

Voicemail Without "Hang Ups"

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© 2013, X & Y Communications LLC. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. - 1 - **I**f you're like me, you're one of those guys who'd better get a voicemail message right the first time or it's probably going to take about a dozen or so more takes.

Man, that used to be the biggest pet peeve of mine.

And let me tell you, it's only been after years of podcasting and recording videos that I've come somewhat close to curing myself of the problem.

So yeah, I get it.

I realize that the process of leaving a woman a voicemail can be one of the most formidable moments in the dating world...possibly even more nerve-wracking than it was to approach her to begin with.

Honestly? It's no wonder so many guys "tree hug" the opinion that women would really rather we text them anyway. After all, unlike with voicemail you can gather your thoughts and correct errors in a text before you pull the trigger on it.

But the cold, hard facts are what they are. I've *still* yet to meet any mature woman of substance who doesn't greatly prefer a man to pick up the phone and call her when any real two-way conversation is expected to take place.

After all, talking can be *sexy*. There's just something about the maleness of your voice interacting with the femaleness of hers that heightens sexual tension. Know what I mean? That's all *lost* over text, and she knows it.

But what's more, women aren't dummies. They *fully realize* that it takes guts for you to pick up the phone and "perform without a net".

And yes...whenever you "man up" and show some sack, you can bet there's a woman out there who's getting turned on by it.

So hey...you may as well get her on the other end of the phone and make it happen, right?

Besides, whether you want to readily admit it or not, modern telecommunication technology really has cut us guys a much-needed break in recent years. You're not really committed to getting your first take right or else anymore.

After all, there's the blessed "#" (aka the "pound sign").

For years here in The States there were a few maverick mobile companies that wouldn't fall in line with the others who had all but standardized on the "pound sign" as the universal signal that you wanted *options* rather than to send your message immediately.

They seem to have come around lately, however, so we no longer need to fear hearing the dreaded, "Thank you...your message has been sent" when we hit the "#" sign instead of, "If you are satisfied with your message, press one...if you'd like to erase and re-record, press two."

That's a relief, for sure. Nevertheless, my advice remains not to pull a Chris Farley-like exclamation of, "Oh man...that was so *stupid*" right before pressing said pound sign. You know, just in case.

But that said, nowadays it's really more worthwhile to clue ourselves in to exactly *when* we'd better roll the dice on having to try another take rather than hanging on to our first go at it with white knuckles.

Yeah, it flat-out sucks to pile pressure on yourself not to "mess up". But here are seven instances when you really should pull the plug and try again:

If you find yourself in any one of these situations that follow, hit that "pound sign" without hesitation:

1) Heyyyy...You'd Better Bail

It's a filthy, rotten habit...yet I'd go so far as to say the *majority* of us do it.

Whenever we want to impress someone, we subconsciously build "hype" into our tone of voice and even into our choice of words.

A dead giveaway that you're suffering from this unfortunate ailment is if you start your message with a slightly drawn-out and perhaps higher-pitched rendering of, "Heyyy..."

You know what I'm talking about.

"Heyyyyy, Jennifer! It's me Mark..."

The message you're sending is already the *wrong* one...literally from the very first word. How scary is that, right?

Fortunately, the problem is a very objective one and quite easily corrected.

Proceed no further. Hit the little button with the number sign on it and think of another way to kick off the message....like maybe by saying substantially the same thing, but without the "Heyyyyy" part.

Oh, and by the way, this phenomenon is not gender specific. Bear that in mind the next time a woman leaves you a voicemail message. You really can tell *a lot* about her level of interest in you from it...although oddly, men tend to forgive women for the infraction covered in this bullet point more often than vice-versa.

Maybe it's because we expect women to be more bubbly and upbeat whereas we as men are more attractive when we're extra careful to keep our cool under pressure.

2) Just Start All Over

Having read #1 above do you find it just a little depressing that you can kill your chances with a woman on voicemail from the very first word you say?

Well, unfortunately some guys tend to throw even more dirt on themselves when they start the *second* sentence of their message.

That's right. After "Heyyyyy, Jennifer" often comes, "I *just* wanted to call you and..."

