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The OTP Prompt Guide, 2026

An OTP is your one true pairing: the two characters you see as an ideal match. This guide shows the six classic tropes, five prompt formats, tone words and a check list for your ship's next story.

Six classic tropes

Trope	The heart of it
Enemies to Lovers	Rivals who fall for each other through conflict
Forbidden Love	A love that is not allowed, and the obstacles
Mutual Pining	Both in love, each sure it is one-sided
Soulmates AU	Destined by fate or magic
Fake Dating	A pretend couple whose feelings turn real
Childhood Friends	Old friends whose feelings change

Five prompt formats

- **Fanfic Hook:** one gripping opening line.
- **Dialogue Starter:** the first lines the two say.
- **Internal Monologue:** one character's thoughts.
- **Scene Setup:** where, what and the stakes.
- **Paragraph Summary:** the whole story in one paragraph.

Tone words

Sweet, playful, awkward, melancholic, bittersweet, intense: from the gentlest to the strongest.

Story check list

☐ Both characters want something.

☐ Something keeps them apart.

☐ One moment changes how they see each other.

☐ The setting shapes the scene.

☐ Feelings show through actions and dialogue.

☐ The words are your own, with nothing copied from the source.

Plan your ship's next story

The pairing: _____

The trope: _____

The setting: _____

The moment that changes everything: _____

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