

The Reply Rewriter

26 flat texts, rewritten so they're easy to answer.

A free pack from *Texting: A Practical Guide to Better Messages, Chemistry, and Dating* by Alex Brandt.

How to use this pack

A flat text isn't a bad text. It's an unfinished one. It answers the question, or fills the silence, and then leaves the other person with nothing to pick up.

Every rewrite below does the same small thing: it gives the conversation somewhere to go. Not a trick, not a line. A detail, a choice, a specific, a clear plan.

Three rules before you start:

1. **Borrow the shape, not the words.** These are starting points. If a rewrite wouldn't sound like you out loud, change it until it does. A message in your own voice beats a clever one that isn't.
2. **One hook is enough.** You don't need a paragraph. One detail, one question, or one clear invitation.
3. **Only add effort where there's some coming back.** A better text helps a good conversation breathe. It won't carry someone who isn't participating, and it shouldn't have to.

Words in [brackets] are details you fill in from your own chat.

Part 1: First messages

1. The "hey"

FLAT "Hey, how are you?"

BETTER "Settle something for me: is cereal a soup?"

WHY IT WORKS She can take a side in two seconds. "Good, you?" is the only available answer to the flat version.

2. The compliment with one job

FLAT "Hi beautiful"

BETTER "Your dog looks like he has strong opinions about the walk route. Does he lead or do you?"

WHY IT WORKS It notices something specific, and it hands her a story to tell. A bare compliment only asks her to say thanks.

(Use a detail that's actually in her photos or profile.)

3. The interview

FLAT "Love your pics! Where are you from? What do you do?"

BETTER "That mountain photo: did you hike up, or take the cable car and tell people you hiked?"

WHY IT WORKS One playful question beats three plain ones. Questions with no feeling behind them read as a form to fill in.

4. The shared-interest opener

FLAT "I saw we both like travel."

BETTER "We both have Lisbon on our list. Tourist answer or secret-spot answer: where should I eat first?"

WHY IT WORKS A shared detail plus a choice. She can answer in one line or in ten.

5. After swapping numbers

FLAT "Nice meeting you."

BETTER "Still thinking about [the funny thing from when you met]. Round two?"

WHY IT WORKS It carries the real-life moment into the thread instead of starting over with a formal line.

Part 2: Keeping it going

6. The "good, you?"

HER "How was your weekend?"

FLAT "Good, you?"

BETTER "Good. I spent Saturday assembling a bookshelf from instructions written by someone who clearly hates me. How was yours?"

WHY IT WORKS Answer, then add one small handle, then hand it back.

7. The "nice"

HER "Just got back from a trip."

FLAT "Nice."

BETTER "Nice. Was it the relaxing kind of trip, or the kind where you need a second vacation to recover?"

WHY IT WORKS Two easy doors to walk through, and neither one is a test.

8. The "haha"

HER *(a funny story about her day)*

FLAT "Haha lol"

BETTER "Hahaha, the fact that you stayed for the whole thing is the best part. What happened after?"

WHY IT WORKS You react to a specific piece and ask for the next scene.

9. The job question

FLAT "So what do you do for work?"

BETTER "What's the part of your job people always get wrong?"

WHY IT WORKS You get a story instead of a job title.

10. The "tired"

HER "Tired lol"

FLAT "Same."

BETTER "Rough tired, or the good kind after a productive day?"

WHY IT WORKS It shows you care about the feeling, and it's easy to answer in a word.

11. The callback

HER "I'm basically a professional napper."

FLAT "Haha nice."

BETTER "Professional is a strong word. What's your competitive nap record?"

WHY IT WORKS You pick up her own phrase and play with it. Callbacks feel like attention.

12. The thin reply

HER "yeah" / "lol" / "ok"

FLAT "Why so quiet?" or three more questions in a row

BETTER "Sounds like a low-energy night. I'll let you get back to it. Tell me tomorrow if the couch won."

WHY IT WORKS You let a thin reply be thin. No chasing, no pressure, and a small hook if she wants to use it.

