

Do Your Friends Influence Your Relationship?



By Kerri Sheehan

There is nothing stronger than the bond between a girl and her closest group of BFFs. Best friends break their plans and bring over a trio of aloe-infused tissue boxes and a pound of your favorite jelly beans when the man you've been dating for five years tells you he's in love with the girl he just met at Starbucks. Friends are also the ones who support you when you have a Tom Cruise-like outburst after going on a date with a man who you claim is your life-long partner.

It's true that your pals can have a big impact on you, and often times, without even realizing it, this influence

includes the type of men you end up dating or whether or not you settle down with someone permanently. If you don't think that these scenarios describe your situation, ask yourself the following five questions:

1. Do your friend's judge the men you date? When dating someone new, almost everyone looks for approval from those around them. The expression on your friend's face or the body language they display when you introduce them to your new boyfriend could actually have a bigger effect than you realize. What if your friends don't like that it takes your new guy 48 hours to return your text message? Or maybe they know his last girlfriend and heard some bad things about him.

Life coach Stacia Pierce affirms this thought and says, "Men and women generally present their dates to their friends for approval, especially if they intend to deepen the relationship. The opinion of your circle is often taken into consideration and can affect a decision to either move forward or cut the relationship short."

Related Link: [Can You Date Your Friend's Ex And Keep Your Friend?](#)

2. Do your friends get along with your new man? Hearing your loved ones making negative remarks about the new guy you've fallen for can be a little disheartening. After all, we want the ones we love to also love one another, and that means having everyone in the same room on New Year's Eve, for your thirtieth birthday, or even for a Saturday evening of karaoke. In fact, when your friends and boyfriend don't get along, it can really put a strain on your life and influence whether your romance will fail or succeed.

3. Do they like and comment on your social media accounts? When we post a new photo or status update on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, the objective is that our network of friends see it and give it a retweet, like, or positive

comment. Posting a picture of you and your partner going ice skating in Rockefeller Center can give you a glimpse into the underlying emotions that your friends have about your current relationship. If your closest friends ignore the photo and don't respond, it can definitely bruise your ego. If you're feeling sad or hurt by their non-reactions, then they may have a stronger influence on your relationship than you thought.

4. Do you usually meet guys through your friends? In the past, you may have heard one of your friends squeal in excitement, "I know the perfect guy for you!" Many romantic relationships can begin via introductions from acquaintances. However, before you jump into meeting someone blindly, make sure that the person your friend wants to introduce you to has some of the same common interests or values as you do.

Amanda Wozadlo, founder and co-owner of The Dating Stylist, agrees and adds, "If your social circle doesn't have the same goals as you, that may be why your dating game is lacking. It is important to have a variety of friends who share common life goals because they can introduce you to new potential dates."

Related Link: [Should You Date Your Brother/Sister's Best Friend?](#)

5. Do your friends want to settle down or stay single? Some people tend to follow the dating styles of their friends. For instance, if your friend is in a passionate relationship and always talks about the romantic candlelit dinners that their partner prepares for them every Friday night, then you may yearn for a lover who does the same. Consequently, if your friend is single and loves that they never have to worry about falling into the toilet bowl when their new guy forgets to put the seat down, then you may see the benefits of this lifestyle.

After asking yourself these questions, there's only one thing

left to figure out: What do *you* want for your love life? If your friends truly love you, they'll support whatever decisions you make when it comes to dating and relationships, even if they don't agree with them.

Cupid wants to know: How do your pals influence your romantic life?

What to Do When Your Partner Needs Space



By Louisa Gonzales

Being in a relationship means spending time together,

communicating, and supporting each other. You want to respect your significant other and their choices, but what if that decision is your partner telling you they need space? Every person needs time for themselves and the chance to focus on their needs, without worrying about someone else's. Just because you're dating someone it doesn't mean you have to spend every single moment with them, it's something we all must learn. Cupid has some advice on what you can do, if your lover says they, "need space".

1. Define exactly what they mean: Does it mean they want space from you or your relationship? A break? It's good to establish things and ask what they're looking to get out of "having some space" and exactly what they want in terms of getting it. It will help you understand why they needed space in the first place and if the relationship is worth holding on to.

Related: [How to Handle a Clingy Partner in a Relationship](#)

2. Don't freak out on your lovebird: Take a breath and don't act on impulse, there's no need to get over emotional. There could be a million different reasons as to why your lover needs some space. Maybe they think you're smothering them or maybe they're just stressed. No matter what that reason is, if you don't want to push them further away, it is important to respect their request and not overreact. Their reasoning might have some valid points and in the long run your time apart could benefit your relationship, make it stronger, and give you the time to truly appreciate each other.

3. Do share your feelings: Express to your honey how you feel about their need for space, but let them know in a respectful and kind way that showcases your support about their decision. It will help them to take into account your feelings as well as let them know you are there for them. It is important for both of you to hear and listen to what the other has to say. Doing this can set you on right track towards working out

any kinks or issues in your relationship.

