



**SPEAK NO EVIL**  
Or inadvertent insults, or pretty much anything about her weight.

# What Not to Say on a First Date

You may think you're being open, insightful, witty, or profound. But even a well-meaning remark can ruin your chances for a second date with her.

BY STEVE CALECHMAN

**HOLD YOUR TONGUE...**

You cleaned your plate. I'm impressed.

My mom wears that fragrance.

So who's the hot girl in all your Tinder pics?

**I like to take my sweet time with everything. Everything.**

Really? I never would have guessed that you were a runner.

My problem is I'm not picky enough.

Yoga instructor? Score on the flexibility!

**According to Facebook, you had some fun last weekend.**

Go ahead—guess how much money I make.

Hey! Your name is the same as my favorite anime character.

Are you drinking enough water? It's great for your skin.

**My brother puts the L in loser.**

So Steph told me that you're on birth control. Are you still?

I think it's really cool that you're so relaxed about your looks.

**Oh, I've closed down this bar lots of times.**

Everything okay? You look tired.

**It's been 20 minutes and I still can't figure out why you're single.**

Don't take this the wrong way, but your ass is awesome.

You totally remind me of a guy friend.

Some people think I'm an asshole, but I'm just confident.

**What do you call three ducks at a bar?**

It's super-easy for me to lose weight. I have a great metabolism.

**My female friends are always trying to hook up with me.**

I'm kinda scared of you.

**EASY, LOVE DOCTOR**

You make it sound as if she's been orgasmless and only *you* can end the drought. You may think you're being smooth and original. You're not. Best to remain silent.

Greg Behrendt, stand-up comedian and coauthor of *It's Just a F\*\*ing Date*

**LET HER STORY UNFOLD**

Say nothing about your online discoveries until she shares. Then it's okay: "I saw your work. Nice about the Nobel." She'll feel that she was worth being checked out by a guy who doesn't prejudge.

Ann Demarais, Ph.D., psychologist and coauthor of *First Impressions: What You Don't Know About How Others See You*

**STOW THE NEGATIVITY**

Stay upbeat. People have a tendency to muddle information; if you speak positively of others, she'll project their talents and qualities onto you. Complain too much, and her take-home impression will be less than rosy. —A.D.

**KNOW YOUR LIMITS**

Fun guy? No, you sound like you drink too much, stay out too late, and pick up the dregs. Sure, taking her to your favorite spots shows that she matters to you. Just spare her the sad, sloppy details.

Wendy Walsh, Ph.D., clinical psychologist and author of *The 30-Day Love Detox*

**BE GLAD SHE'S THERE**

Everyone, including you, has reasons for being single, and those reasons can run the gamut from messy to innocuous. If she's dealing with them well, that's an encouraging sign, Mr. Also Single.

Paulette Sherman, Psy.D., psychologist and author of *Dating from the Inside Out*

**GET A NEW ACT**

Jokes are panic moves when the conversation lags. You want easy patter, not punch lines. So keep it simple: "I'd love to know more. Tell me about it." —G.B.

**QUIT YOUR BRAGGING**

Trust us, Romeo: She doesn't want to hear about your harem. Say "I'm lucky to have some strong, savvy women friends." With one statement, you erase competition worries and compliment an entire gender. —W.W.

ILLUSTRATION BY JÖRN KASPUHL