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and how to
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Q | What can I do about the broken hairs around my hairline and all along my part?

Those hairs along your hairline probably aren't broken at all, says Gretchen Monahan, an expert hairstylist for Dove. I've always called that fuzz around my face baby hair (and for some reason I have a lot of it). It's finer than the rest of your hair, lies flat on your head, and doesn't grow very long before it falls out. Because it's fine, it is susceptible to damage, and it frames your face, so it's vulnerable to lots of styling. (We tend to style the hair around the face more than the back for obvious reasons.) Hair that sticks up along the part is damaged, says Monahan. Excessive chemical treatments, blow-drying, and the use of straightening irons all contribute to breakage. For baby hair along the hairline, apply a smoothing product before blow-drying, says Kattia Solano, founder of the Butterfly Studio Salon in New York City. After drying, apply a tiny bit of pomade or a cream (like Magic Move by Shinbi, \$18). Treat broken hair along your part with an intense repair treatment (like Kérastase Forcintense, \$36), says Adrian DeBerardinis, creative director of the Antonio Prieto Salon in New York City. And don't forget to coat founder of the Butterfly Studio Salon in New York City. After drying, apply a tiny bit of pomade or a cream (like Magic Move by Shinbi, \$18). Treat broken hair along your part with an intense repair treatment (like Kérastase Forcintense, \$36), says Adrian DeBerardinis, creative director of the Antonio Prieto Salon in New York City. And don't forget to coat



Ask Val
 You've got questions?
 Our beauty director, VALERIE MONROE, has answers.

your hair with a moisture spray (like Fekkai Coiff Défense Pre-Style Thermal/UV Protectant, \$25) or a leave-in product like a styling cream if you're using a tool with heat. This protects the hair and makes it easier to style, says Monahan. If you're afraid a styling cream will weigh down your hair, rub the product between your hands before applying, start at the ends, and work your way up to the roots to get a light, even application.

BOTTOM LINE: Deep conditioning once a week and using a styling cream will help prevent breakage and keep broken hair from standing in straight

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Q | Which product should I put on my face first? Moisturizer? Sunscreen? Serum?

A chemical sunscreen (one that contains oxybenzone or avobenzone) should go on clean, bare skin first, says Laurie Polis, MD, director of Soho Skin and Laser Dermatology in New York City. You need to give it time to be absorbed, because in order to be effective, it must interact with skin cells. (A sunscreen with a physical block like titanium dioxide or zinc oxide can be applied last, after a serum or moisturizer.) Apply a serum next and, finally, moisturizer if you need it. Polis also recommends serums or sunscreens with moisturizers built in, because they save time.

Bottom line: Apply chemical sunscreens or serums that need to be absorbed first, barriers (like moisturizers, makeup, and physical block sunscreens) last.

Q | How do firming body lotions work?

A colleague of mine here in the office claims that she gets a tighter bottom when she applies firming body lotion. One of the reasons I'm fond of her is that, among her many other lovely qualities, she is a terrific optimist. I say, if you think your bottom looks better and that makes you happy (and why wouldn't it?), more power to you. Keep using the stuff. But in the sometimes dark and often skeptical world of Ask Val, firming lotions are good for one thing only: moisturizing.

That will improve the appearance of is that, among her many other lovely qualities, she is a terrific optimist. I say, if you think your bottom looks better and that makes you happy (and why wouldn't it?), more power to you. Keep using the stuff. But in the sometimes dark and often skeptical world of Ask Val, firming lotions are good for one thing only: moisturizing. That will improve the appearance of the skin temporarily, says Arielle N.B. Kauvar, MD, associate professor of dermatology at New York University School of Medicine. The antioxidants