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Awkward Sex Questions

Use this subtle rephrasing to satisfy your curiosity

By [Ashley Balcerzak](#) [1], Yesterday

Overview

No matter how pure your intentions, there are always some burning questions you want to ask your partner. Where you stumble, however, is finding a way to ask it in a way where she won't slap you across the face. The key is contextualizing your curiosity to show you just want to learn more about her, says relationship expert Tracy Thomas, Ph.D. So if you must know the answer to one of these five uncomfortable questions, discover the best way to get real answers—and avoid a terrible misunderstanding.

How many guys have you been with?

First, take a step back and consider *why* her number is important to you, says relationship expert April Masini. Are you feeling territorial? Do you want reinforcement that you're her best sexual experience? Will her answer—whether large or nonexistent—most likely make you uncomfortable? If so, avoid it altogether, she advises.

If you're sure you can handle it, set up your query in a broader exchange. Build up to it by lightly chatting about her past: "Ask what kind of guys did you date before me? Has your type changed? Tell me about an awkward or funny sexual experience," say sex and relationship expert Ian Kerner, Ph.D.

Keep in mind that nobody's giving the real number anyway, says Thomas. Women increasingly fudge their numbers because of the negative implications they can bring, such as being perceived as too experienced or easy.

When to ask: "If the number is going to be a deal-breaker, then ask early and often—but if not, wait until you're around the three-month mark," says Masini.

When did you lose your virginity?

Reword the topic as a statement, like "I'm curious about what your sexual experiences have been like for you, or I really want to learn more about your past," says Thomas. Ask for amusing or awkward stories in a lighthearted way, without putting her on the spot or making her feel like she could answer the question wrong. If you're comfortable enough with each other, talk about *your* first time. "We get information more easily by

sharing ourselves,” says Thomas.

When to ask: This is not a first-date question, says Masini. Wait until you have a level of commitment and intimacy with her—whether it’s going on multiple dates or having sex—so that your picture of her is not influenced by her answer.

Is our sex good for you?

“Rephrase the question, so that it’s a positive and not a negative one,” says Masini. “Ask what you can do to enhance her experience—not what you do that’s bad.” Don’t alert her to deficiencies by bringing up issues such as premature ejaculation; let her bring up her concerns with you, says Kerner.

“This is what couples who have a great sex life do: They communicate, get feedback, and try new things,” says Masini. When you’ve brought up this question about your improvement, you’re inviting *her* to ask how she can enhance her performance, so it’s a win-win.

When to ask: “If you ask too soon, you’re going to look insecure and uncertain,” says Masini. “Wait until after the first few times you sleep together to bring up this question without seeming neurotic.” In the beginning, try to be observant and make adjustments on your own.

Can you trim down there?

Rather than imply that she’s doing something wrong, be informative about your preferences, Thomas says. Warm her up using positive comments, telling her she looked incredibly hot last week after she cleaned up around the edges. “This rewards her for what she’s done while letting her know you’d like her to change,” says Masini. Praising her body with what turns you on takes the guesswork out of it for your partner.

When to ask: Wait until you have established some sort of commitment with each other, says Masini.

Can I have more oral sex?

Frame your wants as a fantasy, says Kerner. Describe in detail your daydreams with her: What you want to do to her and what you would love for her to do to you. Use your words—not your hands on her head—to ask for what you want, and she’ll be more willing to respond. Need more help? Check out our video on how to get more oral sex below.

When to ask: Asking too soon will make it look like you’re not interested in getting to know her or developing a romantic relationship, says Masini. Rule of thumb: the third time you’re together sexually is usually the charm.