



Modern Day Dating Dictionary

mini version



FirstDateStories.com

Yep, it's confusing out there!



Dating is a different ball game these days. The rise of swiping your way to the real thing, or next fling, has left many people confused and frustrated. But modern dating doesn't need to be that way. Dating is still the search for the person who makes you the happiest and there's all sorts of ways to meet your future beau.

As dating has evolved, so too has the language. When you're in the dating scene, it's helpful to be up-to-date on the latest terms, acronyms and innuendos. We have scoured the internet for every modern-day dating terms and phrases you could ever need to know. From A-Z, we have listed words you may encounter chatting with your gal pals, in online chatrooms, or find perfectly describes what you have been experiencing with your latest "bae."

A

ASL

An abbreviation standing for “Age, Sex, Location” that was common in early internet chat rooms by people that can only be described as creepy. It was used as a phishing technique to try and find someone they found attractive to send sexually explicit messages to, or to try and meet up with.

B

Bae

An affectionate abbreviation for the word “babe.” People also use bae to describe something as particularly cool or awesome. Just google “salt bae” if you don’t believe us. But be careful how you use it with someone from Denmark. It means “poop” in Danish.

Basic

An offensive term used to describe someone who is boringly unoriginal and predictable.

Booty Call

When one is contacted, usually later in the day or a night, to get together, either explicitly or in a roundabout way, for sex. Ex: He texted me at 1:00am with “Hey, you awake?” after not texting me all week. Friend: “Yep, total booty call.”

C

Casual Relationship

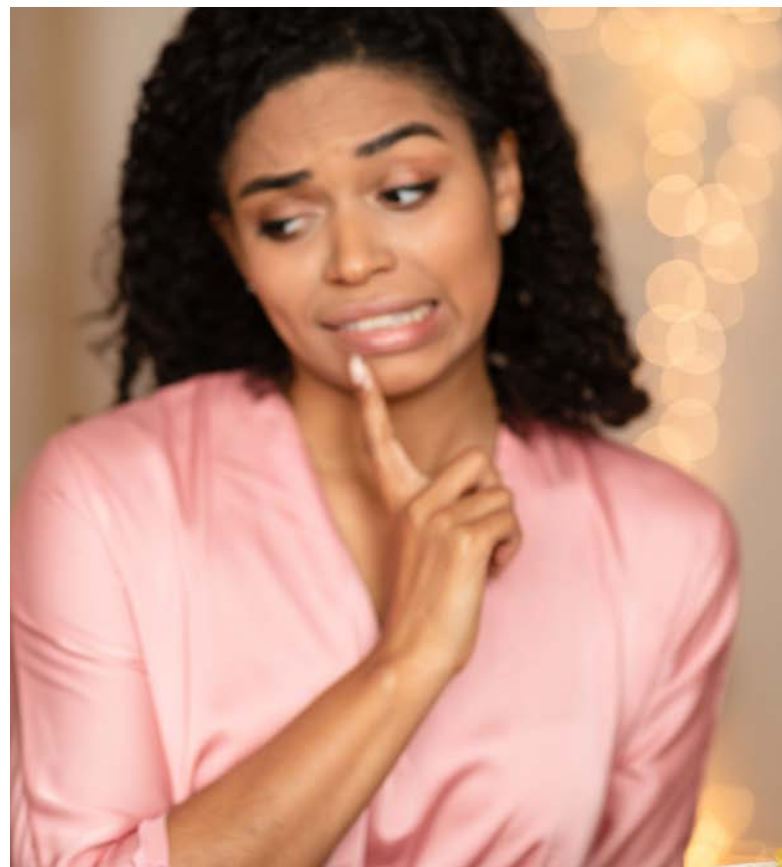
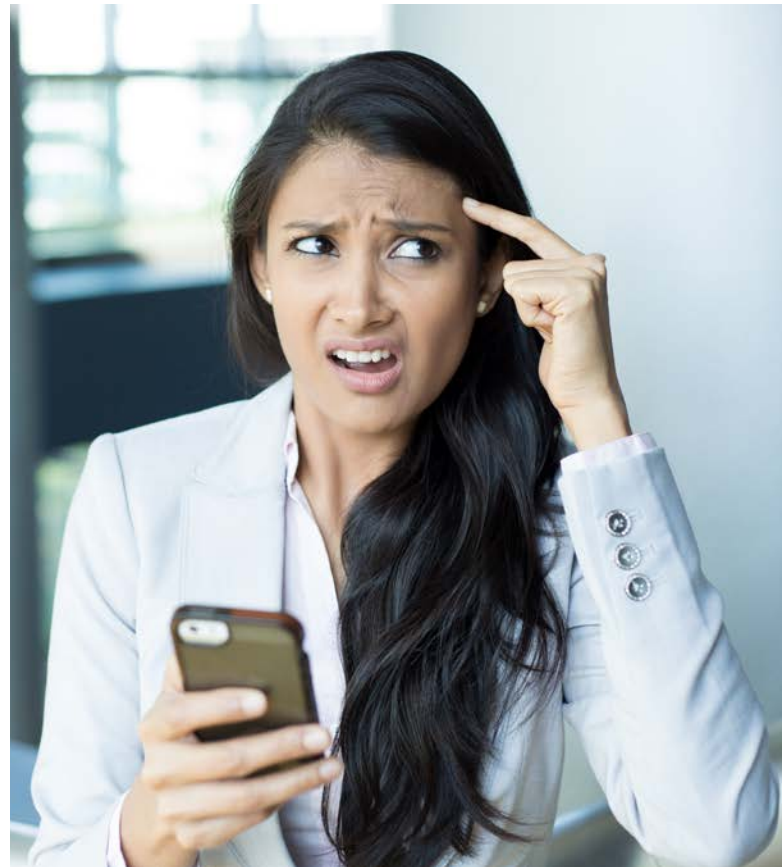
The state in between “friends with benefits” and “going steady” is the casual relationship. You hang out regularly, have sex, but aren’t posting love notes on Facebook, being exclusive, and spending time with each other’s family.

