Weekend Date Idea: Game On





By Jessica Conigliaro. Updated by <u>Stephanie Sacco</u>.

Get ready for some friendly competition with your man. Show off your gamer side, and challenge your partner to a tournament. Face off against each other in your favorite games, both video and board with these <u>date ideas</u>.

Here are some fun <u>weekend date</u> <u>ideas</u> involving games.

Video games are a great way to bond with your partner. You can show each other how to play your favorite games and then compete to see who's the champion. Make different bets for different games: loser has to cook dinner or winner picks the restaurant. Win or lose, you'll have a great time bonding with your partner.

Related Link: Dating Advice: Get Inspired by Childhood Fun

Find other ways to compete with one another, too. Break out the old pool table in your basement, and wager kisses. Play foosball, or find some old board games you loved as a kid. Reminisce about simple times, and learn about each other's childhoods. You'll feel closer than ever before.

Related Link: Weekend Date Idea: Bases, Peanuts, and Homeruns

Hit up an arcade at a mall or movie theater. If your man's a dedicated gamer, he'll love the chance to go retro. Challenge your partner to an intense game of Pac-Man, or race him in a car simulation game. Challenge him to a nice game of air hockey. Win tickets for small candy and prizes. Playing skeeball and other arcade games make for a fun afternoon.

You may even decide to invest in a pinball machine or PlayStation 3 after having such a fun day!

What's your favorite game to play with your partner? Comment below!

Date Idea: Go Camping or Glamping





By Maria Darbenzio. Updated by Mary DeMaio

Enjoy a peaceful warm weather getaway with this weekend date idea, which involves sneaking away from all the hustle and bustle of everyday demands. Take a trip into the wilderness with your honey for a romantic camping trip filled with s'mores and star gazing. Don't want to rough it in the middle of the woods? Not a problem — there are ways to get around having to sleep in a tent.

Use Glamping as Your Next Date Idea

When the work day is over and the weekend begins, pack up those necessities — tent, blankets, sleeping bags, snacks, and entertainment — and head out. Take a look online for any campgrounds in your area, and make sure to book a spot in advance if needed. Once there, set up your tent, build a fire, and let the romance begin! Spend your evening cooking over the flames and cuddling up next to each other for warmth. You and your sweetheart can end the night by laying under the stars and talking about your summer plans.

Related Link: Date Idea: Batter Up

If pitching a tent and sleeping on the ground isn't your cup of tea, that's okay. Glamping is all the rage right now, and it's a great way to get the camping experience without having to sacrifice showers and electricity. There are companies dedicated to renting RVs and camping trailers.

Related Link: Date Idea: Ignite Sparks While Camping

Or if you'd prefer, check your local campgrounds for cabins available for rent. These houses are furnished and usually come equipped with most of the essentials. All you need to bring is toiletries, food, clothing, and bed sheets. And don't forget to pack that bug spray! You wouldn't want mosquitoes to get you itching and ruin the moment.

Whether you're camping or glamping, you and your sweetheart can slip into nature and away from crowded city streets. Staying outside of civilization for a few days will strengthen your relationship and provide you with much-needed, uninterrupted one-on-one time.

Do you and your love like to go camping? Let us know in the comments below!

Relationship Advice: 10 Simple Ways to Be More Romantic





By Josh Ringler

Love should be a constant, and in order to keep it that way, you have to work at it. Whether you have been dating for a few weeks, months, or years, it is crucial to continue the romance. The pieces of <u>relationship advice</u> below will give you some helpful ways to improve your romantic side and to make your relationship even better than it already is!

These relationship advice tips will give an upgrade to your romance level!

1. Compliments: A great way to show you really are in love with your partner is by complimenting them. Celebrity couples do it all the time on social media, and in public, so why

can't you? Whether it is their new clothes, new hair style, or just the way they look that day, let them know. It is always appreciated and will only help the love between you two grow.

- 2. Help each other: While compliments may help with confidence problems, helping each other out with other things, like work problems and family issues, can really help, too. An important piece of relationship advice is to continue to show you care and want what is best for your partner. By helping them out, you're helping your love life out, too!
- **3. Food:** Special date nights or date ideas are some of the best ways to get more romantic. Who doesn't love a night out? Food makes most people happy, and a fancy meal out, or a new local place, shows that you are trying to keep the love alive and are working on getting more romantic!
- 4. Make things together: Whether it is a meal, a new card game, or a birthday card for a relative, getting creative with your partner is a fun way to keep your romance growing. An important piece of love advice is to make even normal things fun and exciting. Making little things together can be a super way to grow your love!

Related Link: <u>Top 5 Pop Culture Celebrity Couples To Seek</u>
Relationship Advice From

- **5. Spontaneous adventures:** Another great date idea that can help your romance grow is a random adventure. Always keep things interesting with things like a hiking trip, a beach walk, or random day in the city.
- **6. Cheesiness isn't always bad:** Flowers after a rough day, a cute Facebook post, or a mushy-like Instagram post can never make things worse. Cheesy ideas can sometimes backfire, but more often than not, they can show your romantic side and make your love life grow. You shouldn't overdo the cheesier ideas, but every now and then it's a must!

- 7. Try something new: Whether it is new food like the new Japanese restaurant down the street, or maybe just a new date night involving some mini golf, something new is a good way to mix things up. This is a really simple way to keep things growing. An essential piece of relationship advice is to continue to try new things that the two of you may like so that your relationship grows even more. Never been skydiving? Now's the time!
- 8. Break "the usual": Going along with trying new things, breaking your routine and keeping the love fresh, is a simple-yet-important way to be more romantic. Celebrity couples continue to break their routines and do fun, new things, and you can do it, too!

Related Link: Relationship Advice: 10 Strategies to Make Your Good Relationship GREAT

- **9. Surprises:** Little things definitely matter, especially when you are trying to be more romantic. A surprise date night or just a nice little gift can really go a long way in showing your affection for your partner. Surprises are something you shouldn't do too much, but when you do it, make sure it is a gift from the heart!
- 10. Public Affection: PDA, like holding hands, hugs, and kisses, can be a great way to step up your romantic life. You can hold your partner's hand while you're on a walk, or put your arm around him or her while you are at a sports game. It will show you care, and make them feel loved. That's the goal to being more romantic!

What are some other ways to amp up the romance in your relationship? Comment with your ideas below!

Bad Romance: 10 Toxic Celebrity Relationships





By <u>Katie Gray</u>

Sometimes love isn't all champagne and caviar, even for our favorite <u>celebrity couples</u>. Sometimes <u>celebrity relationships</u> have moments that can be a little toxic. In some instances the couples work it out, but in other cases the relationship ends in a split. We can take away <u>relationship advice</u> from this, though; sometimes things fall apart so better things can fall together.

