

DATING APP

OPENER SWIPE FILE

Get the Match. Then Get the Reply.

40 adaptable openers, 20 conversation follow-ups, 15 profile bio templates, and practical notes for starting better conversations.

REFERENCE • ADAPT • SEND

The Real First Hurdle

A match is only permission to start a conversation. The useful question is whether your first message gives the other person something easy and interesting to respond to.

The simplest way to do that is to use information they already chose to put in their profile. A travel photo, dog, hobby, prompt answer, odd joke, or tiny detail gives you a natural starting point. You do not need a perfect line. You need a specific opening that feels like it was sent to one person.

How to use this file: Choose the category that matches something actually visible in the person's profile.

Replace the bracketed detail. Keep the tone close to your real personality. If the line could be sent unchanged to 100 people, personalize it one more step.

No opener can guarantee a reply. These are adaptable conversation starters, not performance claims or manipulation tactics.

TRAVEL PHOTOS

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

1. That [PLACE] photo looks like it has a story. Best part of the trip?
2. You get one return ticket tomorrow: back to [PLACE] or somewhere completely new?
3. I need the honest review: was [PLACE] as good as the photo makes it look?
4. Your [TRAVEL DETAIL] caught my attention. Planned adventure or accidental adventure?
5. Quick travel test: meticulous itinerary, loose plan, or figure-it-out-after-landing?

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

6. I have to ask about the real star of the profile. What's [PET'S NAME / THE DOG / THE CAT]'s personality like?
7. Your [PET] looks extremely confident about being included here. Accurate?
8. Important compatibility question: does your [PET] approve people immediately or make them earn it?
9. What's the funniest habit your [PET] has that the photo doesn't reveal?
10. If your [PET] wrote one line of your bio, what would it say?

SPECIFIC HOBBY

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

- 11. You mentioned [HOBBY]. What got you into it in the first place?
- 12. If somebody wanted to try [HOBBY] without embarrassing themselves, where should they start?
- 13. What's the part of [HOBBY] you could talk about way longer than anyone asked?
- 14. You get a completely free Saturday for [HOBBY]. What's the ideal version of it?
- 15. Your [HOBBY] mention is more interesting than the usual profile checklist. What are you working on / chasing / learning right now?

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

16. Your answer to '[PROMPT]' needs a follow-up. What happened next?
17. I laughed at your '[ANSWER]' answer. Is there context that makes it even better?
18. Okay, I disagree with your answer to [PROMPT], but I'm willing to hear the case.
19. Your [PROMPT] answer is oddly specific, which usually means there's a story behind it.
20. If I answered the same prompt with [YOUR SHORT ANSWER], are we agreeing or starting an argument?

GROUP PHOTO

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

- 21.** Your group photo has strong 'there is definitely a story from this night' energy. Am I right?
- 22.** You all look like you've known each other forever. Old friends, family, or elite trivia team?
- 23.** Which person in that group is most likely to talk everyone into a questionable plan?
- 24.** That group shot looks like a good time. What was the occasion?
- 25.** Be honest: are you the organizer of the group, the late one, or the one who somehow disappears?

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

- 26.** Your bio made me laugh, so now I need to know whether you're actually that funny in conversation.
- 27.** I was going to send a serious opener, but your profile clearly rejected that plan.
- 28.** Rate your own [JOKE / FUNNY CLAIM] from 'mostly true' to 'legally I should say this is satire.'
- 29.** Your sense of humor seems dangerously compatible with mine. What's the last thing that made you laugh way too hard?
- 30.** I appreciate a profile that gives me something better than 'I like food and travel.' What's your most defensible ridiculous opinion?

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

- 31. You gave me very little to work with, so I'm going straight to the important question: ideal Sunday?
- 32. Minimalist profile. Bold strategy. Give me one fact you almost included.
- 33. I'll trade you: one oddly specific fact about me for one about you. Mine is [FACT].
- 34. Since the bio is keeping its secrets, what are you usually doing when you're not on this app?
- 35. Three-word challenge: describe your perfect weekend.

Openers

Use these when the profile gives you this kind of signal. Replace brackets with a real detail.

- 36.** You mentioned [VALUE / CAUSE / PRIORITY]. What made that important to you?
- 37.** I liked that you included [VALUE] in your profile. What does that look like in your actual day-to-day life?
- 38.** Your profile feels pretty intentional. What's something you're making more room for this year?
- 39.** You mentioned [FAMILY / COMMUNITY / FAITH / GROWTH / SERVICE]. What's one tradition or habit around that you really value?
- 40.** What's a value you care about that sounds small on paper but matters a lot in a relationship?

20 Follow-Up Lines

The opener worked. Now resist the urge to turn the conversation into an interview. Respond to what they actually said, add a little of yourself, then give them somewhere to go next.