Related: [What to Do when He is Still Dating Others](#)

4. Give them their space, but get your own also: Give them what they want, but during this time on your own, take the time to focus on yourself. If your romantic mate, is getting some time for themselves, so should you. With all your free time, you can start doing the things you've always wanted to try, but never had the time to. You can also spend the time reflecting on your relationship and the best direction to take to move forward, together or apart.

What do you think you should do if your romantic interest says they "need space"? Share your tips below.

Five Tips for Falling in Love in 2014





By Melanie Mar

It's 2014 – a new year to rejoice new beginnings, celebrate new possibilities, and just maybe embrace a new love affair. It's time to shake off 2013! If you're single, here are some tips to get you ready to mingle:

1. Get ready for love: Forget bitter memories of the past and live in the present moment. Be ready for all of the opportunities that will arise in the new year. Start with a brand new idea of what love is and with a positive outlook on love to allow magical things to happen. It's your year, and bright and positive love adventures are coming your way.

Related Link: [Top 10 Things to Know About Hiring a Matchmaker](#)

2. Rock your body: It's safe to say that, when you look great, you feel great. Staying healthy is another way to prepare for love to flow into your life. You should be excited to have fun meeting people and enjoy dating again. Don't give up on your regular workouts. In order to be fully ready and open for love, keep working hard on being your best self. Positive,

healthy people do a better job of receiving love into their lives.

3. Become a chatty Cathy: Make it a point to talk to at least five people a day. Strike up a conversation at the gym; make small talk in line at Starbucks; smile while waiting to checkout at the grocery store; and give someone a compliment today. Watch how you are changed and how love comes in as you reach out. This exercise will help you become more relaxed talking to people and make first dates seem less awkward. Remember: Feeling comfortable in your own skin is key to truly enjoying the moment.

4. Believe: Simply having faith is significant for being able to fall in love again or even for the first time. Believe that it *is* possible to love and be loved this year. Don't give up hope! Love is attainable. It exists, and it's ready to enter your life when you make space for it. Remind yourself that you are worthy of a romantic miracle this year. Be conscious of creating a "clear head and clear heart," an openness and eagerness to change your current way of thinking.

Related Link: [Ways to Help Single Friends Find a Partner](#)

5. Laugh: If you really want to fall in love this year, embrace laughter. When hoping to meet a potential mate, keeping a light-hearted spirit is important to letting love in. Laughter has been described as good medicine because it helps us feel better; it's infectious; and it gets our pheromones ramped up. So make a point to find humor in everyday situations and share funny moments when talking to someone new. These good feelings will leave a lasting impression on both of you.

Keep these basic tips in mind as you open up your heart and get ready to receive and enjoy all the love that is out there for you.

[Melanie Mar](#) is a celebrity relationship specialist, matchmaker

and life coach.

Single in Stilettos Show: He Can't Love You If You Don't Love You



On this week's [Single in Stilettos](#) show, founder Suzanne Oshima talks to life stylist and mind body coach Diana Antholis about learning to love yourself. Antholis explains why self-love, self-confidence, and self-esteem are all important when it comes to falling in love with a man.

Related Link: [Find Out What Makes a Man Fall in Love](#)

For more information about Single in Stilettos shows, click [here](#).

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What is your number one tip for self-love? Tell us in the comments below!

NoGamesLove Video Dating Tips: I Miss Your Smile...But I Miss Mine More





By [E!'s Famously Single Dating Coach, Laurel House](#)

Dating Advice from E!'s *Famously Single* Laurel House on Toxic Relationships

In this week's [dating advice](#) video, relationship expert and E!'s *Famously Single* dating coach, Laurel House shares her tips for recognizing when it's time to end a toxic relationship and honor yourself and your intuition. "Sometimes the hardest breakup is when you have to do the breaking up," the dating expert explains. "You have to finally admit that this relationship isn't working."

For more information about our dating mentor, click [here](#).

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

How do you know when it's time to end a toxic relationship?
Tell us in the comments below!

Zac Efron Stars in New Film, 'That Awkward Moment'



By April Littleton

Directed by Tom Gormican, *That Awkward Moment* follows three best friends through all of the stages that come with dating someone new. The film stars Zac Efron, Miles Teller, Imogen Poots and Michael B. Jordan.

Should you see it:

Comedy fans will get a kick out of this new film. Plus, if you're familiar with any other movies Zac Efron or Miles Teller starred in, you surely won't be disappointed with *That Awkward Moment*.

Who to take:

That Awkward Moment is rated R for sexual content and language throughout. Make sure whoever you decide to drag along with you to the movies is within the appropriate age group. You can see this movie with a girlfriend/boyfriend, with a group of some of your closest friends or you maybe you might prefer to take yourself out on a little date. The choice is up to you.

Related: [The Price You Pay for a 'Free Ride' Can End Up Being Your Last](#)

How do you know when it's time to take your relationship to the next level?

