

LOVE - Flirting

TRANSCRIPT

One thing I learnt after living in Latin America for a few years is that **we Brits** are **rubbish at flirting**! In spite of literary creations like Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet or the **womanising** James Bond we are generally pretty bad at **attracting the opposite sex** or even **noticing if someone fancies us**. **Although** I'm not shy, I'm not very good at **reading the right signals**.

In Brazil, I found people were much more **open about flirting** with the people around them, so much so that they seemed to do it all the time. It's just part of normal relations between people. Men **strut around** and **show off while** women play with their hair and **smile coyly**. All the time, people are **making and holding eye contact**. **However**, I always found it hard to **pluck up the courage to do this**.

When I worked in Mexico City my boss was a very beautiful Mexican woman who was tall with long, dark hair. She was very **striking** and men often **flirted with** her. **Nevertheless**, she told me that when she lived in England men were **too shy to flirt with** her. If she knew a man was looking at her she tried to **make eye contact** but they always **looked away** and this made her very **frustrated**. **In the end** she said it became like a game and she had to **make the first move** instead of the man.

Apparently, over fifty percent of the **first impression** comes through our body language and they always say that **first impressions count**, right? We seem to **make snap judgements** about someone when we see them, what they are wearing, how they are behaving. It seems like a lot of pressure all in a few seconds. **Maybe that's why we Brits** are not so good at it. Maybe we need to think less about it and **act on impulse**. To be honest, I **feel quite self-conscious about flirting so** I do what many **Brits** do. I need a drink to **give me a bit of Dutch courage**! The problem is if you drink too much the **first impression** you make is not the one you were looking for!

VOCABULARY

Brits – British people

be rubbish at something – not very good at doing something

flirting – displaying the fact that you are sexually attracted to someone in order to find out if they feel the same way

womanising – chatting up and trying to have sexual relationships with lots of different women

noticing if someone fancies you – realising if someone is sexually attracted to you

reading the right signals – recognising the sexual signs that someone is using to show that they are interested in you

open about something – clear, honest, obvious about something

strut around – walk about with a lot of confidence

show off – try to get other people to notice you, sometimes arrogantly

smile coyly – smile in a shy way, trying not to be too open or obvious

make and hold eye contact – look at someone confidently without looking away

pluck up the courage – find the confidence or bravery to do something difficult

striking – attractive, noticeable, beautiful

look away – look in a different direction

frustrated – feeling annoyed or angry because you can't do something

make the first move – start a conversation with someone you find sexually attractive

first impressions count – the first thing people think about you is the one they keep for the longest time

make snap judgements – make very quick, instant decisions about someone

act on impulse – do something based on your feelings without planning first

feel self-conscious – have a lack of confidence in yourself

Dutch courage – drink some alcohol to feel more confident

GRAMMAR

Conjunctive adverbs (linking words)

a **conjunctive adverb** connects two independent clauses or sentences

The way you dress is important to make a good first impression; **moreover**, the first thing you say to someone is also very important

(addition)

People make and hold eye contact when they fancy someone. **However**, I find it difficult to do this

(contrast)

Some women feel frustrated, **owing to** the fact that men don't always make the first move

(reason)

Some people feel nervous about flirting; **therefore**, a lot of people need a drink before they chat someone up

(consequence)

Brazilian men are more open about flirting; **for instance**, they often strut around, hold eye contact and make the first move

(example)