Part 3: Story replies

13. The emoji

FLAT "🔥" or "Nice."

BETTER "Is that a dessert or a structural engineering project?"

WHY IT WORKS One playful observation does more than any reaction button.

14. The "looks fun!"

HER STORY A concert.

FLAT "Looks fun!"

BETTER "Who was the opener? There's always one band that quietly steals the night."

WHY IT WORKS It asks about something only she can tell you.

15. The pet

HER STORY Her dog.

FLAT "Cute dog."

BETTER "What's his name, and what crime is he pretending he didn't commit?"

WHY IT WORKS You give the photo a tiny story to complete.

Part 4: Restarting a quiet chat

16. The "hey stranger"

FLAT "Hey stranger"

BETTER "I just passed a taco place and remembered your theory that tacos are a personality test. Still standing by it?"

WHY IT WORKS A real reason to message, tied to something she actually said.

17. The apology spiral

FLAT "Sorry I've been so bad at texting, I've just been so busy lately, I hope you're not mad..."

BETTER "Dropped the ball on this chat. Fixing that: how did [the thing she mentioned] go?"

WHY IT WORKS One clean line, no pile of apologies, and a question that shows you remembered.

18. The "did I do something wrong?"

FLAT "Did I do something wrong?"

BETTER "No pressure at all. If you're busy, all good. If you want to pick this back up, I'm around."

WHY IT WORKS It leaves the door open without asking her to reassure you.

Part 5: From chat to date

19. The "we should hang out sometime"

FLAT "We should hang out sometime."

BETTER "You've been recommending that ramen place for a week. Want to go Thursday and prove it?"

WHY IT WORKS A real plan from something you already share, with a day on it.

20. The "wanna meet up?"

FLAT "Wanna meet up?"

BETTER "Want to grab a coffee and take a walk this weekend? Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning?"

WHY IT WORKS Short, public, simple, and a clear choice she can answer.

21. The pressure invite

FLAT "Can I see you tonight???"

BETTER "I'm going to [place] Friday evening. Want to join me?"

WHY IT WORKS It gives notice, names a plan, and leaves room to say no.

22. The sales pitch

FLAT "It'll be fun, I promise, I'm really not weird, it'll be quick, you won't regret it."

BETTER "Coffee Saturday? If it doesn't work, no hard feelings."

WHY IT WORKS Ask once. You don't need to argue her into a coffee.

23. The "maybe next week"

HER "Maybe next week?"

FLAT "Ok let me know" or three follow-ups

BETTER "Sounds good. Send me a day when your week settles and we'll pick a spot."

WHY IT WORKS Clear, warm, and the ball stays in her court without you waiting visibly.

Part 6: After the date

24. The "had a great time"

FLAT "Had a great time tonight!"

BETTER "Still laughing about [the moment]. I'd like to do that again."

WHY IT WORKS One real memory plus a clear statement of interest.

25. The "when are you free again?"

FLAT "So when are you free again?"

BETTER "Free Thursday or Saturday for round two? I've prepared a stronger argument about [the thing you disagreed on]."

WHY IT WORKS A specific next step with a callback, and an easy choice.

26. The no

HER "I don't think this is a match for me."

FLAT "Wow ok. Did I do something wrong? Can we talk about it?"

BETTER "Totally fine. Thanks for being straight with me. Take care."

WHY IT WORKS Her answer is information, not a puzzle to solve. A clean reply keeps your dignity and hers.

When not to rewrite

If you've offered real material several times and the answers stay one word, the problem isn't your phrasing. Step back and see whether they move toward you. A good conversation is co-created, and you can't do both halves.

Want the whole picture?

This pack is a taste of one idea from the book: the best messages are the ones that are easy to answer.

Texting goes through first messages, humor, momentum, the move to a real date, and what to send after, with no scripts, no pressure, and no performing a fake personality.

Chapters 1 and 2 are free to read and listen to at thetextingbook.com.

The full edition is a one-time \$11.99.

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