Cupid's Advice:

Dating someone new can be tricky. You have to learn everything about that one specific person – their likes and dislikes, what their goals are, etc. When you're feelings for your partner begin to develop further, finding out if they feel the same way about you is another challenge all on its own. Cupid has some tips:

1. Communicate: How you're feeling about the status of your new relationship won't matter if you don't share them with your partner. When you're ready, talk to your honey about maybe taking it up a notch. The easier it is to communicate with your boo, the stronger the two of you will become as a couple.

2. Take your time: You don't need to rush how you feel, especially if you haven't been dating your partner for that

long. Before you decide to fully commit to the relationship, take the time to figure out if what you're feeling is the real deal.

Related: [Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens Split](#)

3. You just know: Sometimes you just know when you're ready to get serious with another person. You may be in love. If you can't stop thinking about your significant other, you miss them when they're away or you just simply can't imagine being with another person, then it might be time to take your relationship to the next level.

How did you know when it was time to take your relationship to the next level? Share your experience below.

Date Idea: Rent a Cabin in the Snow





By Gabriela Robles

Rent a cabin in the mountains with your partner and settle in for a comfy, romantic weekend together. Whether you're actually snowed in or just pretending to be, this is a surefire way to light the flame together.

If you're on the East Coast, check out the Poconos Mountains for some snowboarding, skiing, horseback riding and snow tubing. Or try the Woodloch Resort for an all-inclusive package deal. If you're on the West Coast, take a trip to Breckenridge Ski Resort, where you can enjoy tons of activities such as rafting, sleigh rides, balloon tours and many delicious restaurants.

Before you go, think about what you may need. Besides the cozy sweaters and warm slippers, remember to bring something fun for entertainment. A board game will bring out the playful side in you, so pack Cranium, Monopoly or Scrabble. As you and your honey get into the games, talk about which one is your favorite. Reminisce over old games you used to play or still do. Once you're done with your board games, uncork a bottle of

wine and grab a deck of cards. Maybe your partner wants to learn how to play gin rummy, or perhaps you're both skilled poker players. If all goes well, you may have a new weekly tradition on your hands: game night!

Outdoor activities are also a great way to romanticize a trip. Before jumping in the car, research the town you're staying in and find exciting things to do during your time there. Exploring a new place together will make for great memories that you'll think about for years to come. Go hiking, wine tasting and – if the snow allows – sledding to bring you two closer. When you've had enough of the cold air, head inside, cuddle up together and talk about your experiences that day. Talk about what activities you want to conquer on your next mountain trip.

This weekend is about sharing new experiences together. Whether it's your first time in this quaint mountain town or just the first time you've gone snowshoeing, focus on stepping out of your comfort zone and testing your capabilities. After a delightful few days, you and your sweetheart will be glad you had a weekend away.

Have any suggestions of places to vacation? Share with us in the comments below.

Make Your Relationship Count This Year





By Dr. Tranquility – Lydia Belton, PhD, Ct. H.A.

how to improve your love life in the new year

Many couples come to me as part of my Date Therapy for Couples protocol and ask how they can make their relationships healthier. Being each other's strongest support system and not taking each other for granted is key. These underlining core values are the bond that makes it all possible. So whether you've been married for over a decade or you're in a brand new relationship, you can still keep the romance alive. Here are five tips to help make your partnership the best it can be in 2014.

Related Link: [Create an Action Plan to Make Every Date Feel Like Valentine's Day](#)

1. Date night: Love is easy and exciting in the beginning, but as we settle into real life, there's a noticeable shift. We're not always on our best behavior – which we automatically engage in during the courtship or “honeymoon” phase – but a date night can make a big difference. Keeping your romance

fresh and making time for just the two of you is a great way to keep your love strong.

A date night can be as simple as preparing a romantic meal or as complex as planning a weekend getaway at your significant other's favorite bed and breakfast. Those of you staying at home can add a little extra romance with flowers and candles. Dress up and pretend like you're enjoying a fancy night out. Get creative and make this night your own!

2. Conflict resolution: All long-term relationships experience ups and downs, and it's important that you address the issues head-on. Find a moment in the nearby future to discuss it so neither one of you let the problem fester and get even worse. Gently, calmly, and thoughtfully share your feelings with your partner. Be sure to avoid using a fussy, loud, or defensive tone; instead, think of your situation as telling a story. Once you have the initial conversation, give yourselves about 15 minutes of alone time to fully digest everything; when you reconvene, I bet you'll work things out without any trouble.

Related Link: [3 Ways to Know He's Just That Into You](#)

3. Trust: Trusting each other enough to allow your partner the space they need is important. Take Jada Pinkett-Smith and Will Smith, for instance: While they are each other's strongest support system, they trust each other enough to enjoy their space apart as well. This time is key in allowing yourselves the blessing of missing each other. After all, they say that absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Plus, taking care of your own needs outside of your relationship will help you be a better partner. When we are nourishing ourselves, we can better nourish our joined energy, our love.

4. Real expectations: As we spend more time together, it's natural to inadvertently take advantage of your partner and vice versa. As I've said before, healthy boundaries are key.

