

11 Things to NEVER Say to Him on a First Date



You ever go out with a man who, despite his best intentions, puts his foot in his mouth?

Maybe he went on a political rant. Maybe he's really angry at his ex-wife. Maybe he bragged about his sexual prowess. Maybe he talked about how he hates picking up the check.

No matter what it was, he accidentally alienated you.

He may be a great guy who's capable of being a devoted and loving boyfriend, but you couldn't see past his first-date faux pas to give him a second chance.

Well, I hate to say it, but men also have our radar up when it comes to ill-timed remarks.



And although I would never ask you to put on any airs, nor pretend to be someone else, telling you to "just be yourself" is about the worst and laziest dating advice out there.

Sure, you can be yourself. Be real. Be curious. Be silly. But please, don't say any of the things I've listed here.

You're not wrong for thinking these thoughts, however blurting them out to a virtual stranger will likely prevent you from getting a second date.

Remember, you'll get a lot more joy out of dating process, if every single man asks you out a second time. This special report can help make that happen for you.

Warmest wishes and much love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Evan".

11 Things to Never Say to Him on the First Date

1. "Are you dating anyone else right now?"
2. "How many people have you slept with?"
3. "You know, you should really..."
4. "Do you want to have kids?"
5. "You're such a nice guy!"
6. "Why are you still single?"
7. "I'm just getting over my ex/drug addiction/alcoholism/depression."
8. "I'm not sleeping with you tonight."
9. "I Googled you before our date."
10. "I think I'm falling in love with you."
11. "Where do you see this relationship going?"

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1. “Are you dating anyone else right now?”

A great relationship is about full transparency. My wife knows everything about me and I love that I can let down my guard and be real with her. But just because it's good advice to be authentic and vulnerable doesn't mean that you want to ask such a probing question on your first date.

Imagine a guy who volunteers that he's seeing someone else tomorrow night. How does that make you feel?

That's my point.

It may be true. It may be honest. But it's tone-deaf.

Face it: all of us like to feel special – and you're both better off assuming you're seeing other people and not talking about it.

You can talk about your ex, religion, politics, work. What you can't do is ask him if he's seeing anyone else right now, no more than he wants to hear that you have another date scheduled tomorrow.

It bursts the bubble of intimacy and demands more questions about other people who are not present on the date. A more effective move would be to treat your first date as if he's the only one you're seeing – even if he's not.

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2. “How many people have you slept with?”

Here are five reasons this is a no-no.

1. It's none of your business. Really, it's not.
2. It makes you look insecure, judgmental, and fearful.
3. It's awkward. Hell, your doctor wouldn't even ask that. He would just want to know if you've had any unprotected sex, not how many men you've slept with.
4. It's largely irrelevant. A man who had safe sex with 50 women is safer than a man who had unprotected sex with 10 women.
5. It shows you have an agenda: there's a specific answer you want him to give:

Probably more than 5 (to show he's got some experience) and less than 20 (to show that he's selective about his partners.)

I made those numbers up, but you get the idea. Since we men know there's only one “right answer” (between 5 and 20), that's the answer you will receive, whether it's true or not.

When I was asked this on a date, I refused to reply because I'm not comfortable lying. When pressed, I admitted it was over 20.

I never saw her again.

For everybody's sake, bury this question forever. As long as your boyfriend is monogamous (and STD free), it doesn't matter what (or who) he did in his past.

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3. “You know, you should really...”

Your parents had it right: if you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything.

I remember being on a date with a Type A woman – a psychologist who came from an intellectual background. Our conversation was very stimulating – and very challenging – almost like a debate! Talking with her was like talking with myself – very logical, stubborn, and adamant about her truths being heard.

At a certain point, she stopped said, “You're very argumentative, did you know that? You should probably work on that!”

I believe I started to laugh out loud.

Not at her assertion, which is true. I AM argumentative. But rather, I laughed at the fact that she saw fit, on a first date, to tell me what she thought was wrong with me.

Imagine a man who did the same to you:

You should really grow your hair out!

You should really lose 20 pounds!

You should really stop talking so much!

How does that make you feel?

When you're tempted to teach a man a lesson on a date about how he can improve, remember: he didn't ask you for your consulting services. He just wanted to take you out to dinner, make some light conversation, and impress you in hopes of getting a kiss goodnight.

If you don't like him, don't go out with him again, but certainly don't tell him his flaws while you're on a date with him.

