

# Dating Then & Now



by junior Grace Schwenneker

Class rings and letterman jackets aren't exactly how dating is today. "Back in the day" has changed. This is something both generations need to realize, and can learn, about dating then and now.

### Dear Parents:

It's time to recognize it's not the '80s anymore! Nowadays, guys hide behind their phones, often too scared to even talk to the girl. Like you, teens converse over the phone, but they use social media to do it. It's not the face-to-face connection that you are used to. Boys don't give girls their class rings, they send memes to a girl they like.

When you were in high school, you would get formally asked out on a date by a guy coming up to you and initiating it. Now, a guy will simply Snapchat a girl to ask. Your dates also looked a lot different than how they are today. Then, you would go out to dinner and a movie. Now, teens lay on a couch and binge some episodes on Netflix.

"Talking" and "just friends" are the new "going together" and "going steady." Dating is a lot more complicated than it used to be. Teens can be "talking", but that doesn't necessarily mean they are officially dating. The term "talking" is defined as the stage right before teens have decided to make it official. They're doing everything that people in a relationship normally would, but they lack that dating label.

All I am saying is that dating has changed. Teens still go what you went through in high school, heartbreaks and rejection. That hasn't changed. Don't compare you to your children to the way you date then, focus on the now. Help your teen get through the complicated world of dating.

### Dear Teens:

I understand that phones are a huge part of today's society, but don't you want a relationship with a person and not a device? Go out and talk to someone face-

to-face. Don't be scared to socialize. Our parents did it, so why can't we? Next time you like a guy or girl, here's an idea: put down your phone and talk to them.

Over the years, romantic things just aren't so romantic anymore. Don't you wonder what it felt like to get the butterflies in your stomach from a guy giving you his jacket? Now, yes, girls still wear their boyfriend's sweatshirts around school, but it's not as special as it used to be. It doesn't seem to hold the same

meaning and sincerity as it was before. We still go on dates, but they're not as sentimental as a dinner at a restaurant and a movie at the theater!

We need to bring the little things back. Restore all of the romance that has been lost. Boys, give your girlfriend love notes, take her on amazing dates, and give her your ring that tells everyone she's yours. The upcoming generations need to hear the same thing. It's not always about the Snapchat you send. It's about what you do,

just like how our parents did. Instead of making fun of our parents' so called "corny dates", start taking notes.

"There was something in the spring called the **swag dance party** **swirl** that we had around Valentine's Day."

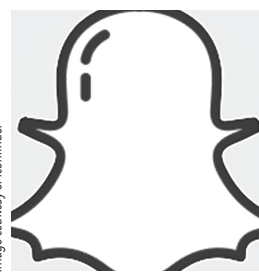
- Frye

"We also had a **local dance hall** that had **teenage weekend dances** that teenagers from all other schools would come to."

- Wurzer



**Meme:** An image, often from a movie or TV show, that is used as a background for a message then sent virally, through social media or the internet.



**Snapchat:** An app that allows users communicate by taking and sharing a photo or video. The message instantly disappears after being viewed.

## Q: What were the stages for dating back then?

### Level 1: Flirting

### Level 2: Going Out

"The guys would walk their girlfriends to every class and **give them** **to go home.**"

-Ersland

### Level 3: Going Steady

"(They'd be seen) **holding hands,** **arms around each other.** It would be really serious if he got her a **ring or a necklace.**"

-Frye

### Relationships Today:

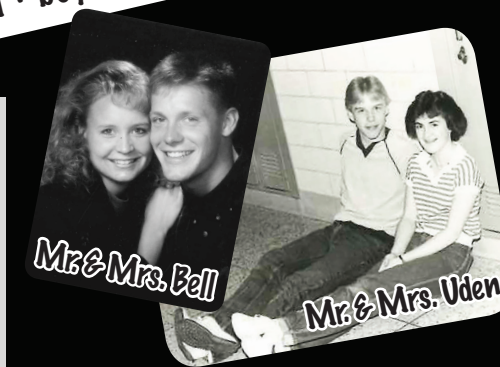
- Level 1: Just friends
- Level 2: Talking
- Level 3: It's complicated

## The Ring!

Every teenager purchased a **ring** back then. If the ring was too big for the girl's finger, she would tie a rubber band around the hand to help it fit her finger better. The guy would wear the girl's ring around a chain on his neck.

**girlfriend + boyfriend = husband + wife**

65% of the HHS students polled said teens today do not plan to marry their high school boyfriend/girlfriend.



## Q: What indicated a guy + a girl = dating?

- A:**
- wearing their class ring
  - wearing their letter jacket
  - wearing their jersey

"Girls would wear the guy's **jersey** during football, and they would come to each others events."

-Bell

### Relationships Today:

- Posting pictures on social media

"Whenever a girl wore a guy's **letter jacket**, you knew they were dating."

-Ersland

"The guy would sometimes give the girl their **class ring**, which they would wear on a necklace."

-Uden

## Date Night

- rent a VCR
- go to a diner
- cruise with the windows down

### Relationships Today:

- Binge Netflix

"I think women are much more empowered nowadays. They have a lot more say and more equality between the genders. Whether that is paying for the meals, who drives, or even the **introduction** between the two."

-Simmer

## Q: How did a guy + a girl typically start dating?

- A:**
- face-to-face
  - through a friend
  - passing a note

"One would ask another out through a friend, **friend-to-friend**, or by rotary phone."

-Bell

### Relationships Today:

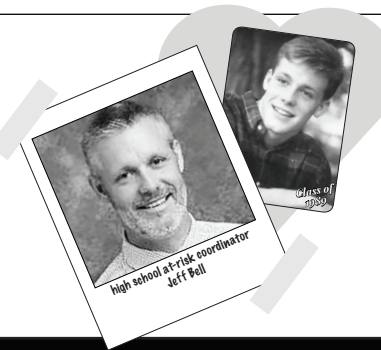
- Instagram
- Snapchat

"A guy would ask a friend to ask the girl if they wanted to **go** **out** if he was interested in dating her."

-Uden

"You usually had a friend approach them, so you never really did it directly. **Note passing** used to be very common, because there was no technology back then."

-Simmer



"I think there are a lot of similarities from dating back then to now. There are so many more options nowadays to **say hello**. Versus us, it was phone, letter, or face-to-face communication."

-Bell

