What Do You Think of St Valentine's Day?

Read what young people in Britain and the USA think of St Valentine's Day.

I love Valentine's Day. My boyfriend always sends me a huge card with a poem in it. And flowers and chocolates. And takes me out to dinner!

Jessica, 19

I HATE Valentine's Day. I always end up stressing about whether I'll get a card, and sometimes I only get one from my mum or my aunt from Australia!

Louise, 14

I love Valentine's Day. The best part is the excitement of sending a card to someone, even if you don't receive one yourself. And there are always the fun discos, etc to enjoy.

Anna, 16

I think Valentine's Day is OK, but it can be depressing when you don't get a card, especially if you were expecting one.

Catherine, 18

I see Valentine's Day just as any other day. If I have a valentine, that's cool, if I don't then I don't stress about it!

William, 17

I hate Valentine's Day. It's all commercial and it's just an excuse for shops to make loads of money! If you love someone, show it all year round, not on one day!

Tom, 16

I think it is wonderful to celebrate love!!! And it's exacting when you get a card and you don't know who it's from!

Kate, 19

These days, things are very difficult. Men have sleepless nights, take days off work, get high blood pressure because there's that horrible thought nagging at the back of their minds saying 'Remember Valentine's Day, remember Valentine's Day.' They have to spend many hours lying there thinking of something that would make a difference. They know they've got to do something special, but what?

David, 21

Valentine's Day makes you feel lonely if you don't get a card, but embarrassed if you do.

Rose, 14

Valentine's Day is all very well, but I hate it when you have to go to school on the 14th of February, because if you get a card, people make fun of you, but if you don't they make fun of you even more!

Pete, 13

It's a great tradition! I think the only people who hate Valentine's Day are the people who don't get any cards!

Nancy, 15

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BOUQUET COUPLE BALLOONS GIFT VALENTINE'S CARD

PROPOSAL HUG CUPID DATE

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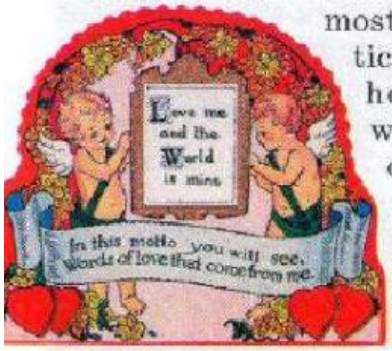
Valentines Over the Years

The first true Valentine card was probably written by a young Frenchman, Charles, Duke of Orleans. Charles was captured by the English and imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415. He felt very lonely, and to fight his loneliness he started writing love poems to his wife in France. His 'valentines' are now kept in the British Museum.

In 1537, King Henry VIII officially recognized St Valentine's Day, which is ironic because he wasn't the most romantic of men – he had six wives (and two of them were executed)!



The early valentines were handmade, and young people spent hours composing their own poems. In 1784, the first 'Valentine Encyclopaedia' was published under the title of: 'The New English Valentine Writer, or the High Road to Love, for both Sexes, Containing a Complete Set of Valentines, which the Young may read without Blushing, and those of Riper Years find Pleasant and Entertaining.'

As time passed, valentine cards became more and more popular. The Victorians decorated their cards with hearts and Cupids, wild flowers, silk, lace, feathers – you name it!

When the modern postal system was set up in the nineteenth century, a real Valentine's Day industry was found. Ready-made cards were mass-produced, just as they were for Christmas and birthdays.

Today, many people send electronic valentines to their loved ones. But the person who gets an e-valentine will know who it's from! You can't sign it 'From your secret admirer'!

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