Cupid has compiled 10 toxic

celebrity relationships:

- 1. Chris Brown & Rihanna: Chris Brown and Rihanna were a favorite celebrity couple for many. Then, in 2008, there were many reports that she was being abused and that the celebrity couple wasn't healthy. Bad gal Riri and Chris Brown ended up splitting, but one thing nobody including them denies is that they were passionate about one another.
- 2. Britney Spears & Kevin Federline: "I'm addicted to you, don't you know that you're toxic!" Britney Spears, pop princess, was married to her back up dancer, Kevin Federline. The celebrity couple even produced two celebrity babies. The "Toxic" singer had a reality show when they were married called Chaotic. That sums up their relationship, which ended in celebrity divorce. However, Spears moved onward and upward!

Related Link: 8 Celebrity Couples Who Were Friends First

- 3. Spencer Pratt & Heidi Montag: The Hills was a popular reality show that intrigued many. It made Lauren Conrad and Audrina Partridge celebutantes. On the show, and in real life, celebrity couple Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag had the country buzzing about their celebrity relationship. Many people felt that it was toxic, as Pratt and Montag were very dependent on one another. It even damaged her relationship with her then BFF, LC (Lauren Conrad). The couple even released a book entitled How To Be Famous.
- 4. Eminem & Kim Mathers: Rapper, Eminem, is known for many things: witty lyrics, emerging from a humble background and his roller coaster relationship with Kim Mathers. The pair were married twice and have a daughter together, which led to a public custody battle that got ugly. The famous white rapper has many lines in his song about Kim, which are not pleasant.

Related Link: Hollywood's Most Unexpected Couples

- **5. Tommy Lee & Pamela Anderson:** Rock artist Tommy Lee and actress and *Playboy* playmate, Pamela Anderson, will go down in history for being an iconic celebrity relationship. The Motley Crue rocker and the blonde bombshell were together in the late 90's and were married 1995-1998. They made a big stir in the media when a sex tape from their honeymoon was stolen from their home and shown for the whole world to see.
- **6.** Jersey Shore's Sammi "Sweetheart" & Ronnie: Love at the shore! The Jersey Shore couple, Sammi and Ron, proved to be one of the most dramatic celebrity relationships in MTV history. The majority of the episodes featured the two fighting over their problems and trust issues. Sometimes things were good though between the two. Nonetheless; they made for great television!
- 7. Tiger Woods & Elin Nordegren: Famous golfer Tiger Woods was married to model Elin Nordegren. The celebrity couple's world was rocked when it came out that Woods had been having affairs with multiple women. There were several women who came forward. Ludacris even released a song about the event entitled, "Sexting." The professional golfer asked her to remarry him again, although they split in 2010. She's living in a very nice mansion in Palm Beach. It's like the saying goes, "Don't get mad. Get everything."
- 8. Tina Turner & Ike: Tina Turner is a music legend and icon. However, her marriage to Ike was extremely tumultuous. There is even a film about her life and this celebrity relationship that ultimately ended. It was an unhealthy relationship, as he was addicted to cocaine and would sadly beat her up often. However; everyone can learn from Tina Turner. What doesn't kill us only makes us stronger.
- 9. Whitney Houston & Bobby Brown: Whitney Houston is known for hit songs like "I Want To Dance With Somebody" and "I Will Always Love You." In addition to her iconic songs and thriving music career, her relationship with Bobby Brown was widely

publicized. Her mother even wrote in a book about this relationship and how she feels that he influenced her to use drugs. Although the relationship wasn't healthy, we will always remember Whitney Houston for the beautiful and talented artist she was. RIP!

10. Dennis Rodman & Carmen Electra: Carmen Electra famously got her name from music legend, Prince. The actress and model has had a string of famous celebrity relationships. At one point, she married former Chicago Bulls player, Dennis Rodman, when they were intoxicated. Afterward, he filed an annulment. Sometimes your relationship ending doesn't work out, because there is an even better fairy tale ahead for you.

Which are your favorite celebrity couples? Comment below!

Date Idea: Summer Nights





By Sarah Ribeiro. Updated by Mary DeMaio

There's something so romantic about summertime. The fresh smell of flowers, the sweet salt from the ocean and all the fun and laughter. Embrace the warm summer nights this weekend with these enjoyable <u>date ideas</u> to do in the dark.

Top Three Summer Night Date Ideas

1. Evening picnic: Find a public park that's open after sunset, park your car at a scenic location or stay in your own yard. On this date night, bring a lantern, portable music player to set the mood, and two blankets, one to sit on and one to wrap around you if it gets chilly. Pack a simple dinner of late-night snacks, like crackers with cheese, chocolate-covered berries or a baguette and hummus. If you're in a zoned area, you and your honey can even light a bonfire and roast some marshmallows.

Related Link: <u>10 Cool Summer Date Ideas to Heat Up Your</u> Relationship

2. Midnight dance party: Pick an area in your yard and surround it with lights and midnight snacks, like popcorn and chips. Before the party, send your guests a playlist in MP3 format and ask them to bring their music players with them. At the stroke of midnight, have everyone plug in their headphones and hit play for a "silent disco." You can dance under the stars without worrying about being too loud. Be sure to include a couple slow songs for a few romantic moments — especially if you have single friends who you want to set up.

Related Link: Dating Advice: 10 Great Date Ideas Under \$50

3. Movie in the park: You can find park series from California to New York by checking online databases or your local paper. If the park's too far away, look for a local drive-in theater or make one of your own. Hang a large white blanket on the side of your house, rent a projector and pop in any of your favorite movies to have a private theater in your own backyard. When the date night is over, there's no need to go inside. Set up a couple of sleeping bags and a tent with a mesh skylight, and fall asleep in your partner's arms while you stare at the stars.

What's your favorite late-night date idea? Comment below and let us know.

Relationship Advice: Are Your BF and Best Friend Too Close for Comfort?





By Dr. Jane Greer

Recent images of <u>Selena Gomez</u> with <u>Katy Perry</u>'s boyfriend Orlando Bloom looking cozy together had people talking about whether a <u>celebrity relationship</u> was brewing, but the women cleared up the <u>celebrity news</u>, quickly promising there was nothing inappropriate going on between them. Selena took to Twitter to endorse Katy's quick response to the pictures. Katy addressed the drama surrounding the two of them, calling it a "dumb conspiracy." While Katy is clearly confident there's nothing going on with them, sometimes remaining secure in your relationship when your partner has close female friends can be challenging.

This gives us the opportunity for

important relationship advice around the following question: Is there such a thing as being too close to your girlfriend's boyfriend, and is there a point when it can and does feel threatening?

When we become close to someone, our natural instinct is to share them with the other people we are close to. Eventually you want to introduce your new boyfriend to your best friend so you can proudly show them how great the other is. You might even end up spending a lot of time together as a group. Sometimes, this can lead to a separate connection between your significant other and your friend. That is all okay to a point.

Related Link: Relationship Advice: Why Are Women Attracted to Unavailable Men?