Catfishing

This happens when a fake online profile is used to lure someone into a relationship.

Catch & Release

This dating practice is all about chasing someone until you “catch” him and, once the thrill of the hunt is over, throwing him back in the sea of singledom so you can look for someone else.



C

Cuffed

When someone is in a serious and committed relationship, they are cuffed.

Cuffing Season

This happens during the fall and winter when the weather gets colder, days get shorter, and the holiday season is in full swing. People who would normally prefer to be single, or date around, find themselves wanting to be “Cuffed,” or in a serious relationship.

D

Daterview

This a date that feels more like a job interview. You thought this would be a simple chat, and all of a sudden you’ve divulged the contents of your LinkedIn profile, are being asked about your five-year plan and where you see yourself in ten years. You’ve been daterviewed.

DTR

Stands for “Define the Relationship.” Also known as “The Talk.” It’s when you and the person you’ve been dating have the conversation about where things stand and where you each see the relationship going.

E

Emergency Call

An emergency call is a fakeout that allows you to politely get out of a particularly bad date. If you can tell the night's going to be a trainwreck, but you're genuinely afraid of insulting the stranger you're sitting across from, a fake emergency call from a friend early on in the evening can be a real lifesaver.

F

FODA

Many singles have been understandably wary of dating during the pandemic. As more and more people get vaccinated, some will want to get back to meeting IRL asap. But not all. Hinge coined the term FODA - a "Fear of Dating Again" - to capture the romantic ambivalence that other singles will feel as they hold off on dating or ease into it slowly.



C

Gaslighting

Gaslighting is manipulating someone by psychological means into questioning their own sanity. If your partner constantly needs to be right, tells you that you're too sensitive, and makes you question your reality as a result, they may be gaslighting you.

Ghosting

When a person cuts off all communication with friends, or the person they're dating, with zero warning or notice before going dark. They avoid the other person's phone calls/texts, stay off social media, and try not to be seen in public.

H

Half-Night Stand

The half-night stand is a one-night-stand without the sleep over.

Haunting

It's when an ex or old flame tries to get back into your life indirectly, or passive aggressively, through social media.



I

Internet Stalking

This is an obsessive form of gathering info and images from Google, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other online sources about someone you are about to date, are dating, or have dated using the internet. It's not always emotionally healthy to do and it time usually flies while you're at it.

IRL

Short for "In Real Life". This refers to what a person actually does, or likes, as opposed to what her dating profile says. It's also when you finally go on a real, physical date with a man you've been chatting with online. "Let's meet up IRL."

J

Jelly

Slang for "jealous."

K

Kanye'd

When your date spends the entire time talking about themselves, just like a certain someone.

L

Layby

When you bide your time dating someone while waiting for better options to come your way.

Left on Read

This is when someone reads your message and doesn't respond, either for a long period of time, or ever. Harsh!

M

Magic Hour

This is the half hour before last call at a bar--that last minute scramble to find some lovin' for the night.

Megadating

When you're a master juggler and dating several men at the same time, you're megadating.



N

Netflix and Chill

If someone's invited to "Netflix and Chill," it's understood that you won't be spending a lot of time watching the TV. Basically, it's used as shorthand for "put on a movie while we have sex."

O

On A Thing

This is used to describe that romantic relationship that isn't official, but definitely isn't just a casual fling. Ex: Harry and I have been on a thing for a few months now.

Orbiting

Your ex starts showing up in your social media, perhaps even checking you out on LinkedIn. But he never makes direct contact with you. His behavior is similar to Haunting, except he just hovers.

P

Pie Hunting

Pie Hunting is an unsavory dating phenomenon in which a person - the "Hunter"- deliberately dates "Pies" - heartbroken, vulnerable people with messy dating histories, who are perceived to be lower-maintenance.

Q

Q

Cool new slang for . . . cool. You're so "Q!" And yes, what will kids come up with next?



R

Recycling

Going back to an ex.

S

Sexting the Waters

This is when someone obviously wants to sext you but he's scared about being too direct and getting rebuffed. He will send messages like "What are you wearing?" later in the evening, with the obvious hope that it will lead to some nude photos. If he's called out for it, he then uses language that's vague enough to provide him with a cover.

T

Thirsty

A term used to describe those who are extremely eager, or desperate, for a bit of action.

U

Uber Radius

Determining someone's desirability based on the distance between where you both live.

V

Virtual Dating

When you and someone else have a date without physically being together. You use laptops, tablets, phones and platforms such as FaceTime, Skype and Zoom to talk and get together while being apart.



W

Wokefishing

This is when people pretend to have progressive political views in order to attract a potential partner. Think catfishing, but with political beliefs.

X

X-Factor

When something about your love interest is so damn hot but you can't explain what.

Y

YODO

Another acronym stands for "You Only Dump Once." In other words, you can never go back to that kray bae.

Z

Zumped

To be Zumped is to be dumped over the video conference app Zoom. Thanks to the pandemic and social distancing, Zoom has become a place for conferences, catch-ups, concerts, happy hours and heartbreak.

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