

Friendly or Flirtatious?

A comment that one person sees as friendly might be taken by another as flirtatious. With some forethought and good judgment, however, you can usually avoid sending mixed messages!



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IMPLIED MESSAGES

- What message might be implied if you text someone many times during the course of a day?

- What message might be implied if you text someone very late at night?

- What message might be implied if you have ongoing discussions with a member of the opposite sex about his or her personal problems?

"I have to confess that it's hard not to flirt when you're attracted to someone. But I've learned you don't need to flirt to make people like you. If you think you're ready to date, though, how much better it is if it starts out as a genuine friendship!"
—Julia.

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EMOJIS

- Number the following emojis according to how *you* view them—from least flirtatious (#1) to most flirtatious (#6).



Imagine this scenario: You are texting a friend of the opposite sex. You have no romantic interest in this person, but you want to express concern because you know that your friend is going through a tough time. You send the following message:

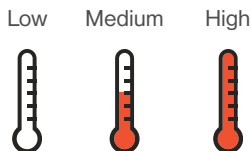
Sorry you're having a tough day. I hope things get better.

Now suppose you add an emoji to your message. In each of the following examples, write down how you think the message might be interpreted by the receiver.

Sorry you're having a tough day. I hope things get better. 😊

How the message might be understood:

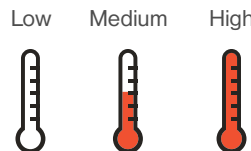
Likelihood the receiver will think you're flirting:



Sorry you're having a tough day. I hope things get better. 😌

How the message might be understood:

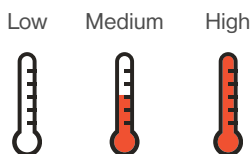
Likelihood the receiver will think you're flirting:



Sorry you're having a tough day. I hope things get better. 😏

How the message might be understood:

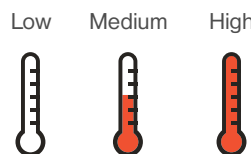
Likelihood the receiver will think you're flirting:



Sorry you're having a tough day. I hope things get better. 💋

How the message might be understood:

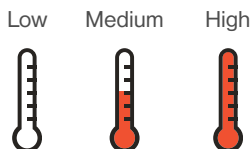
Likelihood the receiver will think you're flirting:



Sorry you're having a tough day. I hope things get better. ❤️

How the message might be understood:

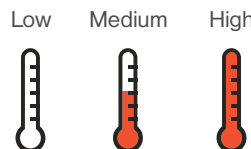
Likelihood the receiver will think you're flirting:



Sorry you're having a tough day. I hope things get better. 🙄

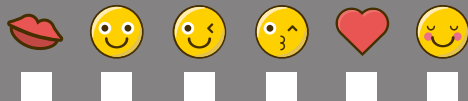
How the message might be understood:

Likelihood the receiver will think you're flirting:



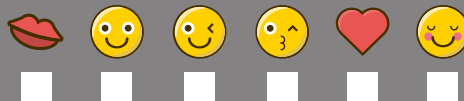
- Which emojis should you avoid if you don't want the receiver to think you're flirting?

AVOID



- Which emojis do you feel are "safe"?

SAFE



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

"A coworker told me, 'When you flirt, you bring out the best in others and it makes you feel good about yourself.'"—Carly.

- Do you agree or disagree with what Carly's coworker said?

☐ Agree

☐ Disagree

Reason for your answer:

- What factors might Carly's coworker be overlooking?

"People often think I'm older than I actually am. I've learned that even if I don't flirt, if a guy flirts with me and shows interest in me, I really need to make sure that I don't reciprocate the interest. I am in no way ready to date, so leading a guy on would be very wrong of me."—Ellen.

TARA'S STORY

What I did: "I knew I wasn't really interested in this boy, but I wanted him to like me. Honestly, I liked the attention. I would talk to him if I was having a bad day or feeling bad about myself. In the end, I hurt his feelings by leading him on. I didn't realize how much he really liked me. When I told him I didn't feel the same

way, he stayed sad for a long time. I felt terrible."

What I learned: "Flirting is not a game; it involves real feelings, even if they're not *your* feelings. In the end, flirting can ruin friendships and cause unnecessary drama."