



As the swallowing Miami humidity crawls back onto campus, students are signaled that the semester will soon come to a close and send us off in **different directions**. However, **romantic antics** in particular are commonly carried on into the summer months. College kids find themselves wanting to fill their **summer freedom** with a light and airy attachment. Despite a “summer fling” sounding good on paper, such a **laissez-faire** kind of relationship can still be overwhelming and possibly leave you heartbroken. If you find yourself interested in **exploring** a summer fling but don’t know what exactly to expect, don’t fret, we are here to guide you through all things **summa-lovin’**.

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Summer Lovin'

A Guide to Navigating a Sweet but Sticky Summer Romance

If you're looking for a hassle-free hobby to keep you cool this summer session, we've got just the prescription for you. Meet the "summer fling": a casual commitment that happens in the warmer months away from school.

Side effects include an inevitable end and possibly wasted potential.

Summer flings have similar characteristics to most "normal" relationships, but the one thing that sets them apart is their inevitable expiration dates. Whether you want to admit it or not, your fling will more than likely end as soon as you pack away the sunscreen and beach towels for the final time.

Summer flings are meant to be an escape from reality. When else can you fool around with an old fling from home, knock boots with a charming French beau while abroad or spark an interest with a new coworker, and not have to worry about what the future holds? By heading into a summer fling, you are guaranteed to be able to enjoy yourself and your partner – at least for the time being.

In most cases, summer lovers go their own ways due to physical distance or a return

to the regularly scheduled program. When summer vacation has ended and you're cramming everything you need for school back into IKEA bags, it's important to note that your summer fling probably won't fit.

Don't worry though, you can leave your summer fling behind without much guilt, since chances are, they knew the relationship was born to die. Most couples involved in summer flings are satisfied with the terms of their relationship and have been prepared for the end, so when it is time to call it quits, the transition back to normal life doesn't leave them totally crushed.

One anonymous student — who this article will refer to as Janet — said, "Summer flings are relationships that end due to a lack of convenience."

If your summer boo isn't in your area code anymore, why carry on with a relationship that was lax to begin with?

Communicate or Don't Date

Although summer flings are meant to be easy going, it is still essential to respect your partner. To ensure that both partners are

always on the same page, communication must be an integral part of the relationship.

Allow yourself to express how you feel when you feel it. It might sound hard, but don't allow the fact that your summer fling's end might be just around the corner to discourage you from divulging your thoughts, feelings or concerns. It's also important to allow your partner to feel that they can freely speak their mind, so create a comfortable space between you and your partner that encourages them to be open.

Dr. Brian Doss, a UM professor of psychology who teaches a course on romantic relations, emphasizes that communication is key for every relationship, no matter how lax or serious.

"I think just being clear about what you're looking for and what your partner is looking for," Dr. Doss said.

There are no cutting corners when it comes to love, no matter how long that romantic flame is meant to burn. By making communication a key part of your fling, you're increasing the chances that the relationship is beneficial as possible for both