

The Reply Rewriter: Women's Edition

27 flat texts, rewritten so they're warm, clear, and easy to build on.

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

How to use this pack

Plenty of conversations die while both people are interested. Nobody is rude. The messages just have no handles: nothing to tease, ask about, or build from.

This pack is about one habit: **answer, then add**. Give the direct answer, then give one small piece of material the other person can pick up. A detail, an opinion, a question, a feeling, a clear yes or a clear no.

It is not a way to chase, and it is not a way to manage someone's feelings. You decide when a conversation deserves your effort, and you can pull back when it doesn't.

Three notes before you start:

1. **Borrow the shape, not the words.** If a rewrite wouldn't sound like you out loud, change it until it does.
2. **One add-on is enough.** Short can still be warm.
3. **Effort goes both ways.** Better replies help a good chat breathe. They don't revive someone who isn't participating.

Words in [brackets] are details you fill in yourself.

Part 1: Starting and story replies

1. The "hey :)"

FLAT "Hey :)"

BETTER "Your bookshelf photo is doing a lot of work. What's the one book you'd defend in public?"

WHY IT WORKS It's specific, and it gives him a favorite to talk about.

2. The story reply

HIS STORY A scenic view.

FLAT "Cool!"

BETTER "That view looks suspiciously like a screensaver. Where is it?"

WHY IT WORKS A small, real reaction plus a question only he can answer.

3. The "haha"

HIS STORY A joke about a sandwich disaster.

FLAT "Haha"

BETTER "I'm now invested in this sandwich saga. Did it survive?"

WHY IT WORKS You join his moment instead of just acknowledging it.

4. The dating-app "hi"

FLAT "Hi, how's your week going?"

BETTER "You mention a Sunday ritual in your profile. What does your ideal one look like?"

WHY IT WORKS It shows you read something real, and the question has an easy lane.

5. Group chat to one-to-one

FLAT Laughing at his joke in the group and never saying more.

BETTER (AS A DM) "That story you told at dinner is still living in my head. How did it actually end?"

WHY IT WORKS It makes a private door out of a shared moment, with a question he'll enjoy answering.

Part 2: Replies with something to work with

6. The "good"

HIM "How was your day?"

FLAT "Good."

BETTER "Good, mostly. I survived a meeting that should have been an email. How was yours?"

WHY IT WORKS You answer, add a detail, and hand it back.

7. The "haha" (again)

HIM "I just spent twenty minutes in a hardware store because I couldn't pick a lamp."

FLAT "Haha."

BETTER "A lamp is a big decision. What are the finalists: practical or dramatic?"

WHY IT WORKS You treat his small story as worth a follow-up.

8. The "idk"

HIM "What are you up to this weekend?"

FLAT "Idk."

BETTER "Not sure yet. Somewhere between a long walk and a long nap. You?"

WHY IT WORKS Uncertainty with a shape is usable. Plain "idk" leaves him standing in fog.

9. The "no"

HIM "Are you from here?"

FLAT "No."

BETTER "No, I grew up near [place]. I still don't understand how people here live without a proper bakery on every corner."

WHY IT WORKS A tiny opinion gives him something to agree or argue with.

10. The "everything"

HIM "What kind of music do you like?"

FLAT "Everything."

BETTER "Everything, which is a useless answer. Lately it's [artist] on repeat and whatever gets me through the commute."

WHY IT WORKS Specifics make it a conversation. You can even laugh at the vague answer yourself.

11. The "nice"

HIM "I finally started learning guitar."

FLAT "Nice."

BETTER "Okay, I need to know: what's the first song you're mildly embarrassed to be practicing?"

WHY IT WORKS You show curiosity and make it fun to answer.

12. The "aw, hope it gets better"

HIM "Rough week at work."

FLAT "Aw, hope it gets better."

BETTER "That sounds draining. Do you want to vent about it, or be distracted from it?"

WHY IT WORKS It receives the feeling and lets him choose what kind of support he wants.

Part 3: Showing interest without chasing

13. The hidden interest

HIM "I had fun last night."

FLAT "Lol me too" (while hoping he can tell you mean more)

BETTER "Me too. I liked [the specific moment]. I'd be up for more of that."

