

THE “ELEKTRONISH POST” BEFORE AND AFTER THE MARRIAGE

*The Yiddish words for “e-mail” are “elektronish post” or “blits/blitz post”
The Yiddish word for “marriage” is “khasene” or “chasseneh”

By



Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe

David Shipley and Will Schwalbe (“SEND - The Essential Guide to Email for Office and Home”) wrote,

“Before you set finger to keyboard, ask yourself one question (and don’t write until you get the answer): What is my relationship to the person I’m writing? Then, make sure your word choice is appropriate.”

The authors continue, “So what should you do if you have to communicate information that might be legally sensitive? Well, here’s what Eliot Spitzer, had to say on the subject when he was state attorney general: “Never talk when you can nod. And never write when you can talk. My only addendum is never put it in an email.”

The New York Times printed a story about how text messages revolutionized cheating.

Tiger Woods, former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, and Senator John Ensign of Nevada, were caught in an electronic paper trail of texts, and illegitimate sexting. Ensign and his parents made illegal payments to his mistress (“metrese”/paramour) and her husband, made false or misleading statements to the Federal Election Committee, and “permitted spoliation [alteration or destruction] of documents and engaged in potential obstruction of justice violations.”

Text messaging has become so commonplace (“vokhedik”) that The American Bar Association now offers seminars for marital attorneys on how to use electronic evidence (“raye”)--text messages, browsing history and social networks--in proving a case.

The question: What happens to the content of our e-mail messages while dating vs. married? Melissa Dahl (“3 Ways Your Text Messages Change After You Get Married”), says “when you’re in a new relationship, you waste endless words telling your partner how much you looove him or her. After you’re married, the conversations shift to the things that really matter. Things like dinner.” (The Yiddish word for “dinner” is “mitog.”)

When we’re married many of our text messages are related to the logistics of kid life?

Ex. “Can you pick up Josh at the JCC? I’m tied up at the office.”

“Jill has an orthodontist appointment right after Talmud Torah today. Can you handle it?”

“PTA meeting tonight. Pizza from Pizza Pious? 516-....”

“Trigonometrik” (Trigonometry) tutor is coming at 6 p.m. Please pay him \$100.”

“Please tape Great Performances: Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga: Cheek to Cheek. It’s on at 9 p.m. on WNET/13. What an improbable ‘por” (pair)!

“The Halloween candy is hidden in the den. Please save it for Friday night.”

“Sondra wants you to photocopy Abigail Pogrebin’s article titled, “Why Sukkot Is Sexy, and What Else I Learned From a Trip to the West Coast.” It’s in The Forward, Oct. 24. Pogrebin says, ‘Sukkot is about shtupping.’ DON’T attempt to analyze (“funanderklaybn”) or explain this article to Sondra. I’ll handle it when I get home!”

Alice Zhao analyzed all the texts she and her husband (“der man”) had ever sent to each other from the first days of dating to their current status

as newlyweds. (The word “Yungermantshik” is a male newlywed.) Notice the ever-so-romantic words used in the text messages:

SHE (in 2008) Note: The Yiddish terms have been added.

XOXO (Hugs and Kisses)
tonight (“haynt bay nakht”)
tomorrow (“morgn”)
now (“itst”)
good (“gut”)
call “rufn” = to call)
weekend (“der sof-vokh”)
better (“besser”)
fun (“der hanoe”)
love (“di libshaft”/“di libe”)
call (“rufn”)
meet (“bakenen zikh mit” (to meet/be introduced)
hope (“hofn” - to hope)
phone (“telefonirn” - to telephone)
talk (“redn” - to talk)
HEY

SHE (FAST FORWARD to 2014)

home (“heym”)
Her husband’s most used word in texts to her, in both their years of dating and marriage, is home.
OK, Yep, Haha, and Yeah
office (“byuro”)
ready (“greyt”)
sounds mother (“muter”)
really late (“farshpetikt”)
done (“a nechtiker tog! = finished!)
leaving (“avekgeyn” - to leave/depart)
probably (“mistome”/“mashmoes”)
nice (“voyl” - agreeable)
like work (“arbet” - work)
cat (“kats”)

As Zhao said on her blog, “The main difference (“untersheyd”) is that while we were dating, we didn’t see each other every day, so a lot of our communication (“yedie”) had to happen via text. We’d often message the

other person to see what they were doing or tell them that we were thinking of them.”

And they didn't have to spend all night texting anymore. If you've got something to say to your significant other during the wee hours, a nudge and a mumble will do, because they're LIKELY sharing the bed with you.

“As a married couple, since we're together (“tsuzamen”) all the time, we set up date nights and say sweet (“zis”) things to each other in person (“perzon”), so texting is mostly used to confirm logistics or share random thoughts,” said Zhao.

The results: Over time, she and her husband sent less flirtatious and loving messages to one another. Instead, they conversed more about meal times and other practicalities. Phrases like “hey” and “love” decreased, while “dinner and OK” became more common.

MARJORIE WOLFE never sent text-messages to her late husband, Howard. In 1958, there were no cell phones, PDAs, computers, or Smart phones. No text-messaging. She's never suffered from text-messenger's thumb, texting tenosynovitis, or “BlackBerry Thumb.” However, she does have a GSOH (Good Sense of Humor) and is familiar with these abbreviations:

1432	I love you, too.
**//	Wink Wink, nudge nudge
2BZ4UQT	Too Busy For You, Cutey
ADBB	All done, Bye Bye