A man and a woman are seated at a restaurant table, smiling and looking at each other. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a white ruffled top. They are both holding glasses of water. The table is set with plates of food, including a salad and a main dish, and a small pitcher. The background is softly blurred, showing warm, glowing lights.

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4. “Do you want to have kids?”

For women in their thirties and early forties, this is THE question, so I’m not diminishing its importance. I’m just letting you know that it’s another example of a fearful, interrogative question designed to save you the time of getting to know a man organically.

I know this is a stretch, but imagine a guy said to you on the first date:

“Do you like giving oral sex? I was with a woman for two years who hated doing it and I don’t want to go the rest of my life without it. So, is that something you’re into? If not, that’s cool, but we’re not going to be compatible.”

Does he have a point? Absolutely. Is it appropriate to bring this up on your first date? **Absolutely not.** This is something he could have discovered organically had he dated you for a month or so – and he’d never have to even ask the question.

Same thing goes for having kids. Honestly.

Most dating sites have a box where men check “yes”. If he clicks “not sure,” pass on him. If you definitely want a family, you want a man who knows he wants a family.

If you don’t have that information, just continue to talk organically about what matters to you. Believe it or not, men who want kids TALK about having kids, just as men who play fantasy football TALK about fantasy football.

Moral of the story is that, yes, this is important. You do have a right to know and you don’t want to waste your time. However, men don’t have fun on dates when they feel they’re being evaluated as sperm donors.

While it’s ultimately important to learn if he’s on the same page regarding kids, it’s important that he enjoy himself, too – not just to answer all of your important in the first 90 minutes you’ve met.

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5. “You’re such a nice guy!”

This is usually code for “I’m not attracted to you and you’ve been officially relegated to the Friend Zone.” Compare that to:

“You’ve got such great arms!”

“You tell the best stories!”

“You’re completely fascinating!”

“You’re so much funnier than I realized!”

“I love your hair!”

“I’m having so much fun right now.”

“You’re kind of gorgeous, you know that?”

Those are compliments a man wants to hear. “Nice” may be nice, but it usually means you’re not that attracted to him or that things aren’t going any further.

You allowed to think he’s nice. “Nice” is nice.

Just try not to say it, y’know?

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6. “Why are you still single?”

What? It's a compliment!

All you're doing is asking aloud how such an incredible man can still possibly be available to you. After all, he's so impressive, so cute, so charming, that, well...there must be some sort of catch.

At least that's what he's hearing.

In other words, your question may come out “why are you still single?” but he hears:

“What's wrong with you? Are you a mama's boy? Are you a player? A Peter Pan? Emotionally unstable? Financially unstable? Socially awkward? Selfish? Bad communicator? Narcissist? Tell me what's wrong with you so I don't waste my time. Basically, you look great on paper, so I'm really concerned how no other woman snagged you before right now. There has to be something off about you. Please, tell me!”

So yeah, there's no reason to ask that question.

Either you'll discover a gem of a man that no one has properly appreciated before, or you'll discover his flaws the way everyone else did: over time.

All I can assure you is that **“why are you still single?”** has never induced a man to confess that he's a selfish narcissist who's afraid of commitment.

A man and a woman are looking up at the sky, smiling. They are standing under several large, colorful umbrellas in shades of yellow, green, red, and blue. The man is wearing a dark blue turtleneck sweater and a light-colored jacket. The woman is wearing a yellow top and a patterned shirt. The background is a bright, clear sky.

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7. “I’m just getting over my ex/drug addiction/alcoholism/depression.”

Listen, I’ve had my heart broken a half dozen times. I’ve had anxiety issues, depression issues, and insomnia issues. I’m all too human.

But I also know a lot better than to start off a date leading with my flaws, under the theory that “if they can’t handle this stuff now, they’re not going be able to handle it later.”

Not true.

We all have a very different reaction when someone close to us confesses something (cancer, herpes, jail time), and while such issues may raise yellow flags, we’re more likely to be empathetic with someone we know than with a total stranger.

You may think this is lying. It’s not. It’s withholding information until a more appropriate time. A smarter time. A more secure time. A time when your message will be better received by your partner, and less likely to cause him to run away.

That time is when he already likes you and is invested in you; not when you’re eating your first appetizer together.

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8. “I’m not sleeping with you tonight.”

A perfectly fair and reasonable statement...that doesn't need to be said at all. The only reasons you'd come out with *“I'm not sleeping with you tonight,”* are:

- a. Because you're tempted to sleep with him.
- b. Because you've slept with other men on the first date in the past.
- c. Because you think setting boundaries means bluntly stating your intentions.
- d. Because you don't trust yourself to hold back when he makes a move later.
- e. Because you're trying to show him you're “not that kind of girl.”