Cut the word "just" from your voicemail vocabulary. Do it now.

By inserting a "just" into your message, you're subtly implying that you *already suspect* that you're probably bothering her. You're making it clear that you're only asking (read: "supplicating") a simple, little favor from her...and it's JUST one thing.

Additionally—and worse—it trivializes your request, literally robbing you of the power of bold, persuasive suggestion. If you want her to call you back, the last thing you want to subcommunicate is that *you* think it's a waste of time to talk to you, right?

Ultimately, people who tend to juxtapose the word "just" with any requests and/or suggestions they make in life tend not to have their wishes respected. Others instinctively sense that the one offering the suggestion doesn't even have confidence that what he's asking for is appropriate, so why should they?

3) Repetition, Redundancy And Recapitulation

One time I happened across a woman's online profile that read, "The three things I value in a man are honesty, sincerity and truthfulness."

I couldn't resist responding to her with, "Very cool. The three things I value in a woman are repetition, redundancy and recapitulation. We might be soulmates, I tell you."

She didn't write back. Then again, it was clearly evident from the rest of her profile that she didn't have much of a sense of humor.

But never mind that. The point here is that if you ever find yourself saying something to the effect of, "Like I said..." while leaving a voicemail then it's time to erase and re-record.

Here's a freebie while I'm at it: If you ever even THINK you're rambling and/or leaving too long a message, you're probably right.

4) Say The Word

Who knows why it happens, but it something particularly weird tends to rear its ugly head when we load pressure on ourselves.

We say the *wrong* word. Some "Freudian slip" happens and even YOU wonder what you were thinking.

Or who knows? Maybe you go the whole nine yards and flat out trip all over your tongue for no apparent reason.

Don't attempt a recovery on the fly. Hit the "#" button, take a deep breath (before the recording actually starts over, please) and give it another shot.

5) The Train Has Left The Station

Another disaster that tends to happen when we're feeling that "stage fright" of leaving an important voicemail is that we get so wadded up in worry that we flat-out lose our train of thought.

Don't resort to mumbling something like, "Uh...wait a minute. What was I going to say...um...oh yeah..."

Go ahead and take it from the top, maestro. It's time for "take two".

6) Dropping Reminders

Let's cut to the chase here. If you *ever* feel like you have to refresh a woman's memory on who you are and where she met you, it's already a lost cause.

If she was even remotely attracted to you, she remembers you. Trust that from now on. It's a safe bet.

Nevertheless, if you're ever unable to contain yourself, slap yourself upside the head and hit "#" before you can do any real damage.

7) "Alpha-ed" By The System

To be honest, I shouldn't even have to bring up this last one. But a gut feeling tells me I'd better anyway.

Some mobile systems only allow voicemail messages that don't exceed a certain length.

Now, while it may be unnerving to have the automated system rudely interrupt you mid-sentence, I'm of the humble belief that this feature might actually be your *best friend*.

You see, your voicemail message to *any* woman should be as *short* as possible anyway. Consider getting "alpha-ed" by the voicemail system your wake-up call: Your messages are probably *too* long.

The general rule to follow is that the longer your soliloquy is, the more needy and desperate you're sounding. That's a fact, pardner. My general rule—I kid you not—is to aim for leaving voicemail messages short enough that I could actually tweet the transcript thereof in its entirety.

But whatever you do, never simply shrug your shoulders and passively hang up if interrupted by the system. That won't end well for you. At this point it might be helpful to offer a word on what you *should* say when leaving a voicemail.

This may shock you, but probably the best thing you can do is keep it simple.

"What's up, Jennifer? This is Mike. Catch up with you soon."

You could do WAY worse than that. No begging. No bargaining. Definitely no sales pitch.

Basically, you should leave the *exact same type of message* to an attractive woman that you would for *anyone else* who'd you expect to call you back.

Think about that for a second. It makes perfect sense, doesn't it?

And wait a minute...come to think of it, it's amazing how people you *expect* to call you back generally do, and people you don't expect to call you back generally do not, isn't it?

Wire your mindset for success, and watch good things happen.

