



NetLingo Top 50 Online Dating Terms

1. airplane mode - when someone cuts themselves off from the world by not checking their smartphone or social media.
2. bae - An acronym that means Before Anyone Else... there's also beob (babe) and baesbo (so back off).
3. baeless - One who is single, usually refers to a millennial.
4. banksying - It's when you're going to break-up with someone and decide to plan an elaborate act far in advance.
5. benching - Someone who is kept on the sides just in case it doesn't work out with the person you're already dating.
6. bird boxed - From the Netflix movie, it's when someone you're dating treats you badly and you're blind to it.
7. bonk - It used to mean to have sex or hook up in generation x lingo, but in generation y lingo it means you're too tired!
8. breadcrumbing - Giving a person just enough attention so they'll keep interest, but you don't have to invest in a relationship.
9. buzzerflies - The feeling you get when your phone buzzes, and it is potentially the special someone you want to hear from.
10. caking - When you're extra sweet to someone you're really interested in; flirting, either on the phone or in person.
11. career-zoned - When someone rejects you romantically but wants to connect professionally.
12. caspering - A variation of ghosting but doing it nicely by letting people down gently before you ghost them.
13. catfish - Slang for making romantic online overtures using a fake identity.
14. cohabidating - When two people are newly dating and move in together for financial reasons.
15. cushioning - It's when you're in a relationship with someone, but you still chat and flirt with other people on the side.
16. draculaing - It's when people only hear from the people they are dating at night.
17. DTR - It means Define The Relationship, that big awkward chat where people discuss "where things are going."
18. exaggerdate - A portmanteau to describe the act of embellishing a date so as to suggest it went way better than it did.
19. faux beau - A guy who acts like a boyfriend, but just as a ruse to continue his string of hookups.
20. feels - Millingo for feelings. Sample this, "OMG! I'm starting to have the feels for my umfriend."
21. force quit - In online dating it's slang for breaking up, as in "They force quit that relationship last week, about time."
22. gaslighting - Slang for when an abuser manipulates in such a way as to make a victim question his or her sanity.
23. going down in the DMs - When two people begin flirting through direct messages on a social media platform.
24. grandeing - When a person is grateful for their past lovers and the things they taught them, inspired by Thank U, Next.
25. haunting - When they aren't in your life anymore but linger on with their digital presence on your social media.
26. heart bargain - An intellectual who tries to reason their way into or out of an emotional decision.
27. HSAY - As in How Single Are You? Many will say they're single but there is often someone texting them good morning...
28. instabait - Uploading Instagram stories to prod a FOMO-prone crush to get in touch.
29. instagator - Using Instagram to make a relationship public or to push it along further.
30. instagrandstanding - Posting photos and videos to your Instagram story tailored to appeal to a specific person.
31. iPhony - Online jargon that describes when someone constantly tells you they will text you but you never hear from them.
32. kittenfish - Less drastic than catfish, it's when someone uses steps to make someone else like them better.
33. on ice - When you decide to pause the pace of a relationship and chill out for minute, you're putting it "on ice."
34. on the team - A dating candidate squad, singles should have three in rotation until you decide to come off the market.
35. popsicle - It's when your instinct is to play it the opposite of cool, but you try too hard to play hard to get.
36. romanceting - It involves texting words or images, but instead of demanding sex, you express appreciation and admiration.
37. scrooging - When you break up with your girlfriend or boyfriend just before the holidays so you don't have to buy a gift.
38. situationship - It's when you're not in a committed relationship but you can't exactly say you're single either.
39. slow fade - When you decide you don't want to continue dating someone, and you slowly start becoming less available.
40. snack - Slang for a very attractive person, usually a female.
41. Snap trap - If you've sent texts but bae doesn't reply, you then Snapchat them and if your SO opens it, they're trapped.
42. SO stalemate - In a relationship, it's when neither party will start the DTR (define-the-relationship) conversation.
43. social squatter - Someone who breaks up with you but wants to keep seeing your friends platonically (!)
44. soul-mining - When someone tries to cram three months of emotional intimacy into your first three hours together.
45. stashing - Stashing means to date someone, while not telling anyone about them. It's like having a guilty secret.
46. textual chemistry - When your text connection is hot off-the-charts but in person, your chemistry barely registers.
47. three-dot disappearing act - ...The act of starting to type a text message on your smartphone and then stopping...
48. throning - When a person dates someone to elevate his or her own social status, wealth or reputation.
49. you-turn - Slang for someone who goes from one extreme relationship to the next in the blink of an eye.
50. zombieing - Similar to ghosting, but the dater reappears in your life and acts as nothing happened after a period of time.