

**Do you leave voicemail on others' phones? Are there particular people you feel comfortable sending voicemail?:** I do leave voicemails on occasion, but it is by no means often. I also rarely include extensive content in any voicemail I leave, as I believe that people typically see they have a voicemail and simply text or call back immediately (rather than listen to said voicemail).

I generally feel quite comfortable leaving voicemails for anyone- the only thing that holds me back from doing so is that I feel it is an inefficient means of attaining my goals (often times to have a discussion or make plans).

**After calling an unanswered phone, what determines whether you leave a voicemail?:** Again, this relies mostly on what my intentions are- making plans or having a discussion require both participants to be active during the conversation. Therefore, under these circumstances, a voicemail cannot accomplish the ultimate goal. In these circumstances, the voicemail serves as a simple catalyst, driving or reminding the recipient to give me a call back in order to converse.

However, there are certain circumstances where I would find it appropriate to leave a voicemail- a congratulations message, birthday or holiday wishes, etc. In any of these cases, I will call the person in order to deliver the message, but will leave a voicemail if I don't get them on the phone. I will also likely send a text message (or series of messages) in order to supplement the voicemail.

**When compared to other forms of communication (letters, text, email, etc), does voicemail strike you as antiquated? Why/why not?:** I wouldn't say "antiquated"- it certainly has its uses, depending on the caller's goals. However, in most circumstances, I find the voicemail to be an inefficient method of communication when compared to texting.

I would, however, say that there is a definite generational gap in how people perceive the effectiveness of voicemails- the older generation used to voicemails being not only a tool for valid message communication, but also as the only means to insure that a recipient returns a call. Their life-long experience has obviously supported these viewpoints. Newer generations are more familiar with additional forms of communication that might allow for faster or more effective communication- they therefore see voicemail as a last resort.

**Do you have any particular association with receiving voicemail?:** Unless the voicemail is from a particular individual (namely you, Kip), I might not even listen to it. With most of my friends, a voicemail is only intended as a reminder or notification to get me to call the caller back. Consequently, I often times look at the length of the voicemail before listening- if it is 10 or fewer seconds long, I will simply call the person back or text them. Again, this depends on the caller in question.

**Are there ever circumstances where you would prefer voicemail?:** Depends on whether you mean leaving or receiving voicemails.

In terms of leaving voicemails, there are situations where I would find leaving a voicemail preferable to having a full conversation. Sometimes, I feel that birthday or congratulatory wishes fall into this category- often times, those conversations consist of "Happy \_\_\_\_\_", "Thanks!", followed by 30-45 seconds of awkward and forced banter. After all, the point of the call is accomplished in the first 5-10 seconds of the call, and the rest is just filler.

Another case in which I might prefer voicemail would be if I were delivering a voicemail of the type that you (Kip) deliver. In that case, the intention is to deliver a personal, genuine, and meaningful message to a friend- in that case, having an individual on the other side of the line simply adds levels of complexity and awkwardness that may stand in the way of actually conveying the message. I obviously do not leave voicemails like that because it isn't really my style- but I think that, if I did want to say something like that to someone, I may do so in that way.

In terms of receiving voicemail, there are generally few circumstances in which I would prefer receiving. Your (Kip) voicemails are one circumstance in which I do enjoy receiving them. Otherwise, I find the voicemail to be kind of annoying and awkward. It carries a certain pressure to call the individual back that I find kind of off-putting.

**Have you ever received a meaningful voicemail? And if so, what made it meaningful?:** Yes! Of course! You're an expert at leaving meaningful voicemails.

Let's be honest- it's pretty rare that someone calls you up to basically just say nice things about you. Other than my mother, or perhaps a girlfriend, I have never had anyone (especially not a male friend) call me up just to tell me why they appreciate me. This happens sometimes in person with friends, but not super often- and it is usually driven by the joys of alcohol.

What makes your messages meaningful is the content, yes- again, it's wonderful to have someone say nice things about you that you don't really hear often- but also the way in which you say it. You have a remarkable ability to be heartfelt and sincere, and it makes the message all the more extraordinary!

To be 100% honest, I love listening to your voicemails. I almost never listen right away- sometimes I'll save them for days until I have a situation where I can sit down, actively listen, and think about what you've said. I've also used them to give myself energy/confidence before challenges or events where such confidence might be necessary.

I have also received nice and meaningful voicemails from loved ones, but these are typically before I engage in some sort of challenge...