However, there is a definite line that exists which defines how close the two most important people in your life can get to each other, and that is based on the fact that you are sexually intimate with your boyfriend so there is a clear element of exclusivity that should never be violated by either party. As long as the connection remains about sharing the strong feelings they have for you, it is all good. If there is ever a point when you might feel threatened or begin to doubt their intentions, then follow this <u>relationship advice</u> tip and start to think about putting boundaries in place. How can you tell if that time has come?

The first red flag is if you start to feel left out. If your boyfriend and best friend develop inside jokes that you are

not a part of, or they find reasons to spend time together away from you — even if you are sick or out of town — it is only natural to wonder if something is brewing between them. Another indication of a problem could be if your friend is admiring you so much that she starts to dress and act like you. If it begins to appear that she almost wants to be you, which can sometimes be flattering, but usually means she is jealous of what you have and might want it for herself, you should absolutely be on guard.

Related Link: Relationship Advice: 5 Ways to 'Affair-Proof' Your Relationship

The best way to gauge when and if that line is being crossed is to trust your feelings and go with your instincts. If it is all positive, and your interactions are supportive and caring, then that is exactly what love and friendship is about. But if you start to feel uneasy, uncomfortable or a sense of competition surfaces from your friend, that is a good time to start setting limits on how much time you spend together as a group, and begin to monitor what you share with your friend so you can build your own sense of identity separate from her, which is a great piece of relationship advice. By doing this, you can protect yourself and not have to worry about being betrayed by someone close to you.

In Selena Gomez and Katy Perry's situation, all is above board. With these tools in place, you can make sure it will be for you, too

Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on <u>HealthyLife.net</u> every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at <u>askdrjane@drjanegreer.com</u>. Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at <u>www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer</u>, and be sure to

follow @DrJaneGreer on Twitter for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit http://www.drjanegreer.com.

Relationship Advice: 5 Ways to Break Your Routine and Keep Things Fresh





By Josh Ringler

Whether you've been in a relationship for a few weeks, many months, or several years, the feeling of something too

ordinary can become a huge problem. If your love life is beginning to feel like more of a routine than a fun adventure full of love, that needs to change! Below are some pieces of <u>relationship advice</u> that anyone can use, whether you are part of one of those <u>celebrity couples</u> or just someone in love!

The following relationship advice will freshen up your love life!

- 1. What's for dinner?: Dining out may seem generic, but it's a great date night to be had. Maybe you and your partner can try new food, or just go to a different place that neither of you have tried before. Food can absolutely make people happy, and it will help your relationship, too. Get spicy food to spice things up!
- 2. Take a vacation: Vacations are one of the best ways to break your routine and make things feel new or fresh. Finding a good place for a getaway will keep the two of you happy, and will make for an enjoyable time together. Remember, a good love tip is to compromise, and that is essential on any decision that affects the two of you! Changing the scenery you are in will give you a nice break from work or school, and it will also break you away from that routine to experience new things together!

Related Link: Relationship Advice: 8 Creative Ways That Older Couples Can Keep the Romance Alive

3. Come up with new date ideas: A great piece of relationship advice is to always keep things different and changing in a good way. A good way to accomplish that goal is to come up with new date ideas, like the ones we have here on Cupid's Pulse. Celebrity couples only frequent the places they like, and maybe you are just looking for that place to "become

yours" and help improve your freshened relationship!

4. Surprises: This may seem like a given, but it is an essential way to improve your love life! We always see dozens of celebrity couples surprise each other with vacations or cars, but acts from the heart don't have to be that glamorous! Give her a simple bouquet of flowers or tickets to show, and you're all set! It breaks the routine and keeps both of you happy!

Related Link: Relationship Advice: 10 Strategies to Make Your Good Relationship GREAT

5. A list of things to do: Consider making up a long list of things to do, places to see, and meals to be had. Go crazy with it! Pick exotic vacations, and local hangouts. An important piece of love advice is to keep making changes to this list until it works for you. A good mix of soon-to-becompleted ideas and ideas to be completed in the future will make you feel like you have a goal that needs to be accomplished!

These pieces of relationship should make loving fun and keep your relationship happy. Did it help you? Comment below!

Weekend Date Idea: Head Back In Time & Enjoy A Drive-In Movie





By <u>Sarah Batcheller</u>. Updated by <u>Mary DeMaio</u>

We all want a relationship and love like we see in old films like *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Casablanca* — you get the picture. Why not plan a <u>date night</u> that reminds you of these movies? Catch a film at a drive-in movie theater with your beau. Drive-in movies are the perfect balance of the big screen and the great outdoors. The two of you will have your seats all to yourselves, so you can snuggle as you please. Best of all, you'll have a classic, romantic <u>date night</u> that you'll never forget.

Date Idea: Head to the Drive-In Movie Theater

Drive-in theaters are easy because you never even have to stand up. So, if you and your boo are torn between hanging out on the couch or getting all dressed up to go out, you can have the best of both worlds. Netflix just doesn't compare to a night like this. <u>USA Today</u> has described some of the best drive-in theaters in the nation, and you can always search for

local ones online as well. It pays to do your research before embarking on this date idea, as you'll find which theaters are older and have a more iconic feel and which are newer with more updated features, like high-resolution screens. You'll also want to look at the movie listings ahead of time so that you can choose a film you know you will both enjoy.

Related Link: Date Idea: Throw a Classic Movie Night

To go all out, rent or borrow a convertible so that the openness creates a relaxing atmosphere. Or if you're insectadverse, go ahead and keep the roof up. Either way, fill the car with pillows and blankets and recline your seats. Another good thing about drive-in theaters is that you don't have to sneak in snacks in your purse. Bring something homemade to munch on. You can even bring a bottle of wine and two disposable wine glasses. That way, the coziness is at 100 percent. When the film is over, you can end the date night with a midnight drive around town or stop at a local diner to really achieve that 1950's feel.

Related Link: Movie Pick-Up Lines That Will Score You a Date

This date idea is perfect for the summertime, because it will make you feel like you're in a movie yourself. Now that you've found the relationship and love you've always dreamed of, it's time to have a date to make you feel like a star. With the summer sky twinkling above and the coolness of the night settling in, neither of you will be able to deny the romance in the air. Take this dating advice as it'll be a great way to spend quality time with your sweetheart and remind you that your love is timeless.

Have a fun drive-in movie experience? Let us know in the comments below!

Independence Day Date Ideas: Fire Up Your Love!





By Maria Darbenzio. Updated by <u>Stephanie Sacco</u>.

It's the perfect time to get a little adventurous this weekend in the spirit of Independence Day. Fireworks (outside and in your heart) will appear as you celebrate this holiday weekend. With these 4th of July <u>date ideas</u>, you'll be sure to have an awesome time with your partner by your side.

Date Ideas for Independence Day

Begin your Fourth of July with this weekend date idea: A romantic nighttime picnic. Pack up some of your favorite (yet portable) foods, grab a bottle of wine, and take a trip to one of your favorite spots for this date night. For added fun, make it a group date and invite other couples to come along. If you're near a beach, watch the sunset over the ocean while enjoying a glass of Merlot. After dinner, build a cozy campfire and roast marshmallows to make s'mores. A perfect date idea for the long summer nights.

