

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 ♂

EIGHT POPULAR REASONS FOR HAVING INTERCOURSE...

THAT NO SMART TEENAGER WOULD USE

1. Your partner says that if you don't, it means, "You don't love me."

A person who loves you doesn't push you into doing things you don't feel right about doing. A person who loves you respects your beliefs.

2. All your friends do it.

Maybe all your friends just say they do it. Studies show that by age 16, only 20 in 100 girls have had intercourse even once. **LOTS OF PEOPLE DON'T HAVE INTERCOURSE BEFORE MARRIAGE.**

3. It proves you're grown up.

What proves you're grown up is deciding what you believe is right and sticking to your beliefs.

4. You're just curious.

Curiosity is a pretty poor reason to pretend you care about another person just so you can try out intercourse.

5. You want to lose your virginity-- get it over with.

Think about what that attitude says about how much you respect your own body!

6. You want to sound "in the know" like everybody else.

Most people who sound "in the know" aren't. Read reason 2 again. It makes more sense to (1) tell the truth or (2) keep quiet. (Most people think you know more than you're telling when you keep quiet.)

7. You "owe it" to a date who buys you a nice dinner or takes you to a nice place.

Return the favor! Next time, you pick up the check at one of those nice places.

8. You won't get any dates if you don't.

You might not get any dates with people who only want to use your body, but who needs that?

SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH SAYING NO ?

Nothing! Lots of people aren't having intercourse because they choose not to. Even if you have already had intercourse, you can still decide it's not for you -- not yet.

If you decide you're going to say no to sex for now, make it work. Stay out of situations where it would be hard to say no. (No long afternoons alone together when nobody else is home.) And say up front, "That's not for me," to the people you date.

Be smart. Be proud of yourself. Save some of the good things in life for later on, when chances for pleasure without regret are so much better. You'll be in good company.