Be fair in your expectations of your partner. For those of you who are workaholics, even if you work with your significant other, your work is your work, and your relationship is just that: your relationship. Take time to nurture and enjoy it, and it will thrive.

Think of all of the celebrity couples that have experienced long-term love: Kyra Sedwick and Kevin Bacon, Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell, and Pauletta and Denzel Washington, to name a few. There are good and bad times in all relationships, but remembering why you love your partner and what first attracted you to them will help you get through the rough patches.

We all grow and change, and we need to allow our relationships do the same. Making new memories to tie into your growth as a couple will keep your love strong.

Related Link: [Kyra Sedgwick Opens Up About Love for Husband Kevin Bacon](#)

5. Gratitude: Remember that, in this day and age, whether you're married, living together, or only dating, you always have the choice to stay or leave. Take your relationship day-by-day. Visualize where you want to be in five or ten years, and share this exercise with your partner. If you start each morning with gratitude for your partner, a day becomes a decade before you know it. True love is a gift, so be grateful for it!

Watch the Winners of the

Match.com Propose Perfectly Video Contest!



2014 "BRADY BUNCH" RECEIVES SECOND CHANCE AT LOVE WITH THE HELP OF MATCH.COM

Last November, Match.com asked their successful couples across the country who were ready to pop the question to enter to receive a proposal of a lifetime that included an engagement ring and professional proposal planning as well as a videographer to capture the entire experience. Out of hundreds of inspiring entries, **Troy and Eliza from Tampa, Florida**, were selected because of Troy's overwhelming love, admiration, and respect for Eliza, a widowed single mother of three who rarely takes time for herself. Troy (with the help of an all-star proposal team) quickly began planning the ultimate surprise for his future bride-to-be...but not before documenting their

entire love story on film, unbeknownst to her.

Background on the couple: Troy is an Arena 2 football coach and former police officer who was injured in the line of duty. He met the love of his life Eliza, a third grade special education teacher, on Match.com in February 2013. Both joined the site after previous marriages. Troy was blindsided by a divorce after 19 years, while Eliza was widowed six years ago when her husband died unexpectedly in front of their son. They each have three children (six between them), making their family a unique and modern day *Brady Bunch*. Eliza's 13-year-old daughter has severe special needs, and despite all of their obstacles, Troy and Eliza have done a great job of blending their families.

About their proposal: On the day of the proposal, Eliza believed she and Troy were simply going to be part of a documentary about successful couples that met online – making her totally unprepared for what actually happened that day. The video crew filmed them at locations meaningful to their relationship, and Troy and Eliza used a Polaroid camera to capture the special day. That evening, she was surprised in her backyard where all six kids and Troy (with a ring) were waiting for her. The entire yard was lit up, and Eliza's friends and family were also flown in to celebrate the day.

Congratulations to the happy couple!

The Do's and Don'ts of Speed Dating



By Louisa Gonzales

Make your single life more fun by starting off the New Year by trying something different. Try your hand at speed dating!. Speed dating is a quick and easy way to put yourself out there and maybe find someone you want to have a relationship with. It can either be a hit or miss, but at least you'll meet new people, gain new experience and maybe find new love. Before you head out there and give speed dating a shot, Cupid has some advice on the do's and don'ts:

1. Do dress to impress: It is important to dress nice, but not too fancy. Your best bet is to dress casual, but at the same time you don't want to come off like you just rolled out of bed and went straight there . So, find something to wear that is flattering to your body and what makes you feel good. If you look and feel your best you will be more confident and comfortable.

Related: [Celebrities Who Met Men on Blind Dates](#)

2. Don't have too high of expectations: Speed dating is supposed to be fun. Going in with too high of hopes will lead to a bigger chance of disappointment. It may also keep you from giving someone a real shot. Go in knowing what you want, but also keep in mind you're going for a chance to get out and have a good time.

3. Do be prepared to ask and receive questions: Speed dating is talking to as many people as possible in a short amount of time. The goal is to find someone you have a connection with in the little time you have. Know what you want to find in a person and potential partner. Ask about their hobbies, favorite foods and places, etc, and be ready to share your own interests with them as well.

Related: [10 Blind Date Etiquette Rules](#)

4. Don't pretend to be someone you're not: Be yourself. Let your own unique personality shine through and don't worry about trying to impress the other person. If you are trying too hard to be someone you're not it may come off as fake. You are looking for a potential lover and you want to find someone who could fall in love with the real you.

5. Do be attentive: Who knows you could find your soulmate at the event. So it's best to keep all ears on the other person and listen to what they have to say. If your mind is wandering elsewhere you might miss something important about the person. Listening carefully, will help you in the end in deciding who was your best match and who you wouldn't mind going on another date with.

What are some of your rules for proper speed dating? Share your tips below.

Date Idea: Go to an Eat-In Bakery



By Gabriela Robles

If it's too cold to enjoy the great outdoors and you and your sweetheart are going a little stir crazy at home, make a trip to a local eat-in bakery. It'll be a much-needed break from your usual routine of dining out at your favorite cafe or sports bar. Plus, you'll be able to keep warm and indulge in some delicious treats at the same time.