Related Link: Enjoy the Outdoors with This Challenging Date Idea!

Leave the other couples at home and take some one on one time to go out dancing. You and your partner can turn up the romance by taking a class together or winging it under the moonlight. The shining stars against the dark sky provide a lovely backdrop for your evening. To make your 4th of July date extra special, our relationship advice is to try playing some sweet slow jams that tell your partner how you truly feel.

Related Link: Tease Your Tastebuds on This Weekend Date Idea

End your weekend with a bang by attending a fourth of July fireworks display. Take a trip to a nearby lake or park to view the fireworks. Buy a drink to share or a plate of carnival food. Ride something romantic like the Ferris wheel. With sparks flying in front of you providing a backdrop for a romantic kiss, go for it with your partner. Secure your relationship by spending the whole weekend together. It's a romantic holiday to look forward to.

What is your favorite way to spend the fourth of July with your partner? Comment below!

Date Idea: Float Away To Paradise





By Amanda Martin. Updated by <a>Stephanie Sacco.

Take advantage of the summer sun by spending time on the open seas. Whether you're looking for excitement or relaxation, our relationship advice is to enjoy the water with your partner because it will unite you as a couple. For this weekend date idea, grab your favorite swimsuit and get ready to make waves.

Refreshing, Water Infused Date Ideas

Research your local (or not so local) area to find romantic dinner cruises. Find couples packages like massages and spa days. Look for specialty boat tours, a fireworks show, or a party cruise with a DJ and a full bar that both you and your partner can participate in. Enjoy night swims at the pool deck. Once you've embarked, the waves will whisk you away on a romantic date night.

Related Link: Enjoy the Outdoors With This Challenging Date
Idea

Another adventurous date idea is to navigate your own excursion. Visit a nearby lake and rent a canoe or kayak. Pack a picnic lunch that you and your partner prepared together. Even just going for a swim or dipping your toes in the water can provide you with refreshing weekend date ideas. Our dating advice is to plan ahead so you have something to look forward to as the week winds down.

Related Link: Date Idea: Around the World in 80 Minutes

If you want to explore deeper waters, try scuba diving or snorkeling. Find a venue that offers couples activities that you can try together. Look at the various sea creatures or swim with dolphins. If you don't want to scuba or snorkel even just going to an aquarium with your partner would be fun. Dive into these date ideas, trust in your partner and most importantly have fun. Explore new territory with your significant other and make a splash!

What's your favorite way to explore the open seas with your partner? Comment below!

Date Idea: Enjoy The Great Outdoors With Your Other Half





By Amanda Martin. Updated by <a>Stephanie Sacco.

It's finally summertime, which means it's time to get active outdoors and take advantage of the hot sun. There's no reason not to spend every second outside this summer. Say goodbye to the snow and hello to the beach with these <u>date ideas</u>.

Date Idea: Spend Time

Together Outdoors

Go to a nearby park or trail and go for a romantic stroll or a bike ride. Rent a bike on the boardwalk or walk hand in hand taking in the scenery. Remember, this isn't a race, so don't speed ahead or try to show off your skills. To be extra romantic, go for the tandem bike and make this a team effort. Either way, it's a fun healthy way to spend the weekend.

Related Link: Date Idea: Run in the Name of Love

Another way to take in the trees is to go on a hike. Instead of a casual walk, take it to the mountains. Bring a backpack and a camera and document your trip like a tourist. Have a date night at the top of the mountain and if you can't get to a mountain, find a hill. Spread out a blanket at the top and take in your surroundings with your partner by your side.

Related Link: Date Idea: Run Outta Moonlight

When you're done with your intense outdoor activities, take a break from your exercise and sit under the stars. Maybe drive to a lookout point or a camp site for a romantic dinner. Just enjoy each others company while nighttime hits and a cool breeze falls over you. Follow this dating advice and snuggle up under a blanket or borrow his sweatshirt on this weekend date idea.

Where outdoors would you take your loved one? Comment below!

Weekend Date Idea: Kick off

Summer 2016 With A Bang





Updated by Stephanie Sacco

There's nothing like the start of the summer to get you in the mood for fun. With the hot weather and the good company there's so much you can do. It's time to shed your layers and break out your sunglasses. Cupid's got some <u>date ideas</u> for you:

Top Three Date Ideas That Scream Summer

1. Outdoor cooking: Spend as much time as you can outdoors this summer. Plan a picnic or BBQ and soak up the sun's rays while you enjoy some tasty food. Invite some friends or family

over and take a dip in the pool (if you have one) or take the picnic to go and have a beach bonfire.

Related Link: What Your Favorite Summer Song Says About Your Relationship Style

2. Camping: There's nothing more romantic than being in the wilderness alone with your partner. Under the stars, you can snuggle up under a blanket or in your tent and enjoy each other's company without any noisy distractions of the city. Take this dating advice as it'll be a great way to spend quality time with your sweetheart and be one with nature this summer.

Related Link: New Celebrity Couple Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris BBQ for Fourth of July

3. Amusement parks: If you're an adventurous person and want to take your partner for a ride, then go to an amusement park or carnival. There's something adorable about going on the Ferris wheel together or screaming your head off on a speedy roller coaster. Find a place that has a fireworks show and maybe make some fireworks of your own for this date idea.

Have suggestions on other ways to start the summer off right? Comment below!

Weekend Date Idea: Test Drive Your Relationship





Updated by Stephanie Sacco

Are the usual <u>date ideas</u> like dinner and a movie boring you? If so, change it up with something a little bit more exciting and something with a little more speed. Cupid has some suggestions.

Top Three Car Related Date Ideas

1. Test driving: Even if you don't need a new car, you can still test drive them. Sitting behind the wheel of a brand new car and experiencing which ones are the best to drive is fun, especially if you bring your partner. It's a great way to live it up without investing in a luxury vehicle.

Related Link: <u>Dating Advice: 5 Steps To Securing A Second Date</u>

2. Auto shows: If you absolutely love cars or you know your partner does, attend an auto show. Hold hands while you window shop for a new car. Again, you don't have to buy anything so it's not going to be an expensive date idea.

Related Link: <u>Dating Advice: 3 Ways to Master the Art of the First Impression</u>

3. Road trips: Even if it's only somewhere local, it's fun to take a trip. Roll the windows down and take your partner on an adventure that they'll never forget. Take this dating advice as it'll be a great way to spend quality time with your sweetheart even if there's no destination in sight.

Do you have any great date ideas involving cars? Comment below!

Date Idea: Stroll Through the Farmer's Market





By Amanda Martin. Updated by Mary DeMaio

Enjoy the spring weather with this weekend <u>date idea</u> by visiting a farmer's market with your significant other. You'll find individual vendors — mostly farmers — who set up booths to sell locally grown products.

Great Date Idea for the Warm Weather

Stroll around, smell the flowers and try all of the food samples, from the aged Gouda to the warm loaves of sourdough bread. Be inspired by what's in season and grab the ripest, red apple to snack on while walking around with your honey. If you're in the mood for lunch, you can find all of the ingredients here to make your very own picnic for two.

