

Kisses are the best of the free loot that you can rack up on Valentine's Day. And no, I don't mean chocolate kisses. I'm talking about sharing smooches with your sweets, gearing up for the lip tango-a-thon—you know, the big “pucker up, baby.” But what separates a good kiss from the kiss of death? Is it chemistry or technique? And what about kisses that are all that—da bomb, like that first kiss from that first crush—full of hope and fear, an overload on the senses that brings you to your knees and makes you oh-so weak?

But what if there's a guy you really like, but locking lips with him leaves you with Brillo burns? And guys, what about the girl you've been dying to lip wrestle with, and when you finally get your chance, let's just say “cold fish lips?”

But before you start thinking, ‘I don't have a romantic bone in my body,’ check out my best kiss scenario. I invited this guy—I had a crush on him for years—for a moonlight walk on the beach. It was a full moon, and we were walking in the sand with the tide licking at our feet. We found a dry place to sit, and we were kicking it for a while, then we both stopped talking and looked at each other. It was that prelude-to-a-kiss look. The roar of the ocean was our theme music as he leaned over to kiss me. It was soft yet forceful, passionate and loving. And definitely chemically altering. I was not the same person afterwards. That kiss definitely deserved its place in the Kiss Hall of Fame.

Let's turn an eye to the celebs and see what they have to say on the good, the bad and the ugly in the art of kissing!

good

kiss

by sibylla nash

erika alexander (living single)

My worst kiss was with an actor I had to kiss on . . . now. It was a romantic scene, and I was supposed to initiate the kiss. He had the smell of dried snot, and the whole time, I had to tell myself not to breathe so I could get through it. I guess that's what real acting is about. My best kiss was when I was 17 and my boyfriend taught me how to kiss. He taught me how to mold my mouth and how not to push my teeth so hard against his teeth. Yeah, the best time was our second kiss. It was warm and soft. He told me how great it was.

jamie foxx (singer/actor)

My worst kiss was when I was in in the eighth grade with a girl who was a senior in high school. I had been eating all kinds of food, Cheetos, Doritos, whatever, before I kissed her. After I kissed her, she said, in front of all of her friends, “Ew, your breath stinks!” and they all started giggling. She did pull me to the side, though, and give me a piece of gum. I think chemistry has a lot to do with a great kiss; I have to want to get with the person in order to kiss them. My best kiss was when I was in sixth grade. The cutest girl in school came to the door of my classroom and pointed at me and then at her lips. So all through class, I kept thinking about kissing her, and after class, she kissed me. She had been eating a Blow Pop, and I could taste it when she kissed me. She asked me not to tell anyone, but you know I told the whole world.

spinderella (d.j. for salt 'n' pepa)

My worst kiss was my first kiss. The guy didn't even know how to kiss, so it was a very tense situation. It was kind of, like, ‘Can we kiss now?’ When he kissed me, it was, ew, a nasty kiss. You have to have chemistry and technique. My best kisses are when my daughter, Christy (she's 2 years old), kisses me. It's so sweet, she sucks my face.

mark curry (hangin' with mr. cooper)

My worst kiss happened in the eighth grade. There was this girl who liked me. She came up to me and kissed me, but she bit my tongue. ► page 106

bad

what

celebs

have to

say about

smooching

fashion details

cover page: little courtney's entire outfit from the gap stores nationwide; red-white-and-black athletic shirt, \$22; stripe pants, \$24; canvas high-top sneakers, \$16.

page 61: left to right: baby brittany's blue all-in-one athletic suit by trumpette for natalie and friends, \$29, find it at kamikaze kids in philadelphia, lester's, nyc and nordstroms nationwide; canvas looney tune high-top sneakers by keds, \$30, at department and specialty stores nationwide. big daddy terrence wears long-sleeve soccer shirt by reebok, \$48 (call 1-800-843-4444 for the store nearest you!); black denim jeans by paul smith, \$155, at paul smith, ny, barneys new york and fred segal, la; boots by georgia boot, \$100, available at major department and specialty stores nationwide. mama rolanda's navy and white athletic dress by esprit, \$49 (call 1-800-777-8765 for store info.); white striped soccer socks by adidas, \$10 (call 1-800-4-adidas for more info); funky shoes by john fluevog, \$85, find them at john fluevog stores in nyc, boston, ma, and toronto, canada; earrings by versani.