All of those are fear-based defense mechanisms. They certainly don't sound like the language of a confident, sexual woman.

While you're well within your rights (and smart) to not sleep with a guy on Date 1 (or 2 or 3), there's ZERO reason to state it out loud. No more than a man would say to you, “Just so you know: I'm not proposing to you tonight.”

It's just...weird.

Let him fantasize about how far he might get by the end of the night. It's part of his joy, his chase, his challenge. You ultimately hold the cards and can inform him – when the time is appropriate – what your sexual boundaries are.

You needn't announce it over coffee.

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9. “I Googled you before our date.”

It's the 21st century. You've heard some scary things. Maybe you met a stalker or a married guy. You don't want to go down that road again. Now, every time you meet someone of interest, you Google the hell out of him – LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, marriage records, property, even background checks.

Personally, I'm not a proponent of researching your date. Humans met in “real life” for many years and got to know each other by talking on the phone and meeting in person. Therefore, I don't think you need to go all Law and Order SVU on each and every guy.

But if you feel differently and want to make a dossier about each first date before you meet him, for your own sake, **don't tell him.**

You may notice a common theme in this report: all of these things you're tempted to say are based on fear of the worst. It should be pretty obvious that going on a date fearing the worst is one of the surest ways you have of ruining your date.

Think of the man who was taken to the cleaners by his crazy ex-wife, burned out on first dates that go nowhere and is sick of women who lie about their age. So he Googles all his dates – and TELLS them about it.

Don't be like that guy, okay?

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10. “I think I’m falling in love with you.”

One of the most interesting things about dating is how we tend to value people who don’t want us far more than we value those who do.

Admit it: you’re more hooked by the hot guy who texts sporadically than the guy who gives you a dozen roses on the first date and says he wants to be your boyfriend before dessert.

Men operate the same way.

Sure, we want you to find us attractive. Sure, we want you to compliment us. Sure, it’s flattering when you see us with some future potential.

But declaring it too soon is a blaring siren for him to run in the other direction. It shows him that you’re blinded by chemistry and have a very low standard for using the word “love,” which creates an undue sense of pressure way too early in the relationship.

This is not some veiled warning to start “playing games,” and acting disinterested in men, but rather, a reminder to play it a little cooler – the exact same way you’d want your potential suitors to be a little cooler around you.

A man with curly hair and a beard, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt, is smiling and looking at a woman. The woman has short dark hair and is wearing a black sleeveless top with white polka dots. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is dark with some blurred lights, suggesting an outdoor night setting.

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11. “Where do you see this relationship going?”

In Love U, I talk extensively about the idea of “*future thinking*” – specifically the metaphor of trying to read the last page of the book without actually reading the book.

It’s normal to get excited about a guy and immediately start to think about what might happen next.

The problem is that the moment you start “future thinking,” the entire tone of the date changes. Previously, you were connecting, having fun, flirting, staying present. Suddenly, you’re in your head, trying to dissect him, and asking him probing questions about where he stands on marriage, kids, money, religion, politics, etc.

The next thing you know, your date has become an audition for the part of husband as opposed to a playful, organic conversation with a cute stranger.

Not only is that not fun for him, it’s not effective for you.

Men know when you’re interviewing them, the same way you know when a guy is shamelessly trying to get you in bed. It’s too much, too soon. You have to dial it back.

Don’t worry about where the relationship is going. Don’t attempt to figure out if you’re compatible in the long-term. Don’t be afraid that you’re wasting time or going to get hurt.

Instead of asking him to project a completely unknown future with you, focus your energies on being warm, curious, affectionate and enthusiastic.

That’ll get you a second date – and give you another chance to evaluate whether he is, in fact, boyfriend and husband material.

READY FOR MORE PERSONALIZED SUPPORT?

You can learn a lot about dating and relationships from a guide like this. But there comes a point when you need to figure out what applies specifically to **you**.

For over two decades, I've helped smart, successful women trust their judgment, date with intention, and choose partners ready for commitment.

I work with a small number of women in a private advisory relationship, guiding them through the dating process into lasting love.

[Schedule a Private Consultation](#)

Let's talk about your unique situation and determine the right path forward.



EVAN MARC KATZ

Dating and Relationship Advisor for Successful Women

20+
YEARS

35M+
READERS

13K
WOMEN COACHED