So now we come to the ultimate question of dire importance at play here. "What do I do if she doesn't return my call?"

In the interest of solving that problem, allow me to first remind you of a basic principle of male/female attraction. You probably already know that it's a *killer* to be too "available" to a woman.

Therefore, were you to call her too often "just to say hello" and/or text her multiple times a day for no apparent reason, it would inevitably trigger a psychological impulse in her head that you're pouring a *lot* of energy into her. And for some crazy reason, it's overwhelmingly likely that that she'd start thinking—even if subconsciously—that she just might be able to "do better" than you.

That would be because you're just too, well..."easy to get".

You probably already realize that being less available *works*, which is why you don't call any woman and/or text her 50 times a day...ever.

So then, I'm sure you're doing what you can to resist the primal urge to get on the blower and leave the woman you're interested in at the moment another knee-jerk voicemail saying, "Heeyyyyy...why haven't you called me back? I JUST want to make sure you got my first message."

What's more, if you've achieved even a modicum of success with women, you've likely seen an *even more* shocking pattern at work: When you stop pursuing a

woman so fervently and give her the chance to miss you some, it's amazing how much she starts thinking about you.

That's right...she becomes *more* intrigued by you and *more* attracted to you. And in keeping with the central theme of <u>Female Persuasion</u>, she *wants* to talk to you. Therefore, she *wants* to return your calls for the thrill of actually being able to get in touch with your busy, in-demand self.

All of that should be crystal clear in your mind.

So here's the part I don't understand. Let's put the proverbial shoe on the other foot for a second. How, then, can it be that even guys who know perfectly well why they themselves should lay back and play it cool with women get *freaked out* when the woman is less available herself?

Seriously, I get e-mails from guys who are completely up in arms over the fact that the woman they've been out on a couple of dates with lately hasn't returned the voicemail they left last night (or even earlier that morning).

Guys, guys, guys....get a hold of yourselves. Know this: Women are being taught the *exact same stuff* you are.

In fact, I'd argue that women are taught the lesson on how to "play hard to get" even MORE often than men. I mean, that's like "Section 1, Line A" in every dating advice handbook for women, isn't it?

I'd go so far as to say a good number of them instinctively know better than to throw themselves at you without anyone even having to *tell* them so.

So yes. When you find yourself interacting with a desirable woman and hanging out with her some, it's altogether probable that SHE knows the ropes as well as you do.

By all means *relax*, man. Give her *at least* a day or two to get back to you before you blow a gasket.

And for sure...whatever you do, definitely don't give in to that evil temptation to lose your cool and call her a second time hammering her for not returning your message.

If she's still interested in you, she WILL call you back in due time.

Read that last sentence again.

So if you *don't* hear from her within, say, 72 hours you can assume one of three things: 1) You threw a wrench in the attraction process somewhere, 2) you're not her highest priority or 3) she's into "playing games" with guys.

E-Mail Scot McKay: <u>scot@deservewhatyouwant.com</u> Female Persuasion: <u>www.female-persuasion.com</u> Here's the thing. If you *do* hear back from her eventually and everything's still cool with her, you can rule out the first option.

From there, it's up to you to discern whether you need to ramp up your charm factor or move on to the next female option you have. Generally speaking, if you don't see any other signs of "game playing" on her part, then you can safely assume the former option is in order.

So there you have it. Once you put every piece of the puzzle into place, your perspective really does change for the better on this whole voicemail thing, doesn't it?

Before I wrap this up however, now would be a great time to reflect on something very important.

The strategy of being less "available" flat-out *works*, doesn't it? It's not just another useless theory. When a woman plays "hard to get" she really does get inside your head, doesn't she?

Well, let this be a subtle reminder of what makes us as human beings more alike than different, regardless of gender. We're not talking here about understanding women *per se* as much as understanding people in general.

So from now on go ahead and give a woman the equal right *not* to be needy and clingy, especially during that all-important "get to know you" stage.

We've covered a lot of territory in this report, haven't we? I sincerely trust that I've helped you erase your "hang-ups" about voicemail. Pick up that phone and call her with confidence from now on.

Be Good,

FEMALE PERSUNSION

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