

ANSWERS READY, BEFORE THEY EVEN ASK

*Simple Answers for Family and Friends
Who Keep Asking.*



DEDE OKEKE

A NOTE FROM DEDE

You Do Not Owe Anyone a Speech

Here is something I know is true. The people who ask you the hard questions almost always love you. The aunty at the party. The old friend. Your own mother. They ask because they care. But that does not make the questions easy to hear.

One small question can land like a stone. *Why are you still single? When is the baby coming?* Suddenly the room feels warm, your face feels hot, and your mind goes blank. You say something you did not mean, or you say nothing at all and feel small.

This guide is here so that never happens again. Each short chapter takes one question apart. First we look at why it stings. Then I give you calm words to keep in your pocket — ready before they even ask.

Dede Okeke

READ IT SLOWLY. KEEP IT CLOSE.

The Chapters

- 01 The Single Question
- 02 The Wedding Question
- 03 The New Love Question
- 04 The Break - Up Question
- 05 The Ex Question
- 06 The Picky Question
- 07 The Clock Question
- 08 The Baby Question
- 09 The Settle Question
- 10 The Lonely Question

Three Calm Rules

No matter which question comes, these three small steps keep you calm and kind. Use them every time.

1 Take one slow breath

A breath buys you a moment. It keeps your voice soft and your heart steady. There is no need to rush your answer.

2 Say one short line

You do not owe a long story. One or two sentences is plenty. Short answers close the topic in a gentle way.

3 Then turn it around

After you answer, ask them something. "How are the children?" People love to talk about their own lives.

KEEP IN MIND

Most people are not trying to hurt you. A warm, short answer keeps the love in the room and lets the stress walk out.

The Single Question

They ask: “Why are you still single?”

You are at a family party, plate in hand, when an aunty spots you. “A fine person like you, still single? What are you waiting for?” The whole room seems to lean in.

Here is the truth they do not see. You are not single because nobody wants you. You are single because you decided to stop settling. You are healing, and you would rather be whole and alone than broken and taken.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“I am taking time to become my best self before I share my life with someone.”

SHORT

“I am happy and whole on my own. The right person will fit into that.”

FIRM

“I am done settling. I would rather wait than be with the wrong person.”

GENTLE REMINDER

Being single on purpose is not a sad thing. It is you refusing to hand your heart to just anyone.

The Wedding Question

They ask: “When are you getting married?”

You have been dating someone for a while, and everyone has noticed. “So when is the wedding? Do not keep us waiting!”

They smile like the date is already yours to give.

Love is not a race to the altar. A wedding built on rush and pressure cracks fast. You want a marriage that lasts, and that means moving when your heart is truly ready — not when the crowd is.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“When we are both truly ready. A strong marriage is worth the wait.”

SHORT

“No date yet — we are building something that lasts first.”

FIRM

“We will marry in our own time, not on anyone else’s clock.”

GENTLE REMINDER

A rushed “I do” is not a prize. A ready heart is. Let yours get ready first.

The New Love Question

They ask: “Are you seeing anyone new?”

It comes with a hopeful lift in their voice. “So... anyone special these days?” You feel the small pressure to have good news, to prove you are moving on well.

You do not have to be dating to be doing well. Sometimes the bravest thing after a heartbreak is to stay single and heal, instead of jumping into new arms just to look okay.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“Not right now — I am pouring that love into myself first.”

SHORT

“Nothing to report! I am enjoying my own company.”

FIRM

“When someone worth my peace comes along, you will know.”

GENTLE REMINDER

An empty seat beside you is not a failure. It is space you are keeping for the right person.

The Break – Up Question

They ask: “Why did you two break up?”

You are finally standing on solid ground again. Then someone leans in, eyes bright with curiosity: “So what really happened with you two?” They want the whole painful story.

You do not owe anyone the map of your heartbreak. Ending something that hurt you was an act of self-love, not a mistake to explain. “It was not right for me” is a full and honest answer.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“It just was not healthy for me, and I chose myself.”

SHORT

“It did not work out, and I am at peace with that.”

FIRM

“I would rather not open that up, but I am doing well now.”

GENTLE REMINDER

Walking away from the wrong love is not losing. It is choosing your own healing over their comfort.

The Ex Question

They ask: “Are you getting back with your ex?”

