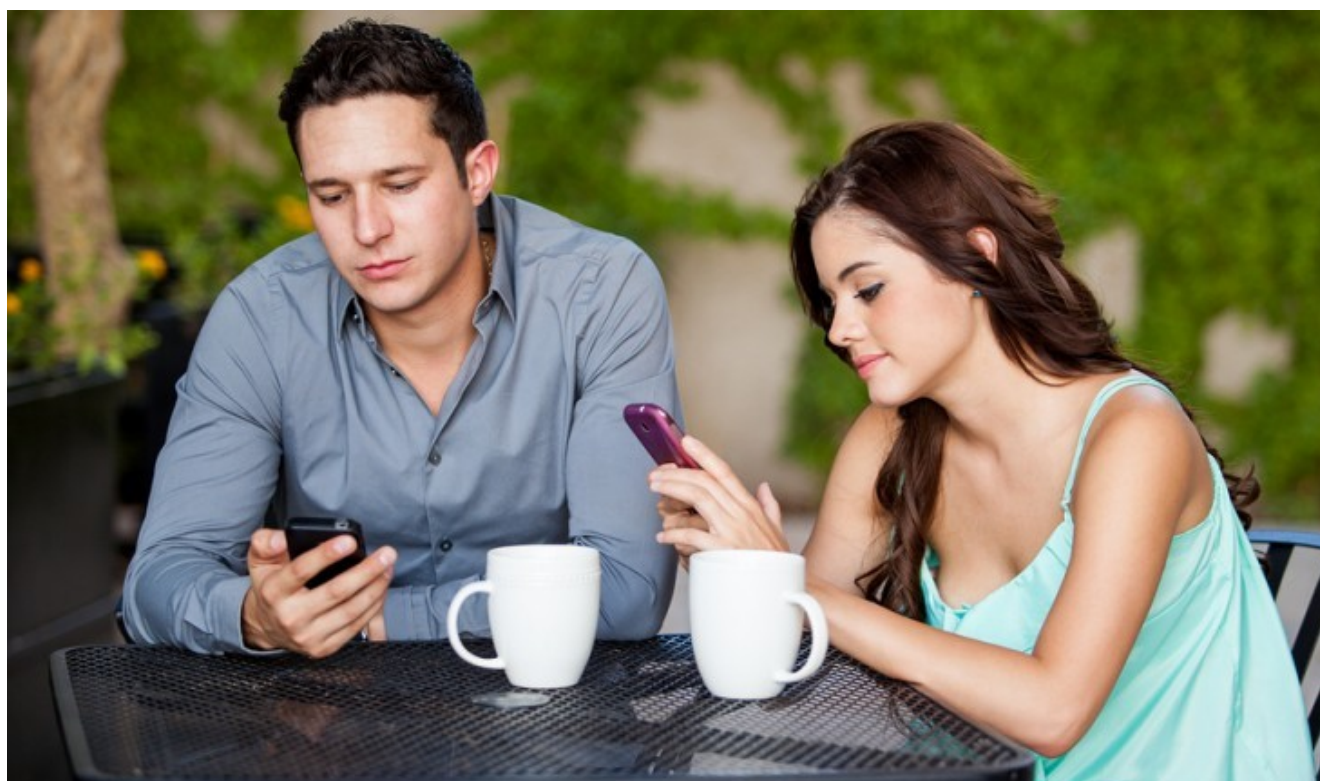


5 Ways to Avoid a Bad Date Before It Happens



By [Michelle Danzig](#)

Bad dates are inevitable. Many magazines even feature an entire page devoted to embarrassing and awful [date](#) stories submitted by avid readers. Prepare yourself, because everyone will experience an awkward, boring or just plain awful date at least once in their lives. The talkative; the obnoxious; the rude; the stand up—we've all been there. With the New Year here and [Valentine's Day](#) approaching, you may find yourself scrambling to find dates. Don't just settle because you may end up discouraged. Here are some excellent tips from the [experts](#) on how to avoid a bad date before it happens:

1. Get to know each other first. With today's technology, there is no reason to not get to know the person you are

planning on spending a potentially romantic evening with. If you met on an [online dating](#) site, this may have already happened. Online relationships have become extremely successful because you must read a person's profile before meeting them. [Dateologist Tracey Steinberg](#) says, "Always speak on the phone for at least 10 minutes to see if you have anything to talk about and if he can hold up his end of the conversation. It requires a lot less energy to end a bad phone call than a bad date." Similarly, dating relationship advisor and comedian [John Powers](#) recommends "When you're exchanging emails, texts, or phone calls you should listen carefully for awkwardness, hesitation or anything unusual. If this person is social and friendly then they should come across as natural and relaxed through any type of [communication](#) exchange. Pay attention to how they express themselves. If you sense anything out of the ordinary you should cancel the date."