Eat-in bakeries will usually seat you, and then a waitress come take your order. They typically offer various supplies of

coffees, teas and hot chocolates, so you'll be able to have something to drink as you enjoy your sweet of choice. Think of tonight as a dessert date. Instead of a restaurant that smells like beer and fried food, you're in a place that holds the tempting aroma of pies and cookies. What could be a better way to spend a snowy winter night?

When you first arrive, take a careful look at the drink and dessert menus; seek out new treats that you think sound tempting and ultimately decide together what you'd like to order. Step outside of your comfort zone and order something that you've never had before. If you're really in the mood for some sweets, order a second small dessert that you already know you love. Relax with a cup of your favorite dessert-esque drink as you and your man chat about your weeks and take in the scent of the sugary bakery.

Consider trying a slice of Mississippi Mud pie with a macchiato or indulge in a piece of apple strudel with a nice, warm hot chocolate. If you're a chocolate lover, order some brownie or hazelnut cake pops along with a choco-banana frappe or a chocolate cream pie paired with a dirty chai.

After the desserts arrive, share the treats with each other. Or if you want to indulge in a more private setting, take them to go. Experience a great night filled with delicious pastries, scrumptious drinks and your loving sweetheart!

What's your favorite dessert treat to share with your date? Tell us in the comments below.

Former 'TLC' Member Rozanda 'Chilli' Thomas Denies Dating Wayne Brady



By Brittany Stubbs

Despite the rumors, Rozanda “Chilli” Thomas and Wayne Brady are *not* a couple; Chilli denies that they are dating. Although the pair were spotted together in Las Vegas last weekend at the MGM Grand allegedly holding hands, the *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* comic and R&B singer want to make it clear they’re not romantically involved. “They are not dating, they’ve never dated, they’ve only ever been friends, that’s it,” a rep for Thomas shares with [People](#). “They had dinner together after New Year’s because they were on the same show. They are old friends.”

How do you keep rumors about your dating life from escalating?

Cupid's Pulse:

So we're not all celebrities who feel the need to publicly announce and clarify who we are and are not romantically involved with, but there are still times it's important to avoid rumors starting regarding your personal life. From a professional stand point, for example, you don't want anything flying around about your dating life, especially if it involves someone in the same workplace. So avoid anything getting escalated:

1. Be cautious of body language: It's normal for the opposite sex to be affectionate to one another, even if they're just good friends. But an innocent hug, arm wrap behind the chair, or kiss on the cheek between you and your friend, can be seen as flirting and foreplay to someone else. So be both cautious and mindful of how your body language can be perceived by an outside party. If you are seeing someone but are not ready to share your new relationship with the rest of your social circle, keep the hand-holding, hand-on-knee, and any other body language that might reveal l-o-v-e, behind closed doors.

Related: [Rumor: Are Miley Cyrus and Kellan Lutz Dating?](#)

2. Be careful on social media: So you may think the picture you uploaded of you and [insert name] grabbing dinner and drinks one night is totally harmless; everyone knows you and him are just friends, you believe. But this is false and can actually be used as proof to confirm someone's suspicions. So if there's already some possible whispers about you and someone being more than just work pals, avoid posting anything that might add fuel to the fire.

Related: [Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez Reunite in Instagram Photo](#)

3. Confront the rumors: At the end of the day, the easiest way to dissolve rumors or gossip is by facing them head on. If you know there is someone spreading around something about your personal life, approach them about it and lay out the facts. Approaching them while other people are around is a way to publicly confront the rumors and set the record straight.

How do you keep rumors about your dating life from escalating? Share your thoughts below.

Single in Stilettos Show: First Date Tips for Women





Dating coach Nando Rodriguez has helped his clients open their eyes to love and find The One, so it's only fitting that he shares his first date tips on this week's [Single in Stilettos](#) show. He discusses first date expectations and preparations; the biggest mistake you can make when it comes to dating; why your checklist may be keeping you single; why you should stop thinking so much; whether or not you should go on a second date with him; and more.

Related Link: [Five Conversations to Avoid on a First Date](#)

For more information about Single in Stilettos shows, click [here](#).

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

What's your best first date tip? Tell us in the comments below!

Q&A: When Is It Appropriate to Send an Event Invite via Facebook?



Question from Amanda G.: *My college roommate just invited me to a wedding reception via a Facebook “event”. While I understand the family’s need to save money, I find it classless and tacky. So when is it appropriate to send an event invite via Facebook? Should I let her know that I didn’t find this appropriate?*

Answer from Our Love Experts:

[Suzanne Oshima, Matchmaker](#): While I'm not an etiquette expert by any means, if she sent you a Facebook event invitation to the wedding ceremony, that would be quite inappropriate. However, this is an invitation to the wedding reception. While a formal invitation to the reception would have been ideal...let's face it, wedding receptions are very expensive. Apparently, she's on a tight budget, so I'm sure she felt this was one of the ways she could cut back on expenses.

