, then we went into the glare and ordinariness of a grocery store. It killed some of the romance, some of the special quality, that the nice restaurant had built up.

So ask if she likes the meal, but don't ask over and over. Tell her she looks great at the start of the date, and maybe halfway through dinner stop to say again, "God, you really do look wonderful tonight." But don't keep saying it every five minutes; she'll get tired of hearing it that often.

And have some confidence. Maybe you're not sure if you picked the right clothes for the date. But you're there, what you've got on is what you've got on, so don't dwell on it and worry. Don't keep asking her if your clothes are suited to the restaurant, or bemoaning the fact that you didn't wear a tie and jacket. Or saying that you wish you wouldn't have worn the tie and jacket. Basically, don't go on about things that show lack of confidence and that would just get plain tiring to hear someone complain about all night. Just be happy to be there with her and enjoy the evening. Let worries and complaints sit on the shelf and focus on enjoying yourself.

Breaking it Down

(A Quick Guide to Chat for the Evening):

1. Say ,“Hi, it’s good to see you!”
2. Compliment her on her looks.
3. Ask how her week or day was.
4. Ask how she likes the restaurant, discuss your surroundings and what you like about the atmosphere or interior design.
5. Discuss the menu, talk about what dishes look good.
6. Refer to topics you both share an interest in, such as books, television shows or hobbies.
7. Share funny stories from your life. They can be about work, neighbors, relatives, whatever.
8. Ask if she’s enjoying the meal.
9. Compliment her again.
10. If conversation drags, ask her if she could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why.
11. Be confident, and always be courteous to wait staff!
12. Ask where she’d like to go after dinner. Suggest going to a bar for a drink or a coffee shop for dessert.

What Comes Next?

Ok, so dinner's over. You've paid the bill and left a thoughtful tip for the waiter. What now?

Discuss where the two of you could go next. Suggest going for a drink or maybe to another restaurant for dessert. You could even talk a walk through a park or down the city streets.

If she's not ready to go home yet and agrees to move on to another leg of the date, great! If conversation topics from dinner are still keeping that chatter moving, great again! If not, there's several other things to talk about.



Tell her about yourself a bit, your family, your siblings, your school life, your job. Tell about the city you grew up in, and any sports or hobbies you had. Explain what you do each day at work. If it's not the job you want to be doing, tell her what you would like to do and why. Let her get to know a little more about you.

Also, if you did your homework before the date, you can move on to talking about movies and other light-hearted things in the news. Talk about the latest music video you love or that you think is stupid, talk about the television commercial you think is hilarious – ask if she's seen it, does she like it. Ask if there's any commercials she thinks are really clever. Most people watch at least a little television, and we all have shows and even commercials we like – or hate. And we like to talk about how much we love or hate them.

You don't want to fawn over her, but it wouldn't hurt to tell her again, perhaps after you've had a couple of drinks in a bar or after you've shared a slice of delightfully-fattening cake somewhere, that she really looks gorgeous. Then look away, acting sort of shy, and say, "I'm sorry, I don't mean to keep repeating myself, I just can't help it." This way she knows for sure that you're attracted, and she's very flattered by the attention.

As the two of you wind up your second part of the date, this is the time to ask her out again. Tell her you've had a wonderful time and would love to see her again. Ask her if she'd like to go out again next weekend (or whenever it is you think you'll be free). She may say yes right then, or she may need to get back to you. Either way, she knows you're still interested, and all you have to do is follow through by calling her again.

Time to go Home

Offer to walk her home, or to her car if you didn't pick her up at her house. This is an interesting point in the date – you've got to decide if you want to talk with her more, or if you'd like to try to spend the night with her. Follow your heart on this, and your head! If chat has gone really well, you may suggest she come back to your place for a glass of wine. If the two of you have discussed music that she likes or would like to hear that you happen to have at home, you could suggest she come back to your place to listen to that band you told her about. Or if you're dropping her at her place, you could suggest you come up for coffee or wine or have a

listen to the band she told you about. However, if you're dropping her at her place, it would be best to see if she invites you in before you suggest it.

Either way, if she comes to your place or you go to hers, just remember – it doesn't guarantee you'll be having sex with her. See where things go, and let conversation focus on whatever topics come up or just discuss things you did that evening. "That was the best steak I ever had. The park was really beautiful, really peaceful tonight. I should go on evening walks more often." Things like that. See where things go, and if she's willing, you may know her a lot better than you ever did through conversation alone by the time morning comes.