Related Link: 10 Great Date Ideas Under \$50

For this date night, pair your meal with a regional wine, and head to the nearest park. Or, buy fresh vegetables to bring home and cook up with your partner using a recipe idea from

one of the vendors. Either way, you'll be trying something new and saving on the cost of the bill from an expensive restaurant.

Related Link: Date Idea: Go Strawberry Picking

No Farmer's Market visit is complete without a delicious tasting dessert. You can make a sweet treat out of the fruits you purchased or enjoy the fresh baked blueberry pies, apple tarts and lemon bars that are nicely packaged and ready to bring home and enjoy as a couple for this date idea.

Have you ever gone to a farmers market with your partner? Share your stories below!

5 Stars in Open Celebrity Relationships





By <u>Katie Gray</u>

They say that communication is key! Apparently open relationships are quite common right now with <u>celebrity couples</u>. However; just because someone starts out with an open relationship doesn't mean they can't later on be monogamous. Many <u>celebrity relationships</u> have started out more casual and open, but have led to monogamous marriages later on. When it comes to <u>relationship advice</u>, it's clear that communication and trust are imperative.

Cupid has compiled five stars in open celebrity relationships:

1. Hugh Hefner & Playmates: Hugh Hefner is the iconic founder of Playboy and is probably the most open in regards to open relationships. He notoriously has several girlfriends at one time, and often they would all live together with him in his Playboy Mansion. When he attends red carpet events, he always has a string of pretty girls by his side. Typically his girlfriends are Playmates, meaning they're in his magazine.

The hit reality show, *Girls Next Door*, revolved around his girlfriends: Holly Madison, Kendra Wilkinson and Bridget Marquardt. However; right now he is married to Crystal Hefner.

2. Robin Thicke & Paula Patton: Music industry veteran, singer and songwriter, Robin Thicke is married to actress, Paula Patton. He told Howard Stern in an interview that out of respect for his wife, he wouldn't talk about open relationships. However; he didn't deny having one so many people have assumed they sometimes have an open relationship. As long as they're happy in their celebrity marriage, that is all that matters.

Related Link: 8 Celebrity Couples Who Were Friends First

- 3. Mo'Nique & Sidney Hicks: Mo'nique, comedian and actress, is married to fellow actor and producer Sidney Hicks. She openly told Barbara Walters that they have an open relationship. Although; many suspect that she doesn't participate in that often. It is clear though, that communication and trust is present and that is what counts.
- 4. T-Pain & Amber Najm: Rapper T-Pain saw a lot of success in the mid 2000's. He is married to Amber Najm, and has said publicly that they don't have an open relationship, but they do sleep with other girls together. Basically, they create things on their own terms.

Related Link: Hollywood's Most Unexpected Celebrity Couples

5. Francois Hollande: Celebrities in the entertainment industry are not the only ones who practice open relationships sometimes. Apparently the French President, Francois Hollande, is very open about having a girlfriend, in addition to a mistress. He puts everything out on the table for everyone. It's good he is not keeping secrets or being shady, but some still question his decisions.

Who are your favorite stars in open celebrity relationships?

Celebrity Interview: Virtually In Love's Iyanya Discusses His Online Relationship





Interview by Lori Bizzoco. Written by Dena Linzer.

Iyanya and Maria met and began dating online. Their story is just one of the many relationships followed on Oxygen Media's new reality TV show, *Virtually in Love*. The show takes

the popularity of online dating and creates an exciting reality TV experience, where we follow young and eager couples as they progress in their relationships. Cupid's Pulse had the pleasure of getting to know Iyanya and Maria in our exclusive celebrity interview.

Virtually In Love's Iyanya Discusses Online Relationship & Provides Relationship Advice in Celebrity Interview

An unlikely place to find love, the social networking app, Instagram brought Maria and Iyanya together. "I was not looking to date anybody. I liked her humor and I thought she was attractive," Iyanya says of Maria, a 33-year-old lash stylist living in Sweden. After several months of talking through direct messenger on Instagram, the two got to know each other and soon found themselves in a relationship.

Related Link: Dating Advice: The Psychology of Online Dating

The Brooklyn native was not concerned about the distance between himself and Maria, although he resides in Brooklyn, NY and she was living in Sweden. He considered it a "low-pressure situation." At first, Iyanya did not rush into the relationship, wanting it to form organically and not feel forced. The current model, actor, and DJ had no intention of dating and was focusing on his career. But the couple instantly fit together, "It didn't take long to realize we actually enjoyed each other."

The concept of *Virtually In Love* is that audiences get to know a couple that has been in an online relationship while watching them as they break down barriers by meeting in person and being introduced to their significant other's friends and

family. For Iyanya and Maria, they dated for four months before deciding to take their relationship to the next level and meet in person. Their initial meeting was in Brooklyn, in front of the show's cameras and they definitely felt the pressure. However, Iyanya said he was happy to finally connect with Maria face-to-face, "I felt alive," he says of their first encounter. Maria stayed with Iyanya for a week. "I loved the way she smelled," something unattainable and unknown through an online connection.

When asked if there was anything unexpected that he felt when they first met, Iyanya mentioned that Maria was shorter than he expected. But meeting in person did not change the emotional part of their relationship too much,"the vibe was always there" he said in our celebrity interview. He went on to explain that there were some big differences between talking online and meeting in person, and the emotional aspect of their relationship was online, but now in-person they introduced the physical aspect as well.

Related Link: Love Advice: What Makes A Great Online Dating Profile

When it comes to relationship advice and tips for dating online, Iyanya stresses the importance of naturally getting to know someone and not forcing a relationship. "In relationships, people tend to prematurely get together," he says. The self-described people person feels it's crucial to be true to yourself in online relationships because the truth will come out either way. "Know yourself," he advises.

Keep up with Iyanya and Maria's celebrity relationship on *Virtually In Love* and find out if they stayed together or drifted apart.

Virtually In Love premieres Tuesday, May 24 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on Oxygen Media.

Date Idea: Make Your Own Memorial





By Amanda Boyer. Updated by Mary DeMaio

Memorial Day weekend is the time of year when we recognize the heroic efforts of the men and women who have served our country. It also means that we have to say goodbye to spring and welcome the hot, humid weather. For this weekend date idea, take the next two days to set a plan for the rest of your summer and decide what you want to accomplish during these months with your honey.

Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend With These Date Ideas

To kick off the long weekend, have a picnic in a park. Bring some little American flags, and wear red, white, and blue to show your patriotism. Our dating advice is to leave your phones behind and spread out a comfy blanket to sit on during lunch. Use this Memorial Day date idea to talk about what this holiday means to you and share some stories about the veterans in your family.