It is her wedding, so try not to be so judgmental about something so trivial as an invitation. And just try to be a good, supportive friend who is happy for her about her wedding – I'm sure you would want her to do the same for you!

[Robert Manni, Guy's Guy](#): Being invited to a friend's wedding is an honor. Although you wouldn't choose a Facebook event for your own wedding invitations, this is a personal decision, and it isn't *your* wedding. If you feel strongly about her choosing to use Facebook for the invitation, you can always decline...via the Facebook event page.

If you decide to attend her special day, leave your judgements at home. After all, you don't know why she elected to use Facebook events for her wedding invitation. It could have been a financial issue, and if so, as a friend, you have to respect that and have the tact not to make her feel bad about it.

[Paige Wyatt, Reality Star](#): Finding new, innovative ways to make a wedding – and the wedding planning easier – is important to every bride-to-be. That being said, a Facebook invite may be a little inappropriate for a wedding, but there is no point in bringing it up to your roommate since it's already been sent. Everyone has their own style and vision for their wedding, and maybe the reception invitation was less important to her than the other factors.

An appropriate event to send a Facebook invite for would be much more casual soiree, like the housewarming party *after* the

wedding.

For more information on our three dating and technology gurus, click [here](#).

If you have any questions you would like answered by our experts, please submit them on our [Contact Page](#).

When do you think it's okay to send an event invite via Facebook? Share your story below!

NoGamesLove Dating Video Tips: Dating Power Tools



By [E!'s Famously Single Dating Coach, Laurel House](#)

Dating Advice from E!'s *Famously Single* Laurel House on Dating Power Tools

Have you ever wondered what you need to bring on a date – not literally but mentally? In this week's [dating advice](#) video, relationship expert and E!'s *Famously Single* dating coach, Laurel House reveals the dating power tools that “make you feel better and look better and prepare you for a date.” The dating expert covers everything from eating a base food (did you know asparagus helps to minimize your chances of having a hangover after a drinking date?) to depuffing to calming those butterflies in your stomach and increasing your confidence (hint: wear red). Good luck!

For more information about our dating mentor, click [here](#).

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Cupid wants to know: What are your dating power tools?

How to Handle a Clingy Partner in a Relationship





By April Littleton

Wanting to be around your love on a regular basis is perfectly normal, but sometimes individuals can get a little out of control with their feelings and end up smothering their boyfriends/girlfriends. Clingy behavior can result in a bad breakup. If you're in a similar situation right now, Cupid has some advice:

1. Set some rules: When it comes to your space and privacy, set some boundaries for your partner to follow. Having your significant other follow ground rules and vice versa will keep your relationship running smoothly.

Related: [What to Do when He's Still Dating Others](#)

2. Spend time apart: Don't play along with your partner's little game. You don't have to spend every waking minute with your boyfriend/girlfriend out of fear of upsetting them. They need to learn how to trust in you, your relationship and let go of all other insecurities if they want to maintain a relationship with you. You had your own life before you met

your significant other, and it's guaranteed they had the same before meeting you. Continue to spend time with your friends and family and carry on with your day-to-day schedule.

3. Express your concerns: If you see any red flags in your relationship, let your partner your worries and concerns. Don't let your honey continue to carry on with behavior you don't condone it. If you feel smothered or you can't seem to get a moment alone for yourself, sit your significant other down and tell them how you're feeling. If they continue on with their excessive, controlling behavior, you might need to start thinking about ending the relationship.

Related: [10 Ways to Make a Long Distance Love Work](#)

4. Listen to their fears: Most companions resort to clingy behavior out of fearing of losing their partner. Sometimes, they could be still holding on to old feelings from past relationships or they might just have a problem with jealousy. Whatever the case may be in your situation, help your significant other feel at ease by listening to their issues. Talking it out and reassuring your commitment to the relationship might help with the problem the two of you are facing together.

5: Make an effort to bond: All your partner may be looking for is some attention from you. Make an effort to spend some time with him/her if the two of you haven't really been seeing each other on a regular basis. Spend the day doing some of your honey's favorite activities, and end the evening by doing some of yours. The time you spend together might cure your significant other's need to cling to you so tightly.

Related: [Ways to Help Single Friends Find a Partner](#)

6. Call it quits: If you've tried everything and your partner is still showing signs of clinginess, the issue might be more serious than you think and you should think about ending the relationship. Your love could be dealing with bigger problems

than the ones he/she is letting on, so it would be a good idea to take a step back from the relationship until they can figure out what they'll need in order to feel secure with the person they love.

How did you handle a clingy partner in a relationship? Share your experience below.

10 Ways to Make a Long Distance Love Work



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

Long distance relationships aren't always easy, but that

doesn't mean they're not worth the extra trouble. In truth, they *do* take a bit more effort, but with these 10 tips, you'll overcome the miles separating you and your significant other.

1. Talk every day: No matter how far apart you are, a simple phone call will work wonders. Hearing your loved one's voice will not only make your day better; it'll also make you feel like a bigger part of your partner's day.

