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Life



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College Bestsellers

- Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking** by Malcolm Gladwell
- A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini
- Watchmen** by Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons
- The Ascent of Money** by Niall Ferguson
- American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House** by Jon Meacham
- Private Patient** by P. D. James
- The Christmas Sweater** by Glenn Beck

Sparkives

December 2008 (28)

Dating 101: Consider This Before Making a Move on Your Crush sep 22, 2008

You're checking out your crush during math class, but you can't tell whether he's looking at you or Suzie in the third row. You want to look his way but don't want to seem too, you know, interested. Before you make your move and say something potentially disastrous or, even worse, waste your time pursuing a total jerk, here are a few tips that will help you make sure that you're barking up the right tree.

Check him out when he doesn't know you're looking

Just because your guy is the hottest lad in the land *doesn't* mean he'll have a great personality. Take some time to observe him: is he cool with everyone or does he mainly stick to his clique? Does he seem like someone your friends or parents would approve of?

"Find out whether the person is accepting or judgmental, friendly or stuck up," says Annie Fox, author of *The Teen Survival Guide to Dating and Relating*. Get to know his character and there'll be no surprises later. This is why going out with someone you've only chatted with via Facebook is a *terrible* idea, she stresses.

Choose your boyfriend (or girlfriend) the same way you'd choose a friend

Can you imagine yourself hanging out with your guy if he weren't your crush? There's a reason the word *friend* is embedded in *boyfriend* and *girlfriend*, says Annie. "Whatever standards you use to make friends, use the same for finding a boyfriend or girlfriend. [It's about] honesty, respect, shared interests, and open communication. Respect their values, but most importantly, know what their values are so you can tell if they match with your own."

Listen to your gut instinct

You know that little nagging feeling you get in the pit of your stomach when you know you shouldn't do something or be around someone? That's your gut instinct sending you a clue. Listen to it! It may tell you whether or not your guy's the right pick. "You know who you really feel comfortable with and who you don't," says Annie. "Go with the person that makes you feel comfortable."



Keep it real

So your crush is an emo kid who rocks all black clothing while you're a trendy fashionista who likes everything "of the moment." If you feel like you'd have to change your style just to get his attention, then maybe he's not the one. Just be yourself. Interesting, smart, funny you. "There's no need to turn up the volume on your personality just to attract someone," says Annie. "Who you are is not bad—it's not like the boobie prize. Remember what you've got to work with is good." A guy will be attracted to you when you show him the *real* you.

Don't just "act" interested, be interested

Are you thinking, "It seems like me and my dude have a lot in common," or is it "He's hot, we'd be perfect together"? When you do finally have the guts to speak to him, "ask questions that show you're interested and listen to the answers—really listen," says Annie. Be interested in who he really is and what he has to say, she adds. You may find out that the person you're into is actually not a good match for you, but don't worry, it's all a part of growing up. At least you won't waste your time with a loser.

And just because we've kissed a lot of frogs in our day, here are a few don'ts to remember from Annie:

DON'T

- Get physical until you've established a real relationship
- Send a go-between—it's so middle school. The whole "my friend likes you, do you like her?" game either embarrasses the guy or at least makes him really uncomfortable.



Contribute to SparkLife!

Have something to say? We want to hear it. [Become an official SparkLife contributor.](#)

Songs for Winter

- Sister Winter** by Sufjan Stevens
- Coldest Winter** by Kanye West
- Winter Wooksie** by Belle & Sebastian
- Winter** by Tori Amos
- White Winter Hymnal** by Fleet Foxes

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- Assume that someone's perfect for you just because you like the way they look
- Assume that you know them just because you've said "Hi!" to them
- Assume you know them because you've chatted online
- Go out with a friend's ex. Don't even try to get their attention, even if your friend says "I'm so over him."
- Send pictures of yourself in poses you wouldn't want your parents seeing!

Posted in [Life](#) by [yolandasang](#) | [Link](#) | [Comments \(2\)](#)

Weekly Poll

Is Hillary Clinton a good choice for Secretary of State?

- Yes—she actually has the needed experience.
- No—it's just a "See, we're friends!" political move.
- She'll do okay. I still wish she was president, though.
- Will the Clintons EVER go away?

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Comments

hi would you like to meet me

[1] Posted by: [lokman2105](#) | [September 24th, 2008 at 4:15 am](#)

omg thanks for the advice it does help. 😊

[2] Posted by: [dema09](#) | [October 1st, 2008 at 8:00 pm](#)

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