

# How to spot romantic red flags in online dating

Romance scams are one of the most common—and heartbreaking—types of online fraud. Scammers build fake profiles, gain your trust, and use emotion to steal money or personal information. It can happen to anyone.

## Here's how to stay alert:

### Love bombing

They move too fast, too soon.

#### Watch for:

- Over-the-top compliments or affection right away
- Declarations of love within days or weeks
- Talking about a shared future before you've even met

### Requests for money or gifts

They've earned your trust—now they want your cash.

#### Watch for:

- Pressure to send money, crypto, or gift cards
- Guilt trips if you say no
- Any financial request before meeting in person

### Always “too busy” to meet

They keep finding reasons to avoid seeing you.

#### Watch for:

- Excuses to skip video calls
- Endless delays when you suggest meeting
- Blurry, inconsistent, or recycled photos

### Pressure to share personal details

They ask for info no romantic partner should need.

#### Watch for:

- Requests for private photos or videos
- Questions about your SIN, passwords, or banking info

### Endless emergencies

Suddenly, they're in crisis—and you're their only hope.

#### Watch for:

- Dramatic stories about accidents, illness, or travel problems
- Urgent requests for money or help
- Claims that they can't ask anyone else

### Protect your data (and your heart)

Romance scams can be subtle. Stay alert and trust your gut:

- Use strong, unique passwords and multi-factor authentication (MFA)
- Keep devices and apps up to date
- Never send money or personal details to someone you haven't met
- Use a reverse image search if something feels off
- If anyone pressures you for private or financial info, it's a red flag

Get more tips to protect yourself and your devices



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