

THE TEXTING 10 COMMANDMENTS WORKBOOK

GLOSSARY OF TEXTING TERMS

Meme: An image, video, piece of text, typically humorous in nature, that can be shared in its current form or re-captioned. Use when trying to gauge a date's sense of humor.

Gif: An animated GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) file is a graphic image on a web page that moves.

Emoji: A small digital image or icon used to express an idea or emotion (sometimes also referred to as an emoticon.)

Bitmoji: An expressive cartoon avatar that you create to send your own personal emojis.

Sexting: Sending and receiving sexually explicit messages (which may or may not include video/audio/pictures.)

Revenge Porn (related to sexting): Unauthorized publication of personal explicit images, referred to as "revenge" due to it usually being at the hands of an ex or someone otherwise left on bad terms

Read Receipts: A notification that is sent to the sender confirming that their text has been read. You may turn this function on or off in your phone settings. Turn on if you want to create suspense to let a date know you saw their text but haven't yet responded.

Blacklist: Functionality on your phone that allows you to "block" a number from sending you further messages.

Social Messaging: Messaging done through social media platforms (such as Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, WhatsApp).

Ghosting: The act of suddenly ceasing all communication with a potential romantic partner.

THE TEXTING 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. THOU SHALT NOT MISUSE EMOJIS

Emojis can be a great tool to convey tone and intention when used appropriately. Make sure you are choosing the correct emoji to pair with your text and place it appropriately.

Emojis fit best at the end of a statement and try not to overuse them. One or two is usually enough in a single line and you should only add an emoji on approximately every 3rd or 4th reply.

2. THOU SHALL USE MULTI-MEDIA

Using links, pictures, and memes can be an excellent way to create connection, gauge your dates sense of humor and forward the conversation beyond the mundane.

3. THOU SHALL AVOID GENERIC QUESTIONS

Phrases like "How are you?" and "What's Up" that have open-ended, non-specific responses are a weak texting stance. Instead

try to text questions that are based upon a past conversation, shared experience or specific event. Definitive statements are also appropriate and effective in building rapport as text thread that consist only of questions and answers can become tedious.

4. THOU SHALL KNOW WHEN TO WALK AWAY

A texting thread has a shelf life and once you've worn out your texting welcome it can be hard to re-interest that person in talking to you.

If you begin to get one word or one emoji responses you have probably come to the end of that text thread and it is best to leave the conversation alone until the next day or later. It can be most effective to restart the conversation by calling back a shared experience or interest or asking a thought-provoking question.

5. THOU SHALL SHOW YOUR PERSONALITY

Write the way you speak. If you are trying to be overly eloquent and perfect with your grammar and punctuation, you will have a harder time connecting with a date.

Don't be afraid to capitalize a single word for emphasis but make sure you do not text in all caps because that reads as shouting. You can also add extra letters or write a word differently than it's spelled in the dictionary to make a word read the way you want it to sound. Example: I'm so excited to see youuuu! – which conveys excitement in the extra vowels.

6. THOU SHALT NOT OVER-WRITE

The general rule of thumb is to write no more than 3 sentences per response. If your texts become too dense they will be hard for your date to read and respond to.

Certainly do not send multiple chunks of text if you don't get your entire point across in a single message. If you find yourself wanting to write novels you should ask yourself if what you have to say would be better conveyed in person.

7. THOU SHALT NOT FIGHT OR ANTAGONIZE

Text is never the mode of communication to have a serious conversation or engage in a fight. Be very careful with passive aggressive "text-bait" that tries to provoke a response from your date or mate.

8. THOU SHALT NOT SEND A DRUNK TEXT

Once something is in writing you cannot take it back. You might think you sound cute and clever but chances are that text will not look the same in the light of day. Hold the text for the morning and see if what you had to say is still as funny or relevant then.

9. THOU SHALT NOT SEND AN X-RATED SEXT

We all learned from Anthony Weiner how risky it is to send an x-rated sext. You have to remember that your digital life extends beyond the initial text that you send. If someone is offended or becomes angry with you down the road, a message that you intended to share only in private can become public.

Usually your date will like you just as much if you save the x-rated material for the bedroom.

10. THOU SHALT NOT ABUSE THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH

People have become very unforgiving of egregious spelling errors. Particularly the misuse of Two, To, Too/ Your, You're/Their, They're, There could be the difference between a second date happening or not. Try to give your texts an extra read to make sure they say what you mean. That extra effort conveys to a date that you think of them highly and want the relationship to work.

FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT

WHICH TEXTING 10 COMMANDMENTS HAVE YOU BROKEN?

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE YOUR TEXTING STYLE FROM THIS POINT FORWARD?

WHAT'S ONE TEXTING TOOL THAT YOU WERE NOT AWARE OF BEFORE THIS NOW?

NOTES