Related Link: <u>Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn Jet Ski with His</u> <u>Kids for Memorial Day Weekend</u>

Find a parade around town and be sure to get a good spot. You can cuddle up next to your partner as you enjoy the floats and entertainers. The parade will show the ins and outs of our culture. There may even be a fun run or 5K that you can participate in with your significant other. Grab some spirited workout gear and support your honey all the way across the finish line.

Now, in honor of the holiday, it's time to make your own memorial. Grab a carving knife and head outdoors with your love. As you enjoy a romantic walk, find a tree that is near a special spot in your relationship and love — maybe where you shared your first kiss or had a big talk about the future. Carefully carve your initials into the bark. To make it even more special, add the date with a heart around it. That'll help you remember when you ventured out of your comfort zone to make your mark as a couple. Once you're done, take a picture of it for safe keeping.

Related Link: Memorial Day Getaways for Lovers

If tree carving isn't your thing, buy a few cans of spray paint and head to a deserted area of town. Proclaim your

feelings for one another with a sweet mural that represents your relationship. You and your significant other will enjoy this chance to get your creative juices flowing. Plus, years down the road, you'll smile when you think back to this special Memorial Day weekend.

To end the night on a good note, find a drive-in movie theater nearby. Breathe in the fresh air and take a trip back in time as you watch the film. You can even sneak in some ice cream or a bottle of wine to enjoy as the on-screen story unfolds.

Know another Memorial Day date idea? Comment below!

Relationship Advice: Reasons Being Nice Doesn't Lead to Love





By Josh Ringler

Being nice is fundamental to a healthy and successful relationship. It may seem obvious, but it's a very important piece of love advice to keep in mind. That being said, it does not always end in love. Countless <u>celebrity couples</u> started as good friends, yet ended up with broken hearts. Some <u>relationship advice</u> tips are below that may give you a reason to believe that being nice doesn't necessarily result in a new perfect pair!

These pieces of relationship advice will show you why it is important to be more than nice if you're looking for love.

1. Nice can be boring: Celebrity couples have their fair share of drama and it rarely ever comes from being *nice*. While being a good person should be on the forefront of your mind, it may not always add to the relationship and could create boredom.

While fighting and disagreements can jeopardize the sanctity of your relationship, being the nicest you can be or just not changing things up will definitely not help either.

Related Link: Relationship Advice: How to Find Real Love

- 2. It is expected: Societal norms state that you are supposed to be nice to everyone, regardless of how you feel about them. If you think that being congenial will instantly make you and your partner one of the next famous couples, take this relationship advice to heart, and make sure to do what is expected of you. Being nice isn't something that you should go out of your way to do; being a good person should come naturally.
- 3. Being nice isn't enough: At the same time, being nice, kind, or generous just may not be enough to make a relationship work. Making your partner laugh and just being there for them emotionally are two of the many other important relationship advice tips. If you find a way to include other ways of making the relationship work, , you will definitely improve your chances.

Related Link: Relationship Advice: 10 Emotional Stages of Being in a New Relationship

4. Welcome to the friend zone: There are two words more fearful to any couples, than almost any other words: friend zone. Being nice can absolutely get you love, but at the same time, it can also lead your prospective partner to believe that you just want to be friends, or are maybe not interested in them "in that way." If you come across as a pushover, it could be a turn off to the idea of a relationship. It could be even worse by keeping you in the friend zone for good!

Was being too nice becoming a problem for you? Did you follow these pieces of relationship advice and do more than just being nice? Comment below!

Date Idea: Enjoy the Warm Weather





Updated by Mary DeMaio

Now that temperatures have turned, you may be searching for new <u>date ideas</u> to make the most of this season with your special someone. With May finally here, it's time to go outside and soak up that sunshine. Cupid has some suggestions.

Top Three Warm Weather Date Ideas

1. Heading to the shore: If you've been wearing layers and

getting cozy in front of the fireplace all winter, then heading to the beach with your significant other would be a great weekend date idea. While there, have a competition between you and your love. See who can build the best sand castle or who can throw the Frisbee the farthest.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Outdoors with Your Other Half

2. Road trips: If you enjoy going traveling, take a trip with your partner. Better yet, visit attractions in your state that you haven't had the time to explore yet. Do you live in New York? The Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Staten Island Ferry and Central Park are a just a few amazing tourists areas.

Related Link: Enjoy the Outdoors With This Challenging Date Idea!

3. Park excursions: If you wish to relax this weekend, pack a picnic basket, grab a book and head to the park. Take this dating advice as it'll be a great way to spend quality time with your sweetheart.

Do you have any great May date ideas? Comment below!

Celebrity Interview: Reality TV Matchmaker Carmelia Ray Says, "Take Actions That Are Consistent With Your

Commitments"





By Rebecca White

On May 3, a new Myx TV original dating series premiered that tested the old cliche that "mother knows best." Carmelia Ray is the world-renowned professional matchmaker star in the new series, Mom vs. Matchmaker, which challenges a matchmaking titan with over 20 years of experience to find, train and prep a better suitor than determined moms who are inserting themselves into their single child's love life. In our exclusive celebrity interview, the relationship expert talks about the new reality TV show and gives her best love advice.

Carmelia Ray Talks New Reality TV

Show, 'Mom vs. Matchmaker'

With any reality TV show, the contestants' future happiness is on the line in the hit new series. Emotions run high and audiences are able to get a behind the scenes look at the matchmaking process. As the matchmaker, Ray is most excited for viewers to see what it takes to find a match so they can appreciate the process of working with a matchmaker. "Matchmaking is a real alternative and a great one at that," the expert says. "Viewers will be surprised at the lengths that both mom and I go to, to find the perfect match."

Related Link: Celebrity Interview: 'Full House' Star Candace
Cameron Bure Talks 'Fuller House' & Relationship Advice

The matchmaking process isn't just about finding someone who marks off checks on a list but is a creative training process. As the matchmaking titan says, "Nothing is predictable." The show features many twists and turns, because even if a choice seems obvious and makes the most sense, people tend to go with their gut, even if goes beyond what they say they want. Overall, the show also displays that mothers don't always know best. "I'm a mom and I'm willing to admit I don't always know best," Ray says with a laugh. "There's no manual and there are a hundred different ways to deal with a situation, so even though moms have a strong sense of what an outcome should be, they don't always know best."

Matchmaker Gives Best Love Advice

With summer right around the corner and summer love on everyone's mind, turning a summer fling into a full-fledged relationship can be tricky. Ray's best dating tips for summer love are to avoid sleeping with someone on the first date and take your time. "There's something to be said about saving yourself sexually," she adds. Slowly reveal yourself, because

the mystery is half the charm.

Related Link: <u>Celebrity Interview: 'RHOD' Star Stephanie</u>
Hollman Says Her Life Is All About Her Family

Along with summer love, comes wedding season. If you're single and navigating the upcoming wedding season, you don't have to bring your summer fling as a date. "It's always great to bring a date who has no expectations," the reality TV star says. "Bring a wing woman or a wingman or the DD." When you're single, going to a wedding doesn't have to have pressure or be awkward. You can bring someone who has your back and complements you so you can have a good time. But remember that the wedding day is also about your friend who is getting married. If you see that the bride is having cold feet, have them list everything that they love about their partner. "Ask them what they're really nervous about because a lot of times they are focusing on what can go wrong in the relationship," Ray says. To help your pal through this, have them remember why their partner is a good match and how their life is better with that person.