If you don't end up spending the night, when the two of you part company for the evening, just tell her again you're really glad she agreed to have dinner with you and you'd love to see her again. At the very least, give her a hug or a kiss on the cheek – make some kind of physical contact that lets her know you're attracted. A hot, passionate kiss on the lips would be great, of course! But use your judgment here. If she seems a bit shy, don't push for it. If she seems like she'd be receptive, go for it! If you do get the hot kiss, when you get done, simply say "Wow," squeeze her hand or arm, and turn and walk away. She'll be thrilled that she left you practically speechless with her killer kiss.

Setting up the second date

Ok, so you've had a first date. It went great and you want to see that girl again. Don't let the momentum die by waiting too long to set up the second date!

Call her about three to five days after the date. If you wait much longer than that, she'll think it didn't go as well as she thought and will start to question how much the two of you really clicked. Don't give her time to doubt! Swoop in and keep things moving.

When you call, say, "I really had a great time the other night. Care to go for another round? Maybe this time we could go hear a band or test out that new restaurant in town?" Suggest a few things, like a concert or play, if that's something you both like. She may not want to be the one to suggest anything too expensive (like some concerts and plays can be), but if you can afford it and would like to take her, go ahead and throw that out on the table so she knows it's an option.

You might want to make the second date extra special. Now that you've hit it off on the first date, you might try to make the second date a little unique or memorable. Maybe throw in an offer of a carriage ride through the park, or a riverboat dinner cruise or even rock climbing. Go with what you learned about her during the first date to guide you when you toss out your suggestions.

After you make your suggestions, say, "You know, I really just want to spend more time getting to know you. Anything else is just icing on the cake, so whatever you'd like to do is fine by me." She'll be flattered and feel like you really want to get to know her, which is something women love. We love to think we're special to you in some way. We don't want to think that there are dozens of gorgeous women you'd happily date – we like to feel like we're the only one you notice, the one who's got you captivated. Say and do what you can to make her feel that way and she'll love being by your side.

Keep in mind, if she doesn't set a day for the second date right away, that doesn't mean she's turning you down or trying to put you off. She really may have a hectic schedule and other plans. If she tells you that she really does want to see you but that she's not sure when she can, believe her. And keep in touch. But if she says that she's not sure and that she will get

back to you when she's free, if she's sort of saying "don't call me, I'll call you," then she may be begging off. Give her one more call after a week and if she still puts you off without saying that she really does want to see you as soon as her schedule permits, then don't call again. Let her come to you if she wants to. And in the meanwhile, keep looking for opportunities to ask out other women. Every date doesn't turn into a passionate affair, or even a second date. But keep trying, and a few of them will. And when it works out, Wow! Is it ever worth the effort.

Let's review

A. Boy Meets Girl

1. Make eye contact.
2. Smile.
3. Introduce yourself.
4. Ask her name.
5. Pay her a compliment (beautiful hair, smile, legs – whatever strikes you).
6. Ask where she's from.
7. Ask what she does for a living.
8. Ask what else there is to do for fun in town.
9. Refer to something where you are at, for instance: Ask if she likes the band at that bar, ask if she has tried the chocolate latte at that coffee shop, ask if she's read the latest bestseller while browsing book shelves.
10. Ask her advice on something: Movies, restaurants, shopping.
11. Tell her what you do for a living.
12. Tell her some of your hobbies, ask about hers.
13. Avoid touchy topics – like politics or religion.
14. Stick to the positive! Don't complain about things you hate or say negative things about people walking past
15. Ask for her phone number

B: Boy Calls Girl

1. Call within four days.
2. Be prepared with what you want to say.
3. Be in a positive, feel-good mood.
4. Tell her who it is when she answers, remind her of where you met.
5. Ask how her week's been.
6. Talk about something from the first night you met: Discuss the band at the bar, or a book you started reading that she suggested, or that you made the best salad ever after she helped you pick out vegetables at the grocery store.
7. Tell her you'd like to see her again.
8. Ask her out, suggesting a specific day, rather than being vague – pin it down!
9. Offer a few options, using what you learned about her interests already – dinner is always a good choice.
10. Set a day, tell her you can't wait to see her.
11. If the date's more than a few days off, call again a day or two before the date for a brief chat, just to tell her that you're really looking forward to the date and that you're just calling to make sure 8 p.m. (or whenever) is still a good time for her.

