

# The First Message Fix: Women's Edition

10 boring openers and replies, fixed. One page.

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

## The 3-part fix

Starting a conversation is not chasing. It's a small, specific signal that you're open to talking.

1. **Notice** something specific: a photo, a prompt, a story, something he said.
2. **Add yourself**: a light reaction or a bit of your own taste, not a quiz.
3. **Lane**: end with something easy to answer: a choice, a tiny confession, a real question.

You aren't auditioning and you aren't carrying the chat. You're giving him something to pick up.

## Three traps to skip

- **The generic opener**: "Hey" or "How's your week?" with nothing behind it.
- **The interview**: three questions in a row, with nothing of yours attached.
- **The apology**: "Sorry if this is random..." You don't need permission to say hi.

## 10 fixes

| IF HE HAS...          | FLAT               | FIX                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A guitar photo        | "Cool guitar"      | "Is the guitar a skill or an accessory? Be honest."                                           |
| A "worst take" prompt | "Haha same"        | "Pineapple on pizza is a great take. Mine: sequels are usually better. Defend yourself."      |
| A cooking story       | "Looks good"       | "What's the dish? I can't tell if I'm jealous or just hungry."                                |
| A gym story           | "Nice"             | "6am workout, or the 6pm 'I should probably go' workout?"                                     |
| A travel photo        | "Where is that?"   | "Where was this? And did you plan it or just wander into it?"                                 |
| A dog on his profile  | "Cute dog"         | "Your dog's name is the best part of this profile. Is there a story?"                         |
| A weekend ritual      | "Same lol"         | "A proper Sunday ritual. Mine is a long walk and a bad crossword. What does yours look like?" |
| A flat "Hey"          | "Hey"              | "Hey. Tell me one thing that went well today."                                                |
| You met in person     | "Nice meeting you" | "I'm still thinking about [the thing you joked about]. Did you ever [do it]?"                 |
| Not much to go on     | "Hi, how are you?" | "Quick one: coffee person or tea person, and why?"                                            |

Use only details that are actually there.

## Check it before you send

- Is it specific to him, or could it go to anyone?
- Does it add something of yours: a reaction, a taste, a small opinion?
- Can he answer in a line without thinking hard?

If he meets you with real effort, keep going. If he doesn't, you don't have to fix it.

Chapters 1 and 2 of the Women's Edition are free to read and listen to at [thetextingbook.com/women](http://thetextingbook.com/women). Full edition: \$11.99, one-time.