Related Link: <u>Celebrity Interview</u>: <u>Blake Cooper Griffin Gives</u>
<u>Relationship Advice & Says, "Don't Be Reckless With Other</u>
<u>People's Hearts"</u>

You may also have friends who are already married and have thriving careers and families. Managing a career and a family isn't always easy, but moms need to remember to have "metime." In order to get their energy and mood up, moms have to make themselves a priority and let their family know what they need. Busy moms can also find support groups who have similar interests and will encourage you to get involved in the community. Whether you enroll in a group that does activities you like or a group of moms that support each other, look to other people to help you out. Focusing on your relationship is a great idea, as well. Making time for romance, your career, and your family is tough, but it's all about prioritization.

"If you value your relationship, you'll make time," Ray says. "Everything else is just excuses." In our celebrity interview, the reality TV star shared that the best love advice she's ever received was to "Take actions that are consistent with your commitments." If you say you're committed to your relationship, then make sure you're calling your partner or texting them updates. If one thing is for sure: This matchmaker does not take excuses.

Mom vs. Matchmaker airs Tuesdays on Myx TV at 8 p.m. EST.

You can keep up with Carmelia Ray on <u>Twitter</u> and her <u>website</u>.

8 Celebrity Couples Who Were Friends First





By Katie Gray

They say that the best relationships stem from friendship. This is all too true for <u>celebrity couples</u> as well. Many <u>celebrity relationships</u> started off as friendships first and develop into more from there. This <u>relationship advice</u> shows us that it's important to communicate and establish a real connection first.

Cupid has compiled eight celebrity couples who were friends first:

- 1. Prince William & Princess Kate Middleton: It's well-known that this royal couple were college friends before getting together in a relationship. The rest is history, as their celebrity wedding aired for millions of viewers, and the birth of their two beautiful regal celebrity babies has been widely publicized. Long live the Royal Couple!
- 2. Ryan Reynolds & Blake Lively: Spotted! Actors Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively actually met on the set of a film and became

close friends. After that, their friendship blossomed into a loving relationship. Who says you can't mix business with pleasure? The pretty pair married in a beautiful <u>celebrity wedding</u>, had a celebrity baby and have another on the way! We can't wait to keep watching their family grow.

3. Ashton Kutcher & Mila Kunis: That 70's Show stars Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis were friends and co-stars on the hit retro sitcom. However; they both were in relationships at the time, so they just remained friends. Well after filming ended, the two united as a celebrity couple, married and have a baby daughter together. They show us that the best things in life are worth the wait.

Related Link: Hollywood's Most Unexpected Celebrity Couples

- **4. Jay-Z & Beyoncé:** Arguably music's most notable and memorable celebrity couple is <u>Jay-Z</u> and Beyoncé. They are royalty in the music industry. They married in 2008 after years of friendship and music collaboration. In 2012, they welcomed their celebrity baby, Blue Ivy Carter. It's been noted that as of 2014, the couple have sold 300 million albums together.
- **5. Will Smith & Jada Pinkett-Smith:** We love it when our favorite actors unite and show us that a celebrity relationship can last. Notable actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith first met in 1995 during her audition for a role on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. The two developed a friendship and then married and had celebrity babies together.
- **6. Marcus Mumford & Carey Mulligan:** Carey Mulligan is most known for her role as Daisy Buchanan in one of the versions of *The Great Gatsby*. It turns out that before she and Marcus Mumford tied the knot in 2012, they had actually been friends for quite some time. In fact, they were childhood pen pals. How cute!

Related Link: 5 Celebrity Couples Who Live Modestly

- **7. Ryan Dorsey & Naya Rivera:** Fellow actors Naya Rivera from *Glee* and Ryan Dorsey married in 2014 after four years of friendship. Their celebrity wedding was in Cabo San Lucas and they had their son the following year.
- 8. Kanye West & Kim Kardashian: It's no secret that rapper Kanye West, always had his sight set on reality starlet Kim Kardashian. He even says in his lyrics, "I'll admit I had fell in love with Kim, around the same time she had fell in love with him." The married couple were friends for nine years prior to getting engaged in 2014. They are now happily married with a daughter and a son.

Who are your favorite celebrity couples who started as friends first? Share below!

Relationship Advice: Author A.R. Bernard Reveals 4 Things Women Want From Men





By Mary DeMaio

It can be difficult navigating the dating circuit and everyone runs into relationship problems. While women need to understand the characteristics they are looking for in a man, men need to learn how to deal with women. The new self-help book by the certified counselor, teacher, and preacher A.R. Bernard dives into the qualities that make for a happy and satisfying relationship. His book, Four Things Women Want From A Man gives readers relationship advice on how to identify and develop the traits of maturity, decisiveness, consistency, and strength, to help couples relate to each other and enrich their connection. In this exclusive author interview, Bernard talks about his observations and the secrets to developing closeness and honesty between a man and woman.

Author Shares Best Relationship Advice On What Women Want From Men

Can you tell us briefly, what are the four things women want from a man? Is any one of the four qualities you mention more

important than the other? Or are they equally significant?

I have been married to the same woman for 44 years. My wife is the one I give a lot of credit to for teaching me over the years. This book is really my journey coming to understand these four qualities and living them out. The four things begin with maturity. Maturity does not come with age; it begins with the acceptance of responsibilities. When a man is willing to accept responsibility for his words, thoughts, motives, actions, and attitudes is when that man begins to mature and depart from the insecurities that keep him adolescent. Maturity is the foundation to the next three things.

The next is decisiveness. Men need to be decisive. It is a women's prerogative to change her mind. He needs to be able to make decisions quickly and constantly. In order to do that, he has to have a set of values and principles to guide his thinking and decision-making process. In the book, I talk about what values are, what they mean and why they are so important. Women look for decisiveness in a man, they respect that.

Next is consistency. Doing the same thing continuously. Doing the right thing, as well as being consistent in actions and words. It is important to make sure that values and actions are in agreement and line up. This gives women stability and a sense of security and safety.

Strength is the last one. Quite often this is misunderstood. By strength, I don't mean this macho attitude, illustrated by the caveman dragging the women by her hair with the club over his shoulder. When a man is strong, it means he is secure in himself and has the courage to live out his convictions. His strength allows him to be gentle and kind. Scripture says a man's kindness is what makes him attractive.

These four qualities are an integrated system. You can't have

one without the other, but I will stress that maturity is the foundation upon which they are built. Maturity has to do with integrity. Integrity is the cornerstone of character. Honesty is the core of integrity and every relationship is built on trust.

Related Link: Relationship Advice: Authors of 'Marriage Boot Camp' Reveal How To Build A Rock Solid Relationship and Love

We know our readers will be curious, why didn't you develop the four qualities that men want in a woman? If you did, what would they be?

