



40 love lessons in

Hooked on a feelin'? Yeah, us, too. Here's from-the-heart advice on relationships, friendships and, well, 'ships of all kinds, really.

BY BRITTANY TAYLOR



1. TRUTH: All girls freak out about talking to their crushes. Even the cool ones.

2. You don't have to be crazy about every single thing about yourself. But you *do* have to accept those things if you want love to come your way.

3. There will be tears, of course. But your Mr. Right will never make you cry your eyes out on purpose.

4. Saying "I love you" to a girlfriend doesn't make you weird or mushy or not straight. It just makes you a good friend.

5. You'll probably always remember the pink sweater dress and suede ankle booties you wore on your first date. Chances are he...won't. And that's OK.

6. Don't judge a relationship by its first kiss. It's totally normal for it to be more awkward than amazing.



8. There's a difference between loving your parents, loving Lorde's new single and loving your BF. That doesn't mean they aren't all "love."

9. But love *does* mean bringing enough chocolate chippers for the whole table.

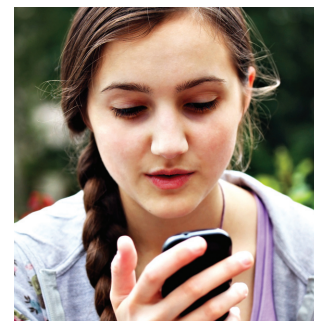
10. When your girls do get catty, there's always your BGF. And when your BGF doesn't get why you're mad about something silly, there's always Mom.

11. Don't feel the need to quash your quirks. After



12. The best cheerleader is a kind BFF. And "be aggressive, B-E aggressive" is not in her repertoire.

7. The only one who doesn't care what your breath smells like is your dog. Pop an Altoid—just sayin'.



13. If you're on the fence about sending that text, don't send it. Or at least add some emoti-context. :)

all, you heart your pooch for all his dopey moments, too, right?

14. "What's your favorite flower?" "Chocolate." "No, I mean roses, carnations—" "Chocolate." #saywhatyoumean #meanwhatyousay

15. Stop judging yourself, already. Your dream guy isn't perfect, either.

16. Even if your first date was just meh, we say go on the second (hey, nerves happen to the best of us). If that one is just as bad, well, it wasn't meant to be.

17. Here's the thing with exes: Sometimes you can be friends with them, and other times? You. Just. Can't. Either is fine.

18. If you love it, he should tolerate it. The one exception? Timmy, your pet tarantula.

140 characters or less

19. Even the greatest guys have blanked on birthdays (once). Forgive, forget and thank him for the pretty present he just gave ya.

20. If you heart your guy and you always have a blast with him, don't waste your time worrying about what other people think.

21. Almost everyone deserves a second chance. The exceptions? The guy who gets extra handsy, the creeper and the "send me a pic ;)" boy. Then, end it.

22. Put an expiration date on your heartbreak. Your buds will be out of com-fortingly catty things to say after the, oh, 50th play-by-play.



23. The way to a guy's heart might not be through his stomach. But nothing's wrong with baking him a batch of brownies.

Grab our boy-tested brownie recipe at girlslife.com/iti.



24. Kisses are nice and all, but sometimes a girl needs a lift-you-off-your-feet bearhug.

25. Don't expect real romance from your first BF, your second BF, your longtime BF or anyone else. Let it be a surprise.

26. A homemade candlelit dinner is overrated. Especially under the foam of a fire extinguisher.

27. As Shakespeare wrote, "If music be the food of love, play on." And if the music be Taylor Swift, turn it up!

28. There's family time, friend time and boy time. But Y-O-U time is the most important. Don't forget that, OK?

29. Any "friend" who starts a convo with "No offense, but..." or ends it with "just kidding"

means offense and isn't kidding. Who needs that?

30. Something good comes from every relationship—even the bad ones.

31. Ya don't have to heart Niall to be head over heels for 1D. That's why there are four other dudes in the band.

32. There's a diff between a guy who teases you and one who mocks your every move. The first

dude likes you. The second is just a jerk.

34. Life is pretty good when you can't decide what's better—wake-up texts or good-night ones.

35. Even your cat likes hearing, "I love you." And if that fails, try catnip.

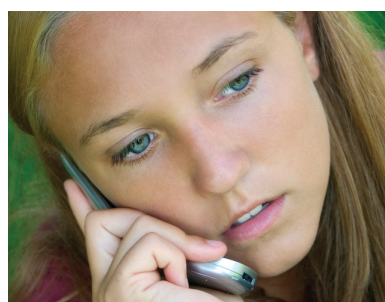
36. A spat doesn't mean your relationship is over. Stop fighting and start fixing things.

37. Faking interest in his hobbies sets you up for hours of boredom. Just be yourself and have fun.

38. You can teach a bad kisser to kiss better, but you can't teach anyone how to "get" you.

39. You might grow apart, but the LYLAS love between you and your besties will never fade.

40. Don't wait for the perfect moment. Ask your crush out now. Kiss him 'cause you want to. And say those three little words when you're sure.



33. Speaking of apologies, if you're not sorry, don't say that you are and think that they won't notice. They will.