

## Are you in LOVE?

You think you're falling in love. You're really attracted to a certain person. But this has happened before, and it was just a "crush." How can you tell if it's real this time? Here's what our readers said:

If you're falling in love, ...

You'll find yourself talking to, calling, or texting the person for no reason. (You might pretend there's a reason, but often there's not.)

You'll find yourself bringing this person into every conversation. ("When I was in Mexico-," a friend begins. You interrupt with, "My boyfriend made a great Mexican dinner last week.")

You might suddenly be interested in things you used to avoid. ("When a woman asks me to tell her all about football, I know she's fallen in love," said a TV sports announcer.)

OK, so you've fallen in love. But falling in love is one thing, and staying in love is another. How can you tell, as time passes, that you're still in love?

If you stay in love, your relationship will change. You might not talk as much about the person you are in love with. You might not call him or her so often. But this person will nevertheless become more and more important in your life.

You'll find that you can be yourself with this person. When you first fell in love, you were probably afraid to admit certain things about yourself. But now you can be totally honest. You can trust him or her to accept you just as you are. Falling in love is great – staying in **love** is even better!

## Body Language

Much of what we say to others is communicated not only through words, but also through body language. This includes our posture, facial expressions, and gestures. Because body language plays such a significant role in communication, it's important to know what your body is telling other people. You should also know how to interpret other people's body language. Here are some examples of typical body language:

A smile is usually a sign of friendliness and interest. However, some people smile just to be polite. To get another clue from people's faces, notice how they use their eyes. Friendliness and interest are expressed when a person's eyes meet yours directly. If someone looks away for a moment and then back again, the person is probably paying attention to what you're saying. If this person continues to look away while you're talking, he or she might not be interested, or could be shy. People also use hand gestures during a conversation to describe the size of something or the way someone acted. Finally, be aware that when someone keeps pointing at you while talking, it could mean the person is angry or feels superior in some way.

## **Hip-Hop style**

Teenagers who listen to the same music often have a common look. One hot style in music and fashion is hip-hop. Simply put, hip-hop is a type of urban music with a heavy beat. Typical hip-hop fashions are loose-fitting street clothes. The style includes baggy pants, sweatshirts, hiking boots, baseball caps, jackets with sports logos, and expensive athletic shoes. In the hip-hop style, boys and girls often dress the same way.

African-American kids in Detroit and Chicago first made hip-hop fashions trendy more than 20 years ago. They wore baggy street clothes to dance clubs. Then North American and European bands also began wearing this style. Thanks to the popularity of music videos and movies, hip-hop soon became an international fashion sensation.

Teens around the world, from Britain to South Africa to Japan, now wear hip-hop clothing. Seventeen-year-old Melanie Borrow, of Manchester, England, says, "My pride and joy in life are my Levi's jeans." In the United States, teens spend a lot of money on hip-hop fashions. David Bowen, 17, of Evanston, Illinois, has five pairs of hiking boots, each costing around \$100. David says, "They're popular because a lot of hip-hop performers wear them."

## The Changing Family

American families are changing. One important change is that most married women now work outside the home. What happens when both parents work? Read about the Morales family.

Judy and Steve Morales have three children: Josh, 12; Ben, 9; and Emily, 6. Steve is a computer programmer. This year, Judy is working again as a hospital administrator. The family needs the money, and Judy likes her job. Everything is going well, but there are also some problems.

Now that Judy is working, Steve has to help her more with the housework. He doesn't enjoy it.

Judy loves her work, but she feels too tired and busy. She also worries about the children. Judy has to work on Saturdays, so Steve and Judy **don't** have a lot of free time together.

Emily is having a great time in her after-school program. When Judy comes to pick her up, she doesn't want to leave.

Unfortunately, Ben's school doesn't have an after-school program. Right now, he's spending most afternoons in front of the TV.

Josh is enjoying his new freedom after school. He's playing his music louder and spending more time on the phone. He's also doing a few household chores.

## The Magic of potter

J.K. Rowling was born in England in 1965. From a young age, she knew she wanted to be a writer. When she was 6, she wrote her first story – about a rabbit that gets sick. At school, she used to make up stories to tell her friends.

After graduating from college, she worked as a secretary. But she didn't give up her dream. She spent her lunch hour writing stories, mainly for adults. Then in 1990, on a train trip to London, she got the idea for the boy wizard. She says he just appeared in her head. She soon created a whole cast of unique characters to help Harry battle the forces darkness.

She kept working on the story while she was teaching English in Portugal, where she married, had her first child, and divorced a year later. When she returned to England, she brought back a suitcase of Harry Potter stories.

After returning home, she was broke and living in a small, cramped apartment. She continued writing, and in 1995, finished the first book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. It was published in 1997 and became an unexpected bestseller.

Rowling's life has changed dramatically. She has become internationally famous and now earns around \$40 million a year. She remarried, had a second child, and currently lives in Scotland.