Related: [Date From Hell: 10 Ways to Get Out of It, Tactfully](#)

2. Make a mutual decision on the venue. If you don't like sports at all, don't agree to go to a sporting event. If you hate jazz music, don't offer to take your [date](#) to a jazz club. Powers says, "Being in an uncomfortable situation always makes for a bad date. Arrange to meet in a public place where

you feel safe and secure. Go someplace you have been before and allow the date to be whatever it will be."

3. Keep it short and sweet. Dating Coach and the author of the book *Gratitude, Giggles & Grace*, [Tracy Fagan](#), recommends starting with a small investment. She says, "For first dates, only [commit](#) to coffee or a drink. You can make it through 30-45 minutes, no problem. If you commit to a full meal, you may sign up for more than you really want to invest."

Related: [Getting Back in the Dating Game This New Year](#)

4. Don't go on a date immediately after a breakup. No matter

how you feel after a breakup, going on a date right away is not a great idea. Take some time to reflect on and heal from your [breakup](#) before you end up chewing off your date's ear talking about your [ex](#). Powers also recommends not rushing into dates. He says, "Being in a hurry leads to desperation and lack of interest. To avoid a bad date it is important that you do not accept every date that is offered to you. Be selective and feel free to turn down a date if it doesn't fit your schedule [or needs]."

5. Trust your instincts. According to Fagan, If something doesn't feel right, it most likely isn't right. She says, "Even if you have agreed to meeting, and over the course of continued conversation, if the other person starts making you feel uncomfortable—politely—cancel the date. One of my dating mantras that share in my book says, 'You can't make Mr. Wrong right and you can't make [Mr. Right](#) wrong.'" Similarly, Powers suggests, "Bail on a date if you're just not feeling it. There is probably a good reason you were not feeling it."

What are some ways you avoid a bad date before you go on it?

Simple Ways to Please Your Man





By John Powers

Contrary to popular belief, men are simple creatures. It doesn't take much to make us happy. All you have to do is find out what your man likes and then take an interest. That's honestly all it takes. Spend quality time together doing things you both appreciate and your relationship will flourish. Here are some ways to make that happen:

Enjoy each other's company.

Laugh, smile, and be silly and lighthearted. It may sound impossible, but it's necessary to eliminate stress. Do this by sharing inside jokes and special moments. A good relationship will bring out the best in both of you, and you should look forward to being together. Most guys are low-maintenance, and we want our downtime to be carefree.

Related: [She's Got Game: The Women's Guide to Loving Sports](#)

Make together time count.

Each of us has a different schedule, and it's important to

make the most of time together doing things you both enjoy like playing tennis, going wine tasting, or watching a movie.

Plan exciting activities that involve cooperation and interaction and you will build great memories of time spent together. Take plenty of pictures but avoid distractions like text messages or phone calls.

Appreciate relaxation.

Some guys like watching the game with a beer, while others prefer chess and pomegranate juice. Sit beside him, pour yourself a drink, and snuggle up to him. If you discover your guy enjoys road trips it might be fun to plan one. If your man likes playing guitar it would be good of you to listen, or take piano lessons.

Related: [Signs to Know He Is The One](#)

Rest assured.

There's nothing that will scare a man away faster than insecurity, but if your man is satisfied in bed and on weekends then you have nothing to worry about. Men are straightforward creatures and you should be confident that your man is happy unless he tells you otherwise.

So enjoy each other, relax, and stop asking questions.

John Powers is a heterosexual, single male. He does graphics for TV by day and standup comedy by night. He enjoys playing and listening to rock music, driving around with the top down on his convertible, walking aimlessly around Manhattan, and sipping on deep red wine near the beach.