

Modern Dating: Swipe, Ghost, or Hardball?

Date: May 3, 2026 Topic: Modern Love Language Swipe, ghost, or hardball your way into a lively classroom ...

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Define and apply eight key terms related to modern digital dating culture.
- Identify specific dating trends and behaviors within a factual reading passage.
- Express personal opinions on social etiquette in contemporary romantic relationships.

VOCABULARY

Word	Definition	Example
Profile (noun)	A short description of a person's life and interests on a social website.	<i>He spent an hour choosing the perfect photo for his dating profile.</i>
Swipe (verb)	To move your finger across a touchscreen to like or dislike someone.	<i>I usually swipe left if someone doesn't have a bio.</i>
Match (noun)	When two people show mutual interest in each other on an app.	<i>It was exciting to get a match with someone who likes hiking too.</i>
Ghost (verb)	To suddenly stop all communication with someone you are dating.	<i>We went on three dates, but then he started to ghost me.</i>
Breadcrumbing (noun)	Sending tiny bits of attention to keep someone interested without commitment.	<i>She isn't interested in a date; she is just breadcrumbing him with late-night texts.</i>
Situationship (noun)	A romantic arrangement that is more than a friendship but less than a relationship.	<i>They have been in a situationship for months but haven't discussed the future.</i>
Hardball (verb)	Being clear and firm about your expectations and deal-breakers immediately.	<i>I decided to hardball and tell him I want a serious relationship on our first date.</i>
Red flag (noun)	A sign or signal that something is wrong or a person is not suitable.	<i>His constant complaining about his ex-girlfriend was a major red flag.</i>

Gerunds as Subjects

In English, we often use the '-ing' form of a verb (the gerund) as a noun to talk about activities or trends.

- *Ghosting is considered very disrespectful by most people.*
- *Swiping can become quite addictive if you use apps too much.*
- *Breadcrumbing is a common problem in modern dating.*

READING PASSAGE

The digital age has completely transformed how we find romance. In the past, people met through friends or at work, but today, the first step often involves creating a digital **profile**. Users upload their best photos and write a short bio to attract interest. Once the account is live, the most common action is the **swipe**. A right **swipe** indicates interest, while a left one means 'no thanks.' When two people like each other, they become a **match**, and the conversation begins. However, modern dating isn't always easy. Many people complain about **ghosting**, which happens when someone suddenly stops all communication without explanation. It is a confusing experience that leaves the other person wondering what went wrong. Another frustrating trend is **breadcrumbing**, where a person sends occasional, flirtatious messages just to keep someone interested without any intention of dating them seriously. These behaviors often lead to a **situationship**, a confusing space between a friendship and a committed relationship where the rules are unclear. To avoid these issues, some daters are now choosing to **hardball**. This means being very honest about what you want from the very first date, whether it is marriage or just something casual. This honesty helps people avoid wasting time. If a person sees a **red flag**, such as someone being rude to a waiter or avoiding questions about their past, they might decide to end things quickly. While technology makes it easier to meet people, navigating these social trends requires a lot of patience and a good understanding of the new 'love language' of the internet.

PRACTICE EXERCISES

1. What does it mean to 'ghost' someone?

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- A) To take them to a scary movie
- B) To stop talking to them suddenly
- C) To introduce them to your parents
- D) To follow them on social media

2. Which term describes being very honest about your goals on a first date?

- A) Softball
- B)Breadcrumbing
- C) Hardball
- D) Swiping

3. You need to upload a clear photo to your dating _____.

4. If you like someone on the app, you _____ right.

5. When both people like each other, the app creates a _____.

6. What is a 'situationship'?

- A) A professional business meeting
- B) An undefined romantic relationship
- C) A long-distance marriage
- D) A breakup via text

7. If someone is rude to staff, it is considered a _____.

- A) green light
- B) blue ribbon
- C) red flag
- D) white flag

8. He keeps sending me 'hello' every week but never asks to meet; he's _____ me.

9. I saw a _____ when she mentioned she hates all my hobbies.

10. Where do people usually find a 'profile' in this context?

- A) A newspaper
- B) A dating app
- C) A library book
- D) A grocery store