

THE
Offline Dating
METHOD

HOW TO ATTRACT
A GREAT GUY
IN THE
Real World

CAMILLE VIRGINIA

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If You Initiate With Him...

So what happens when you want to initiate a conversation with a man? Here are the Rules of Engagement to help *you* break the ice with anyone...

The Rules of Engagement

- Rule #1: You Can Totally Initiate
- Rule #2: Choose Easy + Relatable
- Rule #3: Skip the Formalities
- Rule #4: Opportunity > Outcome
- Rule #5: Prepare For Rain



Rule #1: You Can Totally Initiate

Some women insist that the man should always make the first move – but I disagree. What if you see him but he doesn't see you yet? Or he can't read your signals that you want him to approach you?

Waiting for the man to always initiate means you'll miss a lot of opportunities, so permission granted to make the first move yourself. In this section I'll show you how to do it without risk of rejection.

Because sometimes you just get one chance to connect with someone before they disappear forever. You don't want to walk away from a situation thinking, "I should have said something to him, what if he was meant to be in my life?" or "I should have just asked him about his Maroon 5 shirt, he was so cute!" or "We kept locking eyes from across the lobby, but I didn't know what to do next."

Avoid any painful regret by finding the courage to take action in the moment. Just make sure at some point he starts to take the lead in the conversation so it's confirmed that he's interested in you too.



Rule #2: Choose Easy + Relatable

The best icebreaker topics are simply drawn from the situation around you. People need to have instant context for the random phrase or question you just shared with them in order for them to pick up the conversation ball – so keep it clear and simple.

Use whatever is around you in the moment so it's relevant to the other person too. Here are some examples...

Day of the week

- Icebreaker: *"TGIF!"*
- Follow-up to icebreaker: *"Heck yeah! How's your Friday going?"*

Holiday

- Icebreaker: *"Happy New Year."*
- Follow-up to icebreaker: *"You too! Any resolutions for this one?"*

Weather

- Icebreaker: *"Gorgeous weather, right?"*
- Follow-up to icebreaker: *"It's awesome. Any plans to take advantage?"*

People

- Icebreaker: *"Did that guy just do a handstand against that stop sign?"*
- Follow-up to icebreaker: *"Yep, he sure did. Just keepin' it real, right?"*

Clothes / Accessories

- Icebreaker: *"Your watch is very unique, I like it."*
- Follow-up to icebreaker: *"Thanks, I just got it. I have a thing for watches, how about you?"*

Objects

- Icebreaker: *"Is that brand of bagel bites any good?"*
- Follow-up to icebreaker: *"They're delicious, the perfect mix of sweet and salty. Are you a lover of the bites too?"*

This is why I don't recommend having one universal "pre-planned" line to open every conversation because it will feel forced, likely be out of context for most situations, and create confusion instead of a conversation.

Asking a question gives you control over which topic you start the conversation on, so choose one that you genuinely like or are curious about. For example, if it's Friday you might be thinking...

"Yay it's Friday! What am I curious about right now? Well, it's my favorite day of the week, and I have exciting plans with Aaliyah this weekend. I wonder what plans this other person has for the weekend..."

And then ask them! Using everyday topics like this will keep your investment (and thus risk of rejection) next to nothing. It also gives the other person the chance to either opt-in or opt-out of continuing the conversation.

Also note that these topics are simply for purposes of breaking the ice – you shouldn't talk about these surface-level subjects for more than a minute or two. They simply serve as a safe way to kick off a connection in a way that's comfortable and inviting. Toward the end of this chapter, I'll show you four simple words to steer every conversation off the random icebreaker and into a more meaningful connection.



Rule #3: Skip the Formalities

When you break the ice with someone, don't make it a formal affair. Using perfectly proper language and/or a stiff tone only serves to make the conversation feel distanced and business-like.

.....
 Remember: if you wouldn't say it to your best friend,
 don't say it to a stranger.

For instance, one of my clients Stephanie was headed to a blues bar with live music and wanted to practice meeting new people. She walked me through her previous attempt to engage people there, which was to sit down next to someone, introduce herself, and then... have no clue what to say next.

I pointed out that she wouldn't go through that formal introduction approach with a friend; she'd simply turn to them and share an offhand thought or question about the band or the venue or whatever she was genuinely interested in at the moment. So I recommended she take that same approach with strangers too, and to say something like...

- *"This is my first time seeing this band live, how about you?"*
- *"What's your favorite song of theirs?"*
- *"Such a great way to spend a Friday night, right?"*

Formally introducing yourself to someone leaves the conversation without a purpose or a next direction to go in and can get uncomfortable real quick. Instead, make a comment or ask a question to kick things off, which gives the conversation a clear purpose and introduces a relatable topic that the other person can instantly contribute to. Then later in the conversation you can say, *"By the way, I'm Camille..."* and the introduction will feel like a natural part of already-great conversation.



Rule #4: Opportunity > Outcome

"Luck is where preparation meets opportunity."

– Seneca, Roman philosopher

Another one of my clients wanted to practice talking to men, so she hit the town by herself and made an evening of it. But when we debriefed about it the next day she said, "I talked to three attractive men, but none of them asked me out. The night was a total failure."

I reminded her that a few weeks ago she had felt too shy to talk to *anyone* – let alone a man she was attracted to – so the fact that she had gone out by herself and talked to three men in one night was fantastic! The outcome didn't matter. I was so proud of her for pushing her comfort zone and finding her conversation flow; nothing about that was a failure.

You will never truly know what's going on with someone in the moment you meet them. You also can't control them or the outcome of your interaction. So release those expectations as soon as you feel them setting in.

Personally, I love to feel in control of myself and my life as much as possible. Yet I've discovered there's incredible freedom in accepting that I can't control another person because that means I don't have to be responsible for them. How exhausting would it be if you were in charge of not only yourself, but everyone else you came in contact with? Ugh, no thanks.

You can, and *should*, be prepared for random interactions by presenting your real self to the world, smiling at strangers, making eye contact, etc. But after covering those basics, it's up to the other person to determine if they want to start or continue engaging with you.

Ironically, when you release the need to control and/or achieve a specific outcome from an interaction and instead focus on simply enjoying it, *that* is often what makes a man feel comfortable and inspired to ask you out. More on how to do that in *Chapter III: Asked Out Organically*.

A simple hack to get out of your head and into the conversation is to pretend that every interaction with a man is simply "practice for the next one." This will help take your focus off trying to force a certain outcome since you're "just practicing."



Rule #5: Prepare For Rain

As you're out and about practicing your engagement skills, there may be some people who try to rain on your conversation parade. If that happens, remember their reaction is 100% about them and not about you. They don't even *know* you, so you literally can't take whatever they said personally.

Maybe you simply caught them off-guard or maybe you're the first person who's shown them kindness in a long time. Assume their less-than-optimal reaction is due to one of those reasons and be proud of yourself for giving the gift of acknowledgment to someone who probably needed it – even if you don't see the positive ways it affected them. Pretend it ended up being the highlight of their day once they finally realized what just happened.

Remember, the worst-case scenario when attempting to engage someone isn't even that bad. So what, you get a blank stare or no response from a stranger? Is that going to ruin your week? Girl, please. No way.

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