

The Chat-to-Date One-Pager

How to ask her out clearly, without pressure.

From *Texting: A Practical Guide to Better Messages, Chemistry, and Dating* by Alex Brandt

Is the chat ready?

You don't need a perfect moment. You need some mutual engagement. Look for:

- She asks you things back, not only answers.
- She shares more than one-word replies.
- She returns to earlier topics or jokes.
- She sometimes suggests things herself.

If she's barely replying, a cleverer invite won't fix it. If the chat is mutual, ask.

The invite formula

Callback + plan + time + room for a no.

- **Callback:** something you've already talked about (food, music, a running joke).
- **Plan:** one simple activity. Short, public, easy.
- **Time:** a day or two options. "Thursday or Saturday?"
- **Room:** a tone that makes no easy to say.

Ask once. Don't sell it.

6 invites

THE CHAT IS ABOUT...	INVITE
Pizza arguments	"We've argued about pizza long enough. Want to settle it over a slice on Friday?"
Competitive streaks	"You've talked a big game about mini-golf. Want to prove it Thursday?"
Books	"You clearly have better recommendations than me. Want to help me pick one over coffee this weekend?"
Music	"I think our playlist debate needs a real verdict. Drink on Thursday?"
Nothing specific	"I've enjoyed talking to you. Want to get coffee this week?"
Her sarcasm	"Your sarcasm would be better in person. Coffee next week?"

Not these

SKIP	WHY	TRY
"We should hang out sometime."	No plan	"Coffee at [place] on Saturday afternoon?"
"Can I see you tonight???"	Pressure, no notice	"I'm going to [place] Friday evening. Want to join me?"
A long pitch	Makes a coffee feel heavy	"Coffee Saturday? No hard feelings if not."

What she says → what you say

- **Yes:** lock the details. "Great. Saturday at 3 at [place]?"
- **Busy, but offers another time:** work with it. "Sounds good. Sunday morning?"
- **Vague:** don't chase. "No worries. Let me know if you'd like to."
- **No:** "Thanks for being straight with me. Take care."

Her answer is information, not a puzzle to solve.