

8 Common Flirting And First Date Mistakes, According To Bartenders



From awkward flirting mishaps to first date mistakes to avoid, bartenders have seen it all. Before dating apps became the norm, many people made it a point to go out to bars in order to meet new people. Trying to meet someone that way can have its ups and downs, but if you're looking to meet people in more "traditional" ways, Christina Oswald, the bartender at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, MI says it's still very effective.

"You have the opportunity to make an instant connection rather than days of messaging on a dating app just to have them flake on you," Oswald says. "On the other hand, there is the painful fear of being rejected right to your face. I find that this fear is real in a woman's mind, but in 11 years of bartending, I have only seen this scenario play out once or twice."

If you're going to flirt with someone you meet at a bar, Oswald says there are "types" you should watch out for like the one who instantly buys you a drink the moment you sit down. "This person typically lingers at the bar just waiting for [a person] to walk up," she says. "It's a numbers game for them and they know that this kind of gesture will suck people in."

Chances are, they played the same old game last weekend and the weekend before. It's great if you're looking for a one-night stand, but not so great if you're looking for "The One." "If you have not exchanged friendly conversation with someone before they buy you a drink, question their motives," Oswald says.

Whether you're at a bar to meet someone new or you're there for a first date, these are some common mistakes to avoid, according to bartenders.

Touching The Garnish On Your Drink



"I think everyone makes mistakes on the first date but occasionally I see some that are extra special," Gregory Westcott, Bar Manager at LA's hotspot, Hinoki & the Bird, tells Bustle. "Spicy food and drinks are on almost every cocktail menu. Don't touch any chili peppers that are used as a garnish! The oils will stay on your hands for a long time and if you use the bathroom, or things get sexy, then you will feel the burn!" Clearly, bartenders have seen it all.

Lastly, if you want to flirt with the bartender, Amy DeLee from San Diego's Jalisco Cantina tells Bustle, "Leaving the bartender your phone number while tipping under 20 percent is a fatal faux pas." So be sure to treat the bartender well while slipping them your digits.

While meeting someone out is not always easy, keep these bartenders' tips in mind and you may have more success the next time you **try the bar approach**.