C. Boy and Girl go on Date

1. Be on time! If you're picking her up, don't be more than a couple of minutes early. If you're meeting somewhere, try to be 10 or 15 minutes early so you can relax a bit before she comes.
2. Tell her she looks great.
3. Be a gentleman! Open doors, pull out chairs, help her off with her coat.
4. Discuss the atmosphere or décor of the place you're at.
5. Share funny stories, ask her if she has any crazy people like the ones in your story where she works (or lives, or in her family).
6. Tell her she looks great again!
7. Ask what she'd like to do next, make a few suggestions.

D. Ending the Date

1. Depending on how the date has gone, ask if she'd like to come to your place for a drink – or if she'd care to chat more over coffee at her place.
2. Or just tell her you'd like to see her again and ask if she'd like to get together next week.
3. Follow your instincts and her actions on deciding whether to try for a long-hot kiss – or more!

E. Making the Second Date

1. Call within three days.
2. Ask how she's doing.
3. Tell her you had a great time the other night.
4. Say you'd love to see her again.
5. Suggest some possible date activities.
6. Tell her it doesn't matter what the two of you do, you just want to get to know her better.
7. Pin down a specific day if possible.
8. Don't give up too easily if she really isn't free anytime soon.
9. Notice the signals – if she's being evasive and not too talkative, it's possible she's not interested. Just make sure she has your number and tell her to call you when she's free.

If at first you don't succeed ...

Remember the old adage that goes: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again?" Well, it's true. You won't score every time you get out there on the playing field, but you stand a damn site better chance of scoring than if you stay on the sidelines the whole game!

And keep this in mind: Some women have had bad experiences with men and have vowed to steer clear of all humans of the male persuasion – at least for a while. Or they may have had a really bad day and not be in the mood for some flirting fun. Or they may already have a boyfriend. So all women won't respond to your attempts to spark a flirty little fire. So what? Don't take it personally, and don't give up. Just smile, tell her to have a nice day, and move on to the next girl that catches your eye!

Remember, don't give up if some women are slow to warm up to your charms, and don't feel too bad about it. There's plenty of reasons they might not take the bait of your conversation that have nothing to do with you personally. If one's not warming up to chat, find another one. The law of averages is in your favor!

But don't worry, many women are going to be very glad you struck up a chat! It lets them know they are sexy when men try to chat them up. We LIKE that! A LOT! I said it before, and

I'll say it again – women tend to be a little insecure. We adore being made to feel sexy, attractive and desirable. And YOU make us feel that way when you start up a conversation. Because women know that means you are probably interested in them. You'll probably make that woman's day if you chat her up, pay her a compliment and ask for her number. And she might just make YOUR day later on when she gets you alone!

Go get 'em, tiger!

Feel ready to chat up those lovely ladies yet? I hope so! Because women love being flirted with and hate having empty days without a date on their calendars. But many women, even the most beautiful ones, end up spending too many nights alone. And it's all because men don't know how to approach them.



So don't let us women down! Don't leave us sitting there alone when we could be partaking of a little flirting that could lead to a lot of fun for both of us! Don't leave us sitting at home watching a movie on the couch all alone when we could be wrapped around YOU on the couch!

Starting a conversation is like knocking on a door – give women a chance, and they may open that door wide and welcome you in. But if you never knock, you'll always stay out in the cold alone. Why do that when now you know how easy it is to start a conversation?!

What's more, we want to go on dates. We want passion. We want hot, long kisses. And oh, yes, we want SEX! Just as much as you do! To put it simply – we want MEN! So knock on the door already, we'll let you in!

Now that you know what to say, go out there with the knowledge that most single women want male attention just as much as you'd like their attention. So get out there, you'll find women everywhere you go. Practice your new skills. Get a few numbers. Make a few connections. Don't take it too seriously, just have fun!

What have you got to lose? Nothing! Get out there already, women are everywhere!

OK ... ready, set ... TALK!



The Single Man's Guide to Great Women

A Step-by-Step Guide to Help You Meet, Attract, and Date the Girl of Your Dreams –
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