2. Take advantage of technology: Sure, you can't cuddle on the couch as you watch *Scandal* on Thursday nights...but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy it *together*. FaceTime or iChat will allow you to share in your TV-watching night; that way, when you're in the same place again, you'll both know what Olivia Pope and Fitz have been up to.

Related: [7 Secrets to Make a Long Distance Relationship Smokin' Hot](#)

3. Talk about each other: Just because your BFF may not know your boyfriend well doesn't mean you can't talk about him. Reminiscing about your last kiss or sharing your excitement over seeing him again with your girlfriends will bring the two of you even closer.

4. Plan ahead: In any relationship, it's important to have something to look forward to – whether it be a simple date night at your favorite Italian restaurant or a romantic trip to Turks and Caicos. When you live in different cities, it's even more important to pencil in your next get-together.

5. Save up: With that thought in mind, you have to save your money for those frequent plane tickets or road trips. You never want that big sale at Bloomingdale's to get in the way of seeing your someone special.

6. Send presents: On those weekends when you can't visit your man, send a sweet care package or simple card to let him know

you're thinking about him. Even something silly like a box of his favorite cereal will show that you pay attention to what he says – a little thing that make a big difference.

7. Text, text, text: Yes, you need to try to fit in a phone call every day, but texts will help you stay even more connected. If you get a supportive e-mail from your boss or totally screw up during your important presentation, shoot him a quick text to tell him how you're feeling. You can discuss your days in more detail later in the evening.

Related: [4 Ways to Make Your Long Distance Relationship Work](#)

8. Stay positive: Like any relationship, you'll experience ups and downs – only those low moments may be even harder to handle without his arms around you. Surround yourself with pictures and special momentos from your time together. They'll help remind you why you're putting up with the long distance in the first place.

9. Feel confident: Be sure of yourself when it comes to your relationship. It's easy to let the lack of physical closeness translate to lack of trust or jealousy.

10. Think about the future: At a certain point, you have to decide if you want to make a real commitment to your significant other. Are you willing to give up your job, your house, and your social circle to relocate for your love? If so, tell him you're ready to take that next step.

Cupid wants to know: What's your best tip for making a long distance relationship last?

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: How to Be a Better Partner



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

If one of your resolutions is to be the best girlfriend you can be, we're here to help! Thanks to these great articles from our partners, you'll be off to a fantastic start.

1. Reflect on your love: The New Year is the perfect time to think back on the past twelve months and look forward to the future. Consider these touching quotes from well-known authors, artists, and poets. Maybe you'll even be inspired to write some sweet words of your own!

2. Partner up: Take a cue from *Real Housewives of New York* star Jill Zarin and join your man in supporting a cause that's

close to both of your hearts.

3. Make him happy: Make your partnership the best it can be by focusing on your beau and what keeps him smiling. Guys aren't so complicated – it'll be easier than you think!

4. Fully commit to your beau: With next week's premiere of *The Bachelor*, you'll be obsessing over what lucky lady is going to win Juan Pablo's heart before you know it. Why not focus on your own man instead and help your relationship grow even stronger?

5. Take the next steps: If you've been with your someone special for the past few weeks and know that he's a keeper, it may be time to take your relationship to a new level. Consider these five tips as you plan your first overnight date.

How will you become closer to your partner this year? Tell us in the comments below.

Single in Stilettos Show: How to Flirt With a Guy





If you're hoping to find love in the new year, this [Single in Stilettos](#) show is for you! Founder Suzanne Oshima chats with dating coach Hunt Ehthridge to uncover the secrets of flirting. Ehthridge, who believes that flirting is the best way to show a guy you're interested in him, shares his top three tips: eye contact is key; appropriate touching is allowed; and playful teasing can be fun.

Related Link: [7 Ways to Flirt In a Web 2.0 World](#)

For more information about Single in Stilettos shows, click [here](#).

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Cupid wants to know: What's your go-to flirting move?

Dating with Dogs: Picking Out a Pet Together



By Eric Bittman, CEO/President of [Warren London](#)

Picking out a pet as a couple can be a cause of stress in a relationship. The biggest choice is usually deciding whether you want a big dog or a small one, but it can be much more complicated than that.

There are many factors in determining what breed you and your partner should choose. First and foremost, consider your family size and future plans. Some dogs are known to be great with kids, while many breeds are too aggressive for little kids. Some of the best breeds with small children in the house are Beagles, Poodles, Labs, and Golden Retrievers.

Related Link: [When Your Pet Is a Deal Breaker](#)

Another factor can be how much exercise you're able to give to your dog. Some dogs – like French Bulldogs and Pugs – need walks and exercise but would be great apartment dogs. Other breeds, including Huskies and Labs, require a lot more space and are quite energetic. If you and your partner aren't home much or live in a very harsh climate, a dog who is happy spending most of his time indoors would be ideal for you.