page 62: left to right: mommy adriane's long-sleeve green baby tee by free people, \$22, available at all urban outfitters stores; cream and tan sleeveless baby doll dress—ecote by urban outfitters, \$54, available at george, texas and moonoggie's, college park, md (301) 699-3376; mustard gold tights by hanes; patchwork boots by destroy, \$110, find them at steve madden, nyc (call 212-343-1800). little noah's blue denim jacket, \$38, mustard gold long-sleeve tee shirt, \$26, khaki jeans, \$28, all from the gap stores nationwide; boots by weebok, \$35 (call 1-800-843-4444 for the store nearest you).

page 63: left-to-right: daddy maurice wears printed linen shirt by diesel, \$125, available at diesel, boston, ma, bloomingdale's, nyc, american rag, san francisco, ca; dark blue denim worker jeans by b.c. ethic, \$32, at dr. jay's, vim stores and gottschalk's, ca. little devon's white cotton t-shirt by bravo from lifeline kidz, \$30, at neiman marcus and nordstroms nationwide and sherry's, va; grey fleece jacket, \$28.50, denim blue jeans, \$24, canvas sneakers, \$14 and socks, \$3, all from the gap.

page 64: daddy al wears his own favorite high-top work boots and caramel-colored gap overalls; find his long-sleeve thermal shirt, \$28, at the gap; little ashley's red thermal shirt, \$18, worn over white thermal shirt, \$18, white tights, \$7.50, all by the gap; red socks by hue, \$5, at department and specialty stores nationwide.

page 66: mother natisha's ankle-length multi-colored striped dress by esprit, \$49 (call 1-800-777-8765 for nearest store); sneakers by skechers, \$48, at nordstroms; silver gem-stone ring by versani, \$10, at versani, nyc (call 212-228-7777). baby tynell's white turtleneck, \$12.50, blue denim overalls, \$24, white sneakers, \$14, striped athletic socks, \$3, all by the gap; white thermal hat by bill, \$22, at me-ki kids, nyc, shoofly, nyc, or call billy mecca (212) 463-9316 for information.

good kiss bad kiss

continued from page 55

I screamed and said 'Let's do this later.' You have to know what you're doing. My best kiss happened when I was in Barbados. The sun was setting, and I was walking on the beach with the most beautiful woman in the world. We were talking when all of a sudden she kissed me. It was so unexpected that it shocked me.

victoria rowell (the young and the restless)

What makes a bad kiss? Somebody with cold lips, a wet mouth and bad breath. It's no picnic if you don't have chemistry with the person. In acting, chemistry enhances the scenes without your having to exchange saliva to make it believable. Professionally, my best kissing experiences have been with Eddie Murphy and Kristoff St. John, because they both have magnificent lips.

heavy d. (rap artist)

A bad kisser is someone who kisses too fast and is not passionate about the kiss. Oh, and a smoker's kiss is the worst! I believe it's chemistry and a little technique that makes a good kiss great. My first kiss was my best kiss. I was in the third grade, and I had a crush on this girl named Iris. She had pretty eyes and a nice caramel complexion. I got her behind some bushes and gave her a kiss. And when we kissed, I saw all those things you see on t.v., you know the fireworks and shooting stars and all that stuff. It was great!

tonya kelly (jade)

The best kiss I ever had was at dinner with a guy who I had just started dating. I



was in the middle of a sentence, when my date stood up, leaned over and kissed me. It was our first kiss, and it was so amazing that I had to excuse myself from the table and go to the ladies room to put myself back together.

teddy riley (producer/member of blackstreet)

I've never had a bad kissing experience. You can pick up on another person's technique. I learned to kiss from watching my uncle. When I was young, I used to watch him kiss his wife all the time. They had been married 20 years, and they still had passion for each other. So when I had my first kiss, I got a compliment for being a good kisser. ☺

SIBYLLA NASH is still searching for that oh-so-luscious kiss from Mr. Right.

much about march

- the stars new york undercover
- winners of 1995 revlon style search contest
- annual career special
- get suited for the prom!
- plus: the veldt, guru and gary trent

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