

Crush, the Numbers

WE FIND OUT WHAT MAKES YOUR HEART GO PITTER-PAT

69 | Percentage of guys whose first crush was on one of their classmates

1 in 4 | Number of men who pulled their first crush's hair to get her attention

1 in 2 | Number who suffered through their puppy love in silence

18 | Percentage of men who owned a Britney Spears poster in their youth

29 | Percentage who became enamored with a cartoon character as a kid

90 | Percentage of men who tend to fall for their female friends

29 | Percentage who've successfully taken those friendships to the next level

7 | Percentage who have ended a platonic friendship after their advances were rebuffed

75 | Percentage who've friended a former crush on Facebook

47 | Percentage who have a thing for a current Words with Friends opponent

28 | Percentage of men who say fantasizing is the telltale sign of infatuation

5 | Percentage who say stalking her Facebook page is the real giveaway

26 | Percentage of office guys who've fallen for one of the company's interns

19 | Percentage who've found themselves obsessing over their bosses instead

1 in 6 | Number of men who are nursing a crush even though they're in a relationship

10 | Percentage of men who say Mila Kunis is their biggest celebrity crush

1 | Number of months the average guy carries a torch before giving up

18 | Percentage of men who say they'll carry their torches until they die

NAVIGATE YOUR KID'S FIRST LOVE

Don't be dismissive of the lad's youthful yearnings. "You want to validate the emotional impact of this experience," says psychologist Jeffrey Bernstein, Ph.D. So be collaborative, not adversarial, and try not to interrogate the kid. Your line: "I'm glad you're sharing this with me. What do you find so special about this person?" That way your little lovebug is less inclined to shut you out later, when a crush progresses into a real relationship.



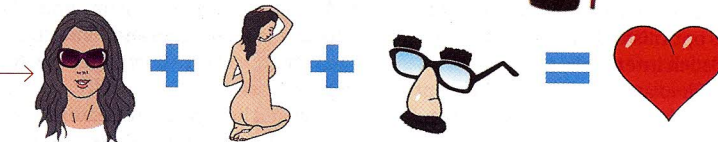
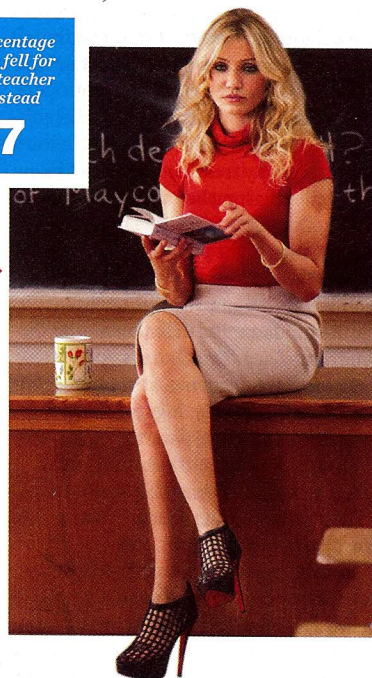
Animated gal the average guy loved the most: **Jessica Rabbit**

LET HER DOWN EASY

Nearly a quarter of guys admit that they encourage admirers even when the feeling isn't mutual. Not cool. If she's interested and you're not, you need to be honest and final—without going into specifics. "Don't start describing the type of woman you like or say she's not your type," says Audrey Nelson, Ph.D., a gender communications expert. Simply say you don't think you're compatible. Don't apologize or say she's a "great girl"—that's just patronizing.

Percentage who fell for the teacher instead

7



KICK THOSE JITTERS TO THE CURB

You know confidence is attractive, yet you choke every time the object of your affection is around. So practice. "The more you hit on women, the more relaxed you can be," says Nelson. "Work on refining your repertoire of open-ended questions, such as how she likes her spin class." Then, once you do approach her, keep the chat all about her. It's when you start talking about yourself that you feel self-conscious, Nelson adds. You may embellish things to impress her. Your fumbles won't stand out if you're focused on her.

Qualities most likely to trigger the average guy's infatuation: **Beautiful face, hot body, great sense of humor**

Trait that'll douse the flame the fastest: **Promiscuity**



The average guy's biggest guy crushes: **Ryan Reynolds, Brad Pitt, Bradley Cooper**



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