And sometimes, you have to choose a dog because of his personality. When my wife and I lived in New York City, our main concern was getting a pet that would be happy in a small apartment. My allergies to longer-haired breeds and a dislike for heavy shedding also narrowed our options, but we still had a big number of breeds to consider. One day, my wife told me that she saw a cute Boston Terrier on the street with the funniest personality, and after a little research, we were able to make a relatively quick decision. We loved the breed so much that, after a year, we added a friend for Maurice – our new pup, Brittney, also a Boston Terrier. We can't imagine our lives without these cuddly black and white pals.

Related Link: [Brandon McMillan Chats About Finding Homes for Pets on 'Lucky Dog'](#)

No matter how you decide what kind of breed to bring into your family, you'll know when you find the right dog!

For more information about Eric Bittman, click [here](#). Stay tuned for next month's Dating with Dogs column.

Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Find True Love in the New Year



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

The start of a new year is like a blank slate. It's the perfect time to evaluate your goals and figure out what you want to accomplish over the next 365 days. If you're single and ready to settle down, use these great articles from our partners to open up your heart to love in 2014:

1. Get inspired: Thanks to these 50 romantic quotes, you'll be more than ready to find the relationship you deserve. So snuggle up with a cup of hot cocoa and get ready to be inspired! (YourTango.com)

2. Rediscover your passion: It's easy for romance to take a

backseat during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Whether you're partnered up with someone who you think may be your soulmate or you're working up the courage to say hello to your crush, these four tips will help you reignite your love life. (GalTime.com)

3. Tap into technology: If you want to settle down in the new year, it's time to change your approach to dating. Use this foolproof advice to perfect your online dating skills and meet the man of your dreams. (YourTango.com)

4. Take a deep breath: Former *Baywatch* star Gena Lee Nolin encourages us to enjoy this time of year – whether you're single, in a new relationship, or happily married with four children (like she is!). After all, "true happiness comes from within." (Celebrity Baby Scoop)

5. Ring in the new year with someone new: Just because you're single doesn't mean you can't have a fantastic New Year's Eve. Why not find a single guy and plan a first date for December 31st? Sparks may fly! No matter what you decide to do, reflect on the past year and set clear goals for the coming twelve months. (GalTime.com)

How will you find true love in 2014? Tell us in the comments below!

**NoGamesLove Video Dating
Tips: Get Over an Ex By**

Acting Like Him



By [E!'s Famously Single Dating Coach, Laurel House](#)

Dating Advice from E!'s *Famously Single* Laurel House on When to Move On

It's tempting to put yourself on a dating hold after you get out of a serious relationship, but in this week's [dating advice](#) video, relationship expert and E!'s *Famously Single* dating coach, Laurel House encourages you to take a different approach. If you want to get over an ex, start acting like him! "Guys are amazing at getting over relationships, aren't they?" the dating expert asks. Girls, on

the other hand, “saturate in the pain of the breakup.” They tend to obsess and go on a life hiatus, just waiting for love to happen to us again. Here, House shares her quick tips for moving on from heartbreak.

Related Link: [Heartbroken? Heal and Move On...Like I Did](#)

For more information about our dating mentor, click [here](#).

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

How did you move on after a broken heart? Tell us in the comments below.

Are Ashley Benson and Ex-Boyfriend Ryan Good Dating Again?





By April Littleton

According to UsMagazine.com, Ashley Benson and former flame Ryan Good might be dating again. The pair were seen together Friday, Dec. 20. at the Boom Boom Room in New York City. “Ryan and Ashley were kissing each other all night,” an insider said.

How do you know whether to get back with your ex or not?

Cupid’s Advice:

You and your ex might have mixed feelings about each other, especially if the two of you are still in each other’s lives. Should you try to rekindle the flame? Would giving love a second chance hurt the friendship the two of you managed to develop? Cupid has some tips:

1. Still on good terms: The breakup between you and your ex wasn’t too bad. In fact, you and your former flame are still really good friends. If things ended on a good note, there is still a chance the two of you can make things work. You know where it went wrong, so you should be able to fix it.

Related: [New Couple? Courteney Cox Takes Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid to Jennifer Aniston's Party](#)

2. Can't get over it: When you think about the love lost between you and your ex, you're filled with regret. Sometimes, you don't realize what you have until it's gone. If your ex spends a lot of time with you, then he/she is obviously not over you either.

Related: [New Couple? Ryan Seacrest Steps Out with Shayna Terese Taylor on Vacation](#)

3. You're still in love: If you're still in love with your ex and believe you can fix the mistakes in your relationship, then give it another chance. The heart wants what it wants and you ignoring your real feelings will only make the situation worse.

How did you know whether to get back with your ex or not? Share your experience below.

Single in Stilettos Show: My Biological Clock is Ticking Away!





In this week's [Single in Stilettos](#) show, our Executive Editor and Founder [Lori Bizzoco](#) chats with Suzanne Oshima about dating when your biological clock is ticking away. Still looking for The One when you're in your late 30s and early 40s can be tough, but it's worth the wait. Bizzoco offers her best three tips: don't freak out; communicate your feelings to your partner; and consider freezing your eggs. For more information about Single in Stilettos shows, click [here](#).

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Cupid wants to know: How do you handle a ticking biological clock?