



# **Email Replies**

## **Module Five Worksheet**

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# Email Openers

Is it ever okay to write a guy before he writes to you?

Yes! Taking the initiative to email a guy you see online is totally acceptable! In fact, guys receive so few proactive emails from smart, attractive, “normal” women (read: NOT foreign-sounding Barbies trying to get them to click to scam/porn sites) that you’ll cut through the competition by boldly emailing him first.

The principles for emailing a guy you find online are a lot like the rules for responding to a good email... with just a few tweaks. At the end we’ll include some done-for-you email openers.

## 1. Ask Questions

You’ve checked out his profile and photos, and he’s piqued your interest. If his profile is well-written, it should give you plenty of conversation openers, but not every guy has a great profile. If there’s nothing obvious to ask about, try the following:

- If you are into sports, ask about a rivalry or recent game
- Look through his list of hobbies and interests to find something you have in common, or ask for advice about something he does that you’ve never tried

If there’s really nothing in his profile that leads you to ask a good question, use what I call “Bait Questions.” I’ll give you some examples in the sample responses below.

## 2. Keep It Brief

The big mistake many people, both men and women, make is to send a too-long email right off the bat. Don’t do that. Your first email should be a hello and a simple opening question. Limit yourself to a few sentences. Trying to tell a stranger all about everything you enjoy is weird.

Subsequent emails might get longer, but remember: the goal is not to email back and forth forever. The goal is to meet in person to see if there’s a spark. After a few back and forths, make a plan to meet up.

**If you’ve emailed for over two weeks with no plan to meet, move on.**

### 3. Proofread!

A short email may seem easy to compose. But before you hit send:

- Double check your spelling, especially for tricky words
- Make sure you're clearly communicating; re-write anything that's vague or confusing
- Your grammar and punctuation don't have to be perfect, but at least use some!

Start off on the right foot. A sloppy email with typos sends the message that you don't care.

### Sample Emails

#### Sample 1: Following His Directions

As you've learned, a well-written profile includes a question for the other person to respond to. Men follow this rule, too, so the interesting guy may have helped you out by asking you something interesting.

*Hi, I'm Carol. I love to travel, so your question about the funniest travel story caught my eye. Back in the days of the Iron Curtain, my friend and I made the foolish choice to travel by Eurail without having the proper visas for every border we were crossing. Spending the night in Romanian jail wasn't funny at the time, but I can laugh about it now. Let's hear how your funniest travel story compares! :)*

#### Sample 2: Find a Relevant Question

Carol found a guy who seemed like an attractive fellow hiker. He didn't ask a specific question on his profile, so she opened her email by asking him about their shared interest. Notice how she ends with a bit of intrigue.

*Hi, I'm Carol. I noticed you're a hiker. Quick question for you; what's the scariest or funniest moment you ever had on a hike? I've got a great story, but I want to hear yours first =)*

### Sample 3: Bait Questions

If you come across a profile that doesn't give you much to go on but you still feel compelled to reach out because of his handsome photos or other desirable logistics, here are some sample bait question openers for you to use.

Always open with your name. Then select a bait question email from the list.

*Hi, I'm Carol...*

- *Based on the mischievous grin in your profile photo, I must know your answer to this age-old question: If I were a genie and could grant you three wishes, what would they be and why?*
- *I feel a lot can be learned about a person based on their answer to this question: If you could invite any three people to dinner (alive or not), who would you choose and why? Looking forward to your answer!*
- *I have a silly question for you. Tell me the craziest thing you've ever done in the name of love. If you answer me, I'll happily answer you!*
- *Here is a fun question for you. If you could have any super power, what would it be and why? Tell me yours, I will tell you mine!*
- *A local radio DJ has a weekly feature he does called "Desert Island Discs." Listeners share the three CDs they would take with them if they were stranded on a desert island for life. I'm curious to know what you would choose!*
- *I like to learn what a man values in life and think his proudest accomplishment provides a lot of insight. So tell me, what is your proudest accomplishment in life thus far?*

These are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to bait questions. Be creative and write your own, too!