

The First Message Fix

10 boring openers, fixed. One page.

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

The 3-part fix

A good first message does three small things:

1. **Notice** something specific about her: a photo, a prompt, a story, something she said.
2. **Twist** it lightly with a playful angle, not a compliment or a quiz.
3. **Lane**: end with something easy to answer: a choice, a "true or false," a tiny confession.

It's not about impressing her. It's about giving her something to react to.

Three traps to skip

- **The interviewer**: "Where are you from? What do you do?" Too heavy for a first line.
- **The compliment only**: "You're gorgeous." It gives her one job: say thank you.
- **The essay**: a paragraph about everything you have in common. Homework, not a spark.

10 fixes

IF SHE HAS...	FLAT	FIX
A beach photo	"Nice pics"	"Is that beach a vacation or a lifestyle you're hiding from us?"
Prompt: "partner in crime"	"Ha, I'm in"	"Which crime? Be specific. I'm picky about my co-conspirators."
A coffee mention	"Love coffee too"	"Strong coffee opinions detected. Where does the best cup in town live?"
A cooking photo	"Looks yummy"	"That looks like a recipe that took three tries. Which attempt was this?"
A concert photo	"Looks fun"	"Best show you've ever seen. I'll judge you for the answer."
A summit photo	"Impressive"	"Was the view worth the leg day?"
A travel-list prompt	"Cool, I like travel too"	"Three places on your list and I need the ranking."
A brunch story	"Looks good!"	"Be honest: did the brunch live up to the photo?"
A pet photo	"Cute dog"	"What's his name, and what's his worst habit?"
Nothing to go on	"Hey"	"Quick poll: pancakes or waffles, and you have to defend it."

Use only details that are actually on her profile or story.

Check it before you send

- Does it catch attention, or could anyone have sent it?
- Does it give her a feeling: a smile, a raised eyebrow?
- Can she answer in five seconds without thinking hard?

If one answer is no, rebuild it: **notice + twist + lane**.

Chapters 1 and 2 of the book are free to read and listen to at thetextingbook.com. Full edition: \$11.99, one-time.