



# Test the Waters

Cautiously explore a potential connection

**T**o *test the waters* is to take small, careful steps toward something new—in this case, a budding romance. The idiom originates from nautical traditions, where sailors would test water depths before proceeding, ensuring the path ahead was safe. It's also linked to everyday experiences, like checking if the bath is too hot or the lake is too cold.

The same holds true for relationships. The idiom describes those tentative early moves: starting a conversation, making eye contact, or offering a playful joke to gauge interest. At any moment the new friend may fail the test. Related expressions like *step out of your comfort zone* and *break the ice* highlight the courage needed to explore the unknown, and the possibility of having a too-hot or frigid dip!



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