They ask it gently, almost hoping: “You two were so good together... any chance you get back?” The old story tugs at you, warm and familiar.

Familiar is not the same as good. You left for real reasons. Going back to comfort the very wound that hurt you is not love — it is fear wearing love’s face. You are healing past that.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“We had our reasons for ending, and I am honouring them.”

SHORT

“No — I am moving forward, not backward.”

FIRM

“I closed that door for my own peace, and it stays closed.”

GENTLE REMINDER

The past feels safe because you know it. But you did not heal this much to walk back into the fire.

The Picky Question

They ask: “Why are you so picky?”

You mention that someone was not quite right, and they roll their eyes. “You are too picky. Nobody is perfect, you know.” As if wanting good treatment is asking for too much.

There is a difference between picky and self-respecting. You are not looking for perfect. You are looking for kind, honest, and safe. After all you have healed from, having standards is wisdom, not fussiness.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“I am not picky — I just know my worth now.”

SHORT

“I would rather be single than settle for less than kindness.”

FIRM

“My standards kept me safe. I am keeping them.”

GENTLE REMINDER

Standards are not walls. They are the gate that lets the right person in and keeps the wrong one out.

The Clock Question

They ask: “Isn’t your clock ticking?”

It is said with a worried frown. “You are not getting any younger — do not wait too long.” Suddenly it feels like love is a train you might miss forever.

There is no true deadline on love. Rushing to beat a clock is exactly how good people end up in wrong relationships. You would rather arrive late and happy than early and hurting.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“I would rather find real love a little later than the wrong love in a hurry.”

SHORT

“My clock runs on peace, not panic.”

FIRM

“I am not rushing my heart to calm anyone’s worry.”

GENTLE REMINDER

Love that is right for you is not on a timer. It waits for a healed, ready you.

The Baby Question

They ask: “When are you having a baby?”

A hand rests softly on your arm. “Any little ones on the way soon?” It sounds sweet, but it presses on something private and tender inside you.

Bringing a child into love should come from a steady, healed place — not from pressure or from trying to fix a shaky bond. Whatever your truth is, you get to keep it gentle and short.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“When the time and the love are right for us.”

SHORT

“We are not there yet, but thank you for caring.”

FIRM

“That is a private plan, and I will share joy when there is some.”

GENTLE REMINDER

A family built on a healed, honest love is worth waiting for. Do not let anyone rush that ground.

The Settle Question

They ask: “Why don’t you just settle down with someone?”

An older relative sighs. “Just pick a good one and settle down already.” As if any warm body would do, and your careful heart is the problem.

You already tried “good enough,” and it cost you. Settling is how hearts get quietly broken over many years. You are not holding out for a fantasy — you are refusing to shrink your life to fit the wrong person.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“I would rather be happily single than unhappily settled.”

SHORT

“I am not settling again. I have done that, and I chose me.”

FIRM

“The right person will not feel like settling at all.”

GENTLE REMINDER

“Settle down” should mean peace, not compromise. Wait for the love that feels like home, not a cage.

The Lonely Question

They ask: “Don’t you get lonely?”

They tilt their head with pity. “But do you not get lonely, all by yourself?” The question can sting, poking at your quietest nights.

There is a big difference between lonely and alone. You have felt lonely inside the wrong relationship — that is the deepest lonely there is. Being single and at peace is not that. This is you, finally good company to yourself.

TRY SAYING

KIND

“I was lonelier in the wrong relationship than I am on my own.”

SHORT

“I enjoy my own company now — that took real work.”

FIRM

“I would rather be peacefully alone than lonely beside the wrong person.”

GENTLE REMINDER

Learning to enjoy your own company is not sad. It is the very thing that makes you ready for real love.

You Are Right On Time

There is no true clock on a good life. No rule that says marry by this age, or buy the house by that one. Those clocks were made by other people. You are allowed to set your own.

When a question makes you feel behind, come back to this page. You are not late. You are not lost. You are moving at your own speed, and your speed is the right one for you.

Every answer in this guide is really saying one thing: my life is mine, and it is going just fine.

YOU'VE GOT THIS

Answer Ready. Peace Kept.

You now have kind, calm words for almost any question. So the next time one comes, you will not freeze. You will smile, say your line, ask them a question back, and move on with your day.

Read your favorite lines out loud a few times. Soon they will feel easy and true, like your own voice. That is when you know you are ready.

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