1. **SHORT REPLY:** I'll take the concise version. What's the longer answer?
2. **SHORT REPLY:** Fair. What would make that answer a definite yes instead?
3. **SHORT REPLY:** Okay, now I'm curious. Is that your real answer or the app-version answer?
4. **SHORT REPLY:** Give me one detail and I'll stop interrogating you.
5. **SHORT REPLY:** I'll make it easier: [OPTION A] or [OPTION B]?
6. **ENTHUSIASTIC REPLY:** Okay, you clearly have opinions on this. What's the part people usually get wrong?
7. **ENTHUSIASTIC REPLY:** I like the enthusiasm. How did you get into that?
8. **ENTHUSIASTIC REPLY:** That sounds genuinely fun. Mine would probably be [YOUR RELATED DETAIL]. What happened next?
9. **ENTHUSIASTIC REPLY:** You sold that better than I expected. What would the beginner version look like?
10. **ENTHUSIASTIC REPLY:** Now I have a follow-up: what makes that your favorite?
11. **ONE-WORD REPLY:** I'm going to need at least two words if I'm going to build a case here.
12. **ONE-WORD REPLY:** Strong answer. Tiny supporting argument?
13. **ONE-WORD REPLY:** Let's try an easier one: coffee, drinks, walk, or tacos?
14. **ONE-WORD REPLY:** I'll match the energy: why?
15. **ONE-WORD REPLY:** Okay, mystery person. Tell me one thing your profile doesn't.
16. **KEEP IT MOVING:** That reminds me of [SHORT PERSONAL CONNECTION]. Have you ever [RELATED QUESTION]?
17. **KEEP IT MOVING:** We may actually agree on this, which is inconvenient because I was prepared to debate you.
18. **KEEP IT MOVING:** What's the best version of that you've experienced so far?
19. **KEEP IT MOVING:** You've got me curious. What's something adjacent to that you're into too?
20. **KEEP IT MOVING:** This is already better than small talk. What's one topic you can always get pulled into?

15 Bio Templates

Use the brackets. Keep only details that are true. A useful bio gives someone two or three easy hooks for starting a conversation.

Playful

1. [JOB / THING YOU DO] by day. [UNEXPECTED HOBBY] by choice. Currently accepting arguments about [LOW-STAKES TOPIC].
2. My ideal weekend involves [ACTIVITY], [FOOD / PLACE], and at least one plan that sounded better five minutes before we did it.
3. Known for [FUNNY STRENGTH], terrible at [HARMLESS WEAKNESS], unusually serious about [SPECIFIC THING].
4. Looking for someone who can appreciate [THING YOU LOVE] and forgive my completely reasonable obsession with [THING].

Genuine / Warm

5. I care a lot about [VALUE], stay close to [PEOPLE / COMMUNITY], and am happiest when I'm [ACTIVITY]. I'd like to meet someone kind, curious, and comfortable being themselves.
6. Good conversation, [FAVORITE SIMPLE ACTIVITY], and people who do what they say matter to me. Lately I'm spending more time on [INTEREST / GOAL].
7. My life is pretty full with [WORK / FAMILY / PASSION], but I'd like to share it with someone who enjoys [ACTIVITY] and values [VALUE].
8. I'll probably ask about what you're excited about lately. Mine is [CURRENT INTEREST]. Bonus points if you also love [SECOND INTEREST].

Ambitious / Driven

9. Building [CAREER / PROJECT / GOAL], making time for [FITNESS / HOBBY / FAMILY], and looking for someone who has a life they're excited about too.
10. I take [WORK / GOAL] seriously and myself a little less seriously. Outside of that, you'll find me [ACTIVITY] or [ACTIVITY].
11. Current goals: [GOAL 1], [GOAL 2], and getting better at [FUN / HUMAN GOAL]. Looking for someone motivated without making life feel like a board meeting.
12. Busy in a good way. I make time for people I care about, [HOBBY], and [RITUAL]. I'd like to meet someone equally intentional.

Low-Key / Minimalist

13. [CITY / AREA]. [JOB / INTEREST]. Usually choosing between [ACTIVITY A] and [ACTIVITY B]. Ask me about [HOOK].
14. Simple pleasures: [FOOD], [PLACE / ACTIVITY], [MUSIC / SHOW], and plans that don't require a spreadsheet.

15. Most weekends: [ACTIVITY], [ACTIVITY], maybe [FOOD / DRINK]. Looking for someone easy to talk to and fun to be around.

What Not to Send

1. The empty opener

“Hey,” “hi,” or an emoji alone gives the other person almost nothing to work with.

2. The copy-paste compliment

A generic appearance compliment can sound interchangeable when the profile gave you better material.

3. The sexual opener

Starting explicitly sexual can cross boundaries quickly and may get you unmatched or reported.

4. The insult disguised as flirting

Negging, teasing a stranger about an insecurity, or trying to lower their confidence is a poor foundation for a conversation.

5. The résumé interview

Five questions in a row feels like screening, not conversation.

6. The essay

A first message that requires scrolling creates work before rapport exists.

7. The fake familiarity

Do not act as though you know someone better than their profile supports.

8. The demand for attention

“Why did you match if you won't answer?” and similar messages create pressure rather than interest.

9. The instant off-app push

Do not pressure someone to give a phone number, social handle, or meet immediately.

10. The repeated follow-up

One reasonable follow-up can be fine. Repeated messages after silence or a clear no should stop.

App-Specific Notes

Hinge

Hinge profiles are built around prompts and profile elements that can be liked or commented on. Lead with the specific prompt, answer, photo, or detail you are responding to. The best opener often feels like a natural continuation of something they already said.

Best starting point: “Your answer to [PROMPT] needs context. What's the story?”

Tinder

Photo and bio details often carry more of the opening burden. Pick something identifiable without making assumptions about who is in a group photo, where a photo was taken, or what a person does unless the profile actually says so.

Best starting point: “That [VISIBLE DETAIL] looks like it has a story. What was happening there?”

Bumble

Conversation-starting rules and features can change by market and app version. Regardless of who is permitted or prompted to initiate in a particular match, the same principle applies: use a real profile detail and make the reply easy. If the other person opens first, answer their question and add something they can respond to instead of returning a one-word answer.

Best starting point: Respond + add one detail + ask one natural follow-up.

The 10-Second Opener Formula

NOTICE

Pick one real detail from the profile.

CONNECT

React to it with curiosity, humor, or a small piece of yourself.

OPEN

End with something easy to answer.

Specific beats clever. Natural beats rehearsed. Respect the response, including no response.