



By Mark Edward Davis

THE SCIENCE OF FLIRTING HANDOUT

DEFINITION OF FLIRTING:

“Any intentional interaction, that is beyond what was expected, that shows interest”

WHY IS FLIRTING IMPORTANT?

1. It shows interest
2. It projects comfortable confidence in yourself
3. It’s an invitation to a fun oasis
4. Conversely, retreating is like elevator music:

Not Offensive and Not Memorable

SOCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Flirting is considered to be a social risk

- You seem to risk rejection or embarrassment by poor delivery or reception

Skills in flirting, teasing, and bantering are tools for managing these social risks and remove the possibility of failure

The moment you sense risk you panic and retreat

Understanding flirting can change your entire posture and presence

Understand that you are offering them an oasis in their day

FLIRTING FUN

Flirting should be like a rollercoaster ride:

There is a certain thrill to it, but you know that you're going to arrive safely

The interaction is no longer a win / lose, but a chance to practice and perform for this new audience of one

Mark gives example of the dynamics that happen when we tell jokes

FLIRTING AS A LIFE SKILL

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." William Shakespeare

"Influence is not an option. You will influence those around you to respond based on the person they see. Presenting yourself with intention is the key, yet rarely done." Mark Edward Davis

Flirting opens doors, invites interaction, and makes you desirable and fun. It's been used as a disarming conversational tool by dignitaries and young people alike.

TIPS FROM IMPROV SCHOOL

Learn How to Add Creativity to Any Topic

Practice Seeing the Not-So-Obvious with These Drills:

1. "Replay" – Take a topic of conversation and then have it again but with a French accent or as if it were being discussed in a Kung Fu movie.
2. Imagine you were the world's leading expert on the topic
3. Imagine the topic was your greatest passion or biggest pet peeve

THREE TYPES OF FLIRTING

- FLIRTING
- TEASING
- BANTERING

TEASING

- Teasing taps on the other person's emotional state and shines a light on it
- Teasing has a dark side because it can magnify negative emotions
- Teasing has a healing side the can lighten someone's state of being

HOW TO TEASE

1. Identify their emotional state: fear, anger, love, playfulness, joy, compassion, etc.
2. Option 1: Make a playful comment that brings it to it's extreme
 - a. "They should make a holiday after this!"
3. Option 2: Make an absurd comment
 - a. "It's not that the purse was leather that would bother people, but if you killed the cow yourself."

BANTERING

Bantering is about flirting and being playful in the context of an entire conversation

THREE TYPES OF BANTERING:

1. Serious
2. Light
3. Playful

SERIOUS BANTERING

- Can have a negative overtone, but can also be meaningful with serious subjects (controversy, opinion-based conversations)

DREAM CONNECTIONS

- Serious bantering is a “debate” by nature
- Advice: Keep them technical or fact-based and not attacking on the other person
- If you lean on opinions, keep them to opinions anyone could agree upon by all (and I do mean all).

LIGHT BANTERING

Flirty comments based on the immediate world around both of you:

- Weather
- Current Events
- Current Location
- Current Activity

Comment and ask about something they can respond with their take on the obvious subject at hand – like asking what it took for them to get there, etc.

PLAYFUL BANTERING

Use playful bantering like seasoning on food – just the right amount adds flavor – too much and it has the opposite affect

Usually NOT factual, but either fictitious dialog, exaggerations, or self deprecating humor

PRACTICE: Just have fun being someone else or somewhere else with this person in your imaginations

BONUS

Two Other General Forms of Conversation: Technical Details and First-Person Narrative

- Technical Details – Descriptions / Facts. It’s the who, what, and where of the story
- First Person Narrative – It puts you in the scene and they get to live it with you
 - These can get deep and create strong emotional connections

10-VARIATIONS OF FLIRTING

Each of these can be used with varying degrees of intensity – like a scale from 1 to 10

If any of these didn't get the desired response; just learn and make mental notes. You could even respond, "I saw that as funnier in my mind" or "Let me get back to you when I've got a better one".

You never lose – it's always fun – and these 10 are generally bullet proof

FLIRTING VARIATION 1: COMPLEMENTS

Always be specific and genuine

Finish the complement with a question to invoke conversation, "I love the scarf. Did you find that locally?" Your hair looks amazing! How long does it take you to get it that way?"

Can be light observation or soul-level compliment

"I'm loving this interaction. I truly look forward to next time and seeing where this goes."

FLIRTING VARIATION 2: BEING NICE

Sometimes just being pleasant can be inviting and attractive

FLIRTING VARIATION 3: FUTURE SUGGESTIVE

"Maybe on our 3rd date we can talk about that."

FLIRTING VARIATION 4: BODY LANGUAGE / FACIAL REACTIONS

Yes, you can flirt without words

FLIRTING VARIATION 5: PLAYFUL CHALLENGE

"I accept your challenge" – even when they didn't overtly offer one

FLIRTING VARIATION 6: HUMOR FROM THE ABSTRACT

"I think I saw that on an alien planet once."



FLIRTING VARIATION 7: THE “ME TOO!” MISDIRECTION

Mirror what they said and comment as if you’d been there or done it when you couldn’t have possibly

FLIRTING VARIATION 8: LIGHT SEXUAL

“I’m not usually that kind of guy, but for you I could consider it.”

FLIRTING VARIATION 9: TOUCH

At the appropriate time in the conversation, try touching just the arm right above the wrist. If you’re both sitting next to each other, and the body language seems to invite, you could also briefly touch the leg just above the knee, make a dramatic statement, then let go.

FLIRTING VARIATION 10: DRESS AND STYLE

Yes, your style can not only dress to impress – but it can arouse interest and attraction

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Read through these once each morning for 10 days to have them fresh on your mind for the day

Make a conscious effort to use each one as a practice on someone over the next month

Reward yourself every time you do one of these

LOVE EVERY MOMENT OF IT