I have to start with the women first. Like I said, it is a book written to women for men. It is getting to the men indirectly. There will be a follow-up book that talks about what men want in women. When it comes to women, men have two critical concerns. Number one: They don't want to feel controlled by a woman. It is a woman's nature to be supportive and assist the man. The second thing is men are concerned about being inadequate or incompetent in any way in that relationship. If I am going to talk about what men look for in a woman it would be around those two concerns that men have in their relationship with a woman.

Our visitors are always looking for advice on how to make the most of their personal lives. What advice would you give to a woman who can't find someone with all of these four qualities?

Once she reads the book, it is more than just four words. It is really giving her an understanding not only about men but about herself. How she is wired as a woman and why she looks for the things that she looks for. I think in understanding herself it will empower her to better relate to a man.

Related Link: Expert Dating Advice: The Help You Need to Find Love

How would you guide someone who is having a difficult time

finding a partner? What is the best way to confirm compatibility?

I would say that there is hope presented in this book. There is no one size fits all in relationships, but these principles are universal, eternal and they work. Once she understands this relationship advice she can know how to apply them to the relationship that she chooses to get involved with. I don't talk about it in this book, but there is a process to relationships and we are in a world where we want instant gratification, microwave relationships, and microwave spirituality. True valuable things require a process and we must move through that process to protect ourselves and to strengthen what we are looking to build or establish.

Relationships begin with an introduction. That is where we are introduced, but then we must spend time getting acquainted. So it moves from introduction to acquaintanceship. During the acquaintanceship process, we get to know each other, our values, what's compatible with each other, what the differences are, what our views are on relationships, family and money and all the other things that come into play. The next step, if we choose to move forward with the relationship, is to build a friendship that is about trust, transparency, and vulnerability. This all has to happen before we even think about moving to the next level called intimacy. Process is critical and too often we want to move from introduction to intimacy and that is why relationships fail.

Four Things Women Want From A Man is available now on <u>Amazon</u>. For more on A.R. Bernard visit his <u>website</u> and check out his twitter @ARBernard.

Dating Advice: 3 Ways to Master the Art of the First Impression





By <u>Josh Ringler</u>

You know, there is an obvious thing about first impressions: You only have one shot at them. A first impression can create one of the newest <u>celebrity couples</u>, or it can ruin your chance love. Many times, we hear of movie stars falling in love on the set, while we also hear about those who just didn't make the most of their premier opportunity. If you're looking to be the next Picasso of the first impression art collection, follow our pieces of <u>dating advice</u> below. With time and some practice, you can easily master the skills necessary to make a killer first impression!

These pieces of dating advice will help you master date nights and make the best first impression possible!

1. Make the situation comfortable: If you want to make a good first impression, you need to first choose the right time and place. If you met the person online and they already know something about you, this could be easy right off the bat. If you suddenly find yourself in conversation at the bar or smooth sailing on a date night, you'll be fine. However, a good piece of dating advice is to keep the conversation comfortable and high level at first. Talking about politics, marriage, or children is probably not the best start right out of the gate. Celebrity couples are great at making their first dates comfortable, even though they have the paparazzi following them around constantly. Take their lead!

Related Link: Dating Advice: First Date Fashion Do's And Don't's

2. Use body language: Consider using your body to your advantage. We're not talking about the R rated kind of way, either. Show you're interested in the conversation by keeping eye contact. Simply giving one slight touch may show your prospective partner that you're interested. You want to look like you are open to a conversation, and not too shy or reserved. Be sure to loosen up before the date night, and be prepared to start talking with confidence. Use your body, facial expressions, and emotional instincts to your benefit to start things off right.

Related Link: 5 Ways to Have a Stress-Free First Date

3. Be genuine: Don't be afraid to be yourself! That should be

the first thing on your mind. If you weren't the starting quarterback, a national champion dancer, or an academic stud, he/she probably won't mind. Try to have a good sense of humor, and make light of the things you may not be comfortable with. The other person will appreciate an honest and open person over someone who lies about who they are. "Honesty is the best policy" is not just a thing parents say to their children; it is an important step to making a great first impression.

What are some other ways to make a great first impression? Let us know below!

Relationship Advice: Mending a Split Like Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green





By Dr. Jane Greer

After five years of celebrity marriage, Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green had decided to call it quits. However, apparently their differences are reconcilable — the <u>celebrity couple</u> has reunited and is moving back in together. Sometimes it can be very helpful when two people take some time apart to evaluate how they feel about each other, and to sort out what is really important to both of them.

In the face of baby number three on board, it looks like Fox and Green have decided to join forces to work on their marriage and see if it can, in fact, work on take two.

Similarly, Patrick Dempsey and his wife recently put the brakes on their <u>celebrity divorce</u>. And you don't have to be

married to give love a second chance. Courtney Cox and her boyfriend are back together after calling off their engagement late last year.

Related Link: Megan Fox Reveals Third Pregnancy

There are many things that can drive a couple toward a breakup. Underscoring most separations are feelings of disappointment, anger, and the idea that there was something you couldn't get beyond, some impassable issue, an irreconcilable difference for which there is no clear middle ground or answer. The anger itself can make it impossible to get along, either leading to too much fighting or a cold war distance between you, both of which can bring your sex life to a complete stop. For some people, the decision to end the relationship seems like the only path out of the hopelessness and unhappiness one or each partner is experiencing. Breaking up can appear to be a way out of the stress and on the road to a better place.

That said, love is a funny thing. Just because you aren't getting along doesn't necessarily mean you have stopped loving or feeling attracted to your partner. In addition to that, some space might infuse those feelings with new life while giving you a fresh perspective on what you can and can't tolerate in your life. In other words, even though an end to your connection might seem freeing at first, it might ultimately prove to be complicated, difficult, and lonely. Suddenly those weekend trips to see his mother don't seem like that much of a sacrifice, or the fact that she chooses to go to the gym most nights instead of eating dinner with you might not leave you feeling so abandoned as long as she comes home after. Time apart allows you to evaluate what is important, and can give you the chance to decide if what once felt untenable and unacceptable might suddenly become manageable in the face of what you really have to lose. Taking a break can give you a chance to get a new outlook, while letting the anger subside. You can cool down and bring some objectivity

back into your relationship.

Related Link: Are Celebrity Exes Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield Back Together

If your relationship feels like it is at a standstill and is steeped in feelings of resentment and disappointment try this relationship advice: instead of making the decision to end it for good, consider ending it for now. Give yourselves some time apart so you can see that you actually might want to stay together — just as so many celebrities are doing lately.

Please tune in to the 'Doctor on Call' radio hour on HealthyLife.net every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are 'Shrink Wrap on Call', second Tuesdays are 'HuffPost on Call', and the last Tuesday of the month is 'Let's Talk Sex'! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at askdrjane@drjanegreer.com. Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer, and be sure to follow @DrJaneGreer on Twitter for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit http://www.drjanegreer.com.