

gossip words and how to spot 'em 1 1

starting off ...

Dishing with your girlfriends means that, if you're not careful, the chat can quickly tip over into a "he said, she said" scenario. By itself, that isn't so bad. But when the conversation slides down into "God, his zits are as huge as pepperonis," you know that you're swimming in the River Mean. But how did you get there, you ask yourself. The truth is, you can't remember. What you need to work on now is identifying those phrases and words that are signals for a malicious dish of gossip, so you can learn to spot the danger signals.

Fill in the following sentences with phrases or words that signal impending gossip. Be as inventive as you want.

When we got to the dance, _____ was there, holding a _____
(person's name)
_____ and looking like a _____.
(adjective + noun) (adjective + noun)

When _____ asked me to dance,
(person's name)
I _____ three times. Then I told him he was so _____.
(verb) (adjective).

At the dance, I can't stand it when people _____, especially when
(verb)
it's someone who's _____.
(adjective)

When that _____ walked in, I
(adjective + noun)
_____ so _____ that I _____.
(verb) (adverb) (verb)

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Just then, I whispered to my friend, "Don't _____ anyone, but
(verb)

I just heard that _____ is _____
(person's name) (verb that ends in "-ing")
tomorrow. Isn't that _____?"
(adjective)

I hate girls like _____, who love to _____
(person's name) (verb)
and _____.
(verb)

Don't take offense, but I was just in the _____
(name of a place)
and I saw _____
(girl's name)
_____. Isn't she your new BFF?
(verb that ends in "-ing")

Pinky-swear, but did you see that _____ Tanya at
(adjective)
the movies? She looked totally _____ wearing that
(adjective)

(adjective + noun).

I can't believe that _____ would actually
(person's name)
_____ and then _____ about it.
(verb) (verb)

When I _____ want to talk about
(adverb)
_____, I Sometimes feel
(phrase)
_____ about myself.
(adjective)

20 beauty: skin deep or inner?

starting off ...

Real beauty goes beyond what pop culture sets as the standard; it involves what is unique about someone. For example, imagine you have one friend who's short and round. She has masses of curly red hair, an infectious laugh, and energy that galvanizes the room when she walks in. Your other friend, tall, coolly elegant and poetic, barely excites a ripple. Which one is beautiful? Answer: both, although pop culture might just choose one.

Sophia and Zoe are shopping for prom dresses. Sophia, tall and dark, has broad, muscular shoulders and thighs, while Zoe, small and blonde, can scarcely wear the smallest size in the teens' department. As they're trying on one sequined gown after another, Zoe spies a turquoise halter-topped dress right at the same time Sophia does.

"It's gorgeous," breathes Zoe.

"The perfect one," agrees Sophia. "So what should we do, go to the prom as Frick and Frack?"

Just then a saleswoman bustles up to them, her sleek hair perfectly draped over one side of her face.

"Wow," she squeaks at Sophia. "With your friend's figure, she'd look so hot in that turquoise one."

Sophia feels her face redden while Zoe stares at the floor pointedly for what seems like a long minute, clutching the dress. After an awkward silence, Sophia looks at her friend and says, "Ya know, that's exactly what I was thinking. That dress would be perfect on you, girlfriend."

Just then a chocolate brown one-shouldered dress happens to catch her eye. "Say, look at this one," she says. "With my shoulders, this would look way better on me than that other one."

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Zoe looks at Sophia, then lets out a long breath. "Last one to the dressing room is gonna have the fashion police after her!" And off they race.

Which one of the girls fits the mold of conventional beauty in your opinion? Why?

How does the saleswoman's unsolicited remark bring about a tiny crisis?

Do you think Sophia is being honest when she says that she likes the chocolate brown dress more?

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How is Sophia's character revealed when she comes up with her solution?

Which one of the girls possesses a beautiful character and why?
