

What Goes Through Men's Minds...

We venture where no girl has dared before: inside the mind of the UAE male. Read on to find out what we discovered



"I swear Amys, it's this big!"... He must be talking about his last fishing catch!

Ever wondered why he says he loves you when he doesn't mean it? Or what he *really* thinks of your body? We gathered four UAE men together and demanded answers! From left: Kris Bell, 25, a training and development manager, has been single for two months; Charlie Keenan, 33, a personal trainer and ex rugby player, has been single for three months; 33-year-old TV presenter Layne Redman has been married for a year and lawyer Lee Irvine, 29, has been single for just over a month.

What is the first thing you look at when you see a girl in a bikini for the first time?

LAYNE: Her face to see if she feels comfortable wearing it.

CHARLIE: The face is definitely not the first thing I look at. What can I say? I like a girl with some curves!

LEE: I would like to say the eyes, but any guy who says that is definitely lying...

KRIS: I look at her lower half first. Girls with long legs and a nice backside catch my eye.

What's the worst thing a girl can say to you on a first date?

LEE: Anything that starts with the words: 'My last boyfriend...'

KRIS: Anything that seems too clingy and or too heavy for a first date. A first date is to get to know someone you're attracted to, not to proclaim love and plan a wedding!

What's the best chat-up line that's ever been used on you?

KRIS: One girl once bought me a drink, came over and said, 'Role-reversal: tonight, I'm going to buy *you* a drink and try to impress you.' That was kind of worrying in one way, but then funny and very attractive in another.

LEE: 'How about it?', but using slightly more explicit language.

CHARLIE: When I was playing rugby, I got notes left on my car after games. There were some very funny ones, suggesting some compromising things!

LAYNE: A girl once told me I looked like a better version of her ex. I liked that.

What is the worst lie you've ever told a girl?

LAYNE: That I was married when I wasn't and that my wife had left me for another man. I was going for the sympathy vote.

CHARLIE: I once told a woman that she was a good driver: that was a lie!

KRIS: I once lied and told a girl, 'I can see myself sharing a future with you.' Of course I cared about her, but it wasn't love. Sometimes it's easier to say what a girl wants to hear.

Do you prefer a girl dressed up to the nines with perfect hair and make-up or fresh-faced with bed-head first thing in the morning?

LAYNE: Fresh-faced, everytime.

KRIS: I like a girl who makes an effort when she needs to, but she also needs to be confident enough to dress down, with no make-up. Too much make-up can be a little off-putting – it makes me wonder what she's trying to hide!

LEE: I think that depends on the girl. If I really like a girl, I prefer her fresh-faced in the morning, since most people don't see her like that, so it's more special.

What will you never, ever understand about women?

LAYNE: Why most of them don't just say what they want.

CHARLIE: I'll never understand the time it takes for women to get ready.

KRIS: The speed at which a girl can be in a really good, upbeat mood and then suddenly be upset or angry!

LEE: How quickly they fall out with each other. The chances are that in five years, a woman will have completely changed her best friends, whereas I've had the same group of friends for the last 10 or 15 years.

What do you and your mates talk about that you wouldn't in front of a girl?

CHARLIE: Sport, cars... nothing too bad, honest!

LEE: I think what we talk about is →

pretty much the same, it is the language that we use that may be slightly different.

LAYNE: Though admittedly, when boys get together, we do sometimes exchange details about past girlfriends...

KRIS: My mates and I talk about girls', erm, 'abilities,' if you catch my drift.

What do you notice first: body, face, hair or eyes?

LAYNE: Eyes – I like to see what a girl is thinking.

CHARLIE: You can always tell a lot about someone by looking at their eyes, like whether they are truthful and caring.

LEE: For me it's the face. I just can't resist a pretty face.

KRIS: I wouldn't say I'm shallow, but I look at her body. I'm only attracted to girls who look after themselves physically because working out and being healthy is important to me. But she needs to have a balance between looking after herself and also being able to relax and have fun.



What's your number one deal-breaker?

CHARLIE: If I can't have a laugh with someone and be myself, there's no point.

LAYNE: If a girl wears too much make-up or acts like a diva.

KRIS: Someone with no intelligence.

LEE: Smoking is a deal-breaker for me.

If your mates didn't like your girlfriend, would you dump her?

KRIS: In a word, yes.

LAYNE: Not right away.

LEE: I would have to ask some serious questions.

CHARLIE: I won't care what my friends thought, as long as we were happy.

What's the best thing a girl has ever done to impress your mates?

LEE: My last girlfriend was just herself and that seemed to work.

LAYNE: My wife threw a surprise party for me and all my mates.

Your girlfriend's best friend is a guy. Is that an issue for you?

CHARLIE: No, there wouldn't be an issue, as long as the friendship didn't go any further.

LEE: If she wanted to be with him instead, presumably she would be, so you just have to get over it.

KRIS: I would struggle to feel 100 per cent comfortable with that.

LAYNE: For me, it would be an issue – at least until I know their past history.

Can men and women be just friends?

CHARLIE: Yes, I think that it's healthy.

LEE: Only if you don't fancy each other.

KRIS: If I'm attracted to a girl, I would struggle to stay just friends.

LAYNE: At some point, you have to talk about your feelings to clear the air.

Have you ever lied when asked, 'Does my bum look big in this?'

LEE: The safest answer is to tactfully suggest an alternative outfit – the girl gets

the message and your integrity is intact.

CHARLIE: I don't mind a big bum, so I guess I'm safe there!

LAYNE: I never lie about a big bum!

KRIS: I'm a straightforward guy, so I tell it like it is. It's a little off-putting if a girl is always putting herself down and talking about the way she looks. It's way more attractive when a girl is secure in the way she looks and doesn't seek reassurances.

How do you know when you've fallen for a girl?

LEE: You want to spend all your time with her.

LAYNE: I can't remember what she looks like; my mind goes hazy; I always think about her and I just want to spend more time with her.

CHARLIE: I know I've got it bad when I have that excited feeling in my stomach and I start rushing around so I can see her.

KRIS: When I can't stop thinking about her. Also, if I can't picture myself without her and I start imagining how good the future will be with her.

How soon is too soon for a girl to drop the marriage bomb?

LAYNE: Three months.

LEE: I'd say more like ten years! But then, I'm a commitment-phobe.

KRIS: Personally, I don't mind talking about marriage. It's something I want in the future with the right girl.

CHARLIE: I guess when you know she's the right one, any time.

Have you ever told a girl you loved her and not meant it?

CHARLIE: No, I'm quite old-fashioned when it comes to that.

LEE: Once, but I thought I meant it at the time. Now I'm more careful when using the 'L' word.

LAYNE: I've done it, but only because I didn't know what love was!

KRIS: I think maybe I've said it because I felt obliged to. I think 'love' as a word has lost its importance and meaning and therefore it's a lot easier to say and maybe not mean it. ■

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