## To Tip or Not to Tip?

The word tip comes from an old English slang word that means to *give*. It's both a noun and a verb. American usually tip people in places like restaurants, airports, hotels, and hair salons. People who work in these places often get paid low wages. A tip shows that the customer is pleased with the service. Sometimes it's hard to know how much to tip. The size of the tip usually depends on the service. People such as parking valets or bellhops usually get smaller tips. The tip for people such as taxi drivers and waiters or waitresses is usually larger. Here are a few guidelines for tipping in the United States:

**Parking valets:** \$ 1 for parking a car

**Hotel door attendants:** \$ 1 or \$ 2 for getting a taxi

**Hotel maids:** \$ 1 to \$ 5 per night

**Taxi drivers:** 15 percent of the bill; more if they help you with bags

**Waiters and Waitresses:** 15 to 20 percent of the bill

**Barbers or hairstylists:** 15 percent of the bill

When you're not sure about how much to tip, do what feels right. You don't have to tip for bad service. And you can give a bigger tip for very good service. Remember, though, your behavior is more important than your money. Always treat service providers with respect.

## The Truth about Lying

Most of us are taught to believe that lying is wrong. But it seems that everybody tells lies – not big lies, but what we call “white lies.” If we believe that lying is wrong, why do we do it? Most of the time, people have very good reasons for lying? Here are some ways and reasons why.

**#1 Lying to hide something:** People often lie because they want to hide something from someone. For example, a son doesn’t tell his parents that he’s dating a girl because he doesn’t think they will like her. Instead, he says he’s going out with the guys.

**#2 Lying to make an excuse:** Sometimes people lie because they don’t want to do something. For example, someone invites you to a party. You think it will be boring, so you say you’re busy.

**#3 Lying to make someone feel good:** Often we stretch the truth to make someone feel good. For example, your friend cooks dinner for you, but it tastes terrible. Do you say so? No. You probably say, “Mmm, this is delicious!”

**#4 Lying to avoid sharing bad news:** Sometimes we don’t want to tell someone bad news. For example, you have just had a very bad day at work, but you don’t feel like talking about it. So if someone asks you about your day, you just say that everything was fine.

## **The World's Online Marketplace™ — eBay!**

Do you like shopping online? Do you like finding a bargain or a good buy? Then eBay is for you. eBay is The World's Online Marketplace.™ It's a place to **buy** and sell almost anything. With over 18 million members, eBay is more popular than any other shopping site on the Internet.

People trade millions of different things on eBay's Web site: from cars to electronics to musical instruments. Here's how it works: A member puts an advertisement for an item on the Web site. Other members bid, or offer money, for the item. The person who bids the most money gets to buy the item. Then the seller sends the item to the buyer.

"Selling on eBay is easy," says Mike Stacks. He's the owner of a company that sells used computers. And he adds, "I make friends on eBay. I think it's a very friendly place." But some people don't like it. "I think the traditional way to shop is better," says Jenny Feng, a student. "I want to touch things – not see a picture of them."

But whether you like it or not, eBay is here to stay. There are now eBay users in the United States, Europe, Latin America, China, and many other countries. Soon, people may be able to shop on eBay anywhere in the world.



## Whose Hand Is This?

At around Thanksgiving time, an elementary teacher in America gave her students big pieces of paper and asked them to draw a picture of something they were thankful for. The next day, the children brought in their pictures and she showed each one to the class. One child drew a picture of a TV, and another, a picture of a farmer. But the picture Johnny drew, like the boy himself, was a little more unusual. Johnny, smaller than the other kids his age, rather fearful, and always sitting off by himself, had drawn a childlike picture of a hand. The hand was huge, so big, in fact, that it covered the whole paper.

The teacher showed the picture to the rest of the class and asked them if they could guess whose it was. One child raised her hand and said, "I know. It's a giant's hand, because it is so big." Another child said, "I think that it's God's hand." Then the teacher asked Johnny, "Johnny, whose hand is this?" Johnny looked down, murmured a bit and the teacher asked again. He then answered, "It's teacher's hand." The teacher paused for a moment, but then understood. Since Johnny was so shy, she sometimes took him to recess, holding his hand.

## Ways to Keep Phone Calls Short

Do you like to talk on the phone? Do you think that you spend too much time on the phone?

The phone rings. It's a friend who wants to tell you about his or her health problem. You hate to be rude and cut your friend off, but what can you do? Time management consultant Stephanie Winston offers this advice:

1. Don't ask questions like "What's new?" They give the impression that you have time to chat. After "hello," get right to the heart of the matter.
2. Time your calls intelligently.  
If you make a call right before lunch or dinner, or at the end of the workday, people chat less.
3. Set a time limit. Start with, "Hi, I've only got a few minutes, but I wanted to talk to you about...." Or, "Gee, I'd love to talk more, but I only have a couple of minutes before I have to run errands."
4. Jump on a pause. Even the most talkative caller has to pause now and then. Quickly say, "It's has been great talking with you." Then end the conversation.
5. Forget niceties. Some people just don't take a hint. Interrupt your caller and say, "I'd like to talk to you longer, but I'm pressed for time. Good-bye." Then hang up. Don't ask for permission to end the conversation.
6. Find a "partner in crime." If nothing else works, ask someone in your home to help you. For example, one woman signals her husband, who yells, "Jane, I think the roast is burning!"
7. Avoid the phone completely. Use an answering machine to screen calls. If you have an important message for a chatterbox, leave the message when he or she isn't in.