

Do you leave voicemail on others' phones? Are there particular people you feel comfortable sending voicemail?: Depends. I'm more than happy to leave a voicemail in a professional context - especially if I need to communicate information to a colleague - but I almost never send personal voicemails. I prefer to keep the nuance of interpersonal conversations, well, conversational. Immediate back and forth is a lot more useful/rewarding when it comes to personal communications.

After calling an unanswered phone, what determines whether you leave a voicemail?: See above. Professional phone calls get voicemails, personal ones almost never do.

When compared to other forms of communication (letters, text, email, etc), does voicemail strike you as antiquated? Why/why not?: It doesn't strike me as antiquated. More... clunky. I think it's always been clunky. Unlike text - something that requires time for construction - speech has always been a form of communication about immediate feedback. It seems strange to add the anxiety of construction to something so organic as speech. It would be like going to an improv show, but each comic takes 5 minutes of silence before responding to/making a joke.

Do you have any particular association with receiving voicemail?: No particular associations, though I do remember specific voicemails. A few job application confirmations that I was pulling for, and a few personal voicemails that were emotionally meaningful to me. I suppose that contradicts my "NO PERSONAL VOICEMAILS" dogma, but there are exceptions to every rule, I suppose.

Are there ever circumstances where you would prefer voicemail?: If you are trying to absolutely blow up my zone, I would LOVE to have an audio recording of that. ESPECIALLY if I have just usurped you in a Game-of-Thrones-style power play. I think it would be good to whip out at parties, or for intimidating my many political nemeses.

Have you ever received a meaningful voicemail? And if so, what made it meaningful?: Yes, I have. A couple of personal voicemails, usually from long-distance friends. I think the reason I consider these exceptions to my discomfort with personal voicemails is that they are less attempts at conversation starters, and more general check-ins, how-do-you-do's, life updates. Some hold value simply because they are very naked displays of emotion, which is something that always gets to me. I feel like I could respond to these voicemails with emails or messages without being rude. They are lovely, and also convey emotion in a way that the written word simply cannot. You will never realize how much you miss and love someone until you hear the sound of a voice you forgot through the speakers of your phone.