WHY IT WORKS Clear interest doesn't have to be loud. One true sentence is enough.

14. The late reply

FLAT Waiting hours on purpose, then sending "hey!"

BETTER Reply when you actually can, with warmth: "Surfaced from a busy day. How was yours?"

WHY IT WORKS You don't need to time your messages. Answer when you have the attention to answer well.

15. The apology

FLAT "Sorry if this is random, but I was thinking about you and hope it's not weird..."

BETTER "I saw a dog in a raincoat and thought of your rainy-day rant. Hope your week's going well."

WHY IT WORKS Warm, specific, and no apology for having a thought.

16. The seeking-approval ask

FLAT "Would you maybe want to get coffee? No worries if not lol"

BETTER "I'd like to get coffee with you. Saturday afternoon?"

WHY IT WORKS Asking clearly is not chasing. He can still say yes, no, or suggest another time.

Part 4: Effort and discernment

17. The "wyd"

HIM "wyd" (at 11pm)

FLAT A long, charming reply to a message that put in no effort

BETTER "Winding down. What's up?"

WHY IT WORKS You match the energy that arrived and give him a chance to step in.

18. The thin replies

HIM "lol" / "yeah" / "true" after you've shared real material

FLAT Three new questions to rescue the thread

BETTER "I'm going to finish my show. Tell me about the guitar tomorrow."

WHY IT WORKS You offer one hook and let him pick it up. If he doesn't, that's information, not a puzzle to solve.

19. The clean exit

FLAT Going quiet, or a long explanation of everything that wasn't working

BETTER "I've enjoyed talking, but I don't think we're a match. Take care."

WHY IT WORKS Short, kind, and final. You don't owe a debate.

Part 5: Boundaries

20. The too-fast escalation

HIM *(a message that pushes toward explicit texting)*

FLAT "lol 🙄" or a long justification

BETTER "I'm enjoying the flirting. I'm keeping it PG until we've met."

WHY IT WORKS One clear sentence. It's warm and unmistakable.

21. The short no

HIM *(asks you out and you aren't interested)*

FLAT "I'm so busy this month and my cat is sick and work is crazy, maybe another time?"

BETTER "Thanks for asking, but I'm going to pass. Wishing you well."

WHY IT WORKS A vague excuse invites a second ask. A kind no ends it.

22. The pushback

HIM "Why not? Come on."

FLAT Defending your reasons

BETTER "I've given you my answer."

WHY IT WORKS You don't owe an explanation for a no. If he keeps pushing, that tells you what you need to know.

Part 6: From chat to date

23. The hint

FLAT "That place looks great, would be nice to go one day lol"

BETTER "I'd go there. Want to take me Saturday?"

WHY IT WORKS Hinting forever wears out both people. One clear line saves the guessing.

24. The "we should hang sometime"

HIM "We should hang out sometime."

FLAT "Yeah definitely!" (and then nothing)

BETTER "I'd like that. What day were you thinking?"

WHY IT WORKS It turns warmth into a real next step. If he stays vague, you'll know.

25. The safety line

HIM "Pick a place and I'll be there."

FLAT Agreeing to a place you aren't comfortable with, to avoid friction

BETTER "Saturday works. I'd like to meet at a public spot. Does [café] work for you?"

WHY IT WORKS Caring about safety doesn't need an apology. A decent person will say yes.

Part 7: After the date

26. The "thanks for tonight"

FLAT "Thanks for tonight!" (when you actually enjoyed it)

BETTER "I had a good time tonight, especially [the moment]. I'd like to see you again."

WHY IT WORKS It tells him exactly where you stand.

27. The "I'm not feeling it"

FLAT Going silent, or "Had fun!" with no intention of a second date

BETTER "Thanks for a good evening. I enjoyed meeting you, but I'm not feeling a romantic spark. Wishing you well."

WHY IT WORKS A clear no after a date is a kindness. It saves him from waiting.

Want the whole picture?

This pack is one idea from the Women's Edition: you can have standards, boundaries, and discernment, and still bring warmth, humor, and clear interest when you like someone. A good conversation is co-created.

The book goes through starting conversations, better questions and answers, showing interest, reading effort, boundaries, moving from chat to a date, and the messages after, with no scripts and no games.

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

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

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