

10 Blind Date Etiquette Rules



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

As tricky as it is to navigate the dating world, a new type of pressure is added to the meet-up when it's a blind date. It may be the first step to finding lasting love, or it may be the worst date of your life. Even so, everyone should experience a blind date at least once. You're sure to learn something about yourself and what you want in a mate. Read on for 10 blind date etiquette rules to keep in mind before getting together with your mystery man:

1. Don't drag your feet. Rather than postponing the date or holding off on meeting for a few weeks, schedule a get-together as close to the initial fix-up as possible. "The longer you have to exchange digital communication, the longer

you'll have to create a fantasy that this date will be the perfect mate," says author and relationship expert Dr. Wendy Walsh.

2. Keep your expectations in check. It's natural to have some hopes or doubts about the date, but keep an open mind. Even if you have an instant connection, there's bound to be an awkward moment or two. Dr. Walsh adds, "Creating a build-up, site unseen, can set you up for a big crash."

Related Link: [How to Ease Your Nerves Before a Blind Date](#)

3. Ask your matchmaker for details. Don't hesitate to ask the friend who set you up for intel about your date. If you're lucky, you can get an idea of what type of guy he is and what type of girls he's dated in the past. Plus, you can identify a few common interests to keep in mind when conversation grows quiet.

4. Dress like a lady. Since a blind date eliminates the usual pre-dating process, it's particularly imperative that you make a great first impression. When he first lays eyes on you, he won't be seeing your charming personality or quick wit. He'll only be noticing what you're wearing, so keep it classy. Save your distress (but very trendy) jean jacket or fanciful headband for next time.

5. Come prepared. As Dr. Walsh explains, "In these days of gender equality, it's perfectly acceptable to bring your own car and your own money to a blind date." It's also the best way to keep yourself safe, as you want to have an easy exit strategy in case you feel threatened or in danger.

6. Be your best self. "You could be auditioning for the most important role of your life: being the companion to an incredible person," reminds online dating expert Julie Spira. If you're the right match for your date, you won't need to lie about who you are or even try to impress him. He'll like you for you.

7. Don't expect immediate chemistry. "It takes time to get to know someone, and relationships need to go through all seasons before you sign up for the long-term," says Spira. Also remember that your date may be nervous, so "if you aren't feeling it right away, give him a second chance."

Related Link: [Why a Blind Date Might Be Good for You](#)

8. Keep the conversation light. "Just because you know someone in common doesn't mean you need to kiss-and-tell or spend the entire date talking about your past history," cautions Spira. "Ration your information flow." Sticking to surface-level topics will also keep him wanting more – you can tackle the heavier stuff on a fourth or fifth date.

9. Never walk away. No matter how poorly the date is going, it's never an excuse to be rude. Even if you see no future with this man, you can survive a few hours of harmless chit-chat. Plus, as Spira points out, "Even if there's no chemistry, your date might have a friend to introduce you to, know of a business opportunity for you, or just be a great guy to have in your life."

10. Be honest. At the end of the date, tell the truth when it comes to your feelings. There's no reason to string someone along if you have no interest in seeing him again. If you'd love to get together again, don't be shy! No matter what, be gracious as you say goodbye and know that there's someone out there for you, even if this guy's not The One.

For more information on Dr. Wendy Walsh and Julie Spira, please visit [DatingAdvice.com](#).

Tell us: What's your number one rule for a blind date?

Valentine's Day Special: How to Have an Irresistible Online Dating Profile



By Julie Spira, online dating expert and the bestselling author of *The Perils of Cyber-Dating*

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February may be the shortest month of the year, but for those anticipating [Valentine's Day](#), it's critical to ramp up your online dating search. There's no quicker way to find a date on the Internet than by starting with a cyber face-lift of your existing dating profile.

With more than 116 million members worldwide viewing online

dating sites, the odds are in your favor that you'll be able to snag a date by Valentine's Day with these tips:

1. The Lady in Red: Everyone knows that red is synonymous with love and passion. We're reminded about Valentine's Day as soon as New Year's is over. I always say the color red will attract a man. Grab a friend and your digital camera and start snapping some photos wearing your favorite red dress or sweater to grab his attention. Post three to five photos: one full-length shot, one close up and an activity or vacation shot. Not sure what to use? Check out your own Facebook profile and scan through your photos. There might be one on your favorite social networking site to post on your online dating profile.

2. Create a Catchy Screen Name: When I create irresistible online dating profiles for singles, I'm always amazed at how many singles just use the screen name assigned by Match.com, eHarmony, or on the free online dating site. There's nothing catchy about it at all. Think about a newspaper with a great headline and an interesting photo. If it captures your attention, you're more than likely to skim or read through the article. The same theory holds true for online dating. It's a competitive digital landscape out there – Suzy115279 isn't going to impress him, but ArtLover4U or HikingGal will show him what your interests are. This will make it easier for him to approach you.

3. Change your Settings: Typically, women like it when a man does the pursuing, but February is already here. You need to let him know you're available and ready to meet. How do you do this? Change your privacy settings to show you're online and open up your live chat or instant messaging service. Online dating is a numbers game and men are rejected all too often. Make it easy for him to find you. It's a crowded digital landscape and the squeaky wheel *does* get the deal.

4. Shorten your Profile: There's so much to say and so little time, but time is your friend. Don't tell your entire life story in your profile, or there's no reason for him to contact you. Shorten your profile to a simple paragraph with enough information to pique his curiosity.

5. Cast a Wide Net: So what if he doesn't look like your dream guy? If you have enough common interests, take a chance and accept a date. You never know if a great friendship will develop or if he'll have a friend to introduce you to, even if it's not a love connection. Women *do* fall in love with their best friends, so don't be too quick to judge the book by its digital cover.

Julie Spira is known worldwide as The Cyber-Dating Expert. She's the author of the bestseller, The Perils of Cyber-Dating: Confessions of a Hopeful Romantic Looking for Love Online. Julie creates irresistible online dating profiles for singles on the dating scene. Follow her on Twitter: @JulieSpira. Like her at Facebook.com/CyberDatingExpert.

Julie Spira Discusses 'The Perils of Cyber-Dating'





By [Krissy Dolor](#)

More than 40 million singles are dating online. With around 2,500 online dating sites to choose from, how can you navigate your way safely and find love on the Internet? Julie Spira's tell-all memoir, [*The Perils of Cyber-Dating: Confessions of a Hopeful Romantic Looking for Love Online*](#), can help. You'll follow her on her 15-year journey – which included 250 online dates – as she navigated the web in hopes to find an Internet mate to replace someone she thought was the love of her life. Through her romances, heartbreaks, and personal rules of “netiquette,” Spira shares invaluable first-hand knowledge on the best ways to date online.

Cupid's Advice:

Online dating has its own set of rules. Remember to be safe and savvy when on the web. Cupid caught up with the Spira via e-mail this week. Here's what the author had to say:

You were one of the first people to delve into the world of online dating. Were you scared? What were other people's

reactions?

At the time I created my first online dating profile in 1994, I wasn't scared at all. I fully embraced the Internet both personally and professionally. But, since online dating was not mainstream at that point, I told very few people that I was meeting my dates from online dating sites. I told some close friends who I thought could benefit from online dating and helped them with their online dating profiles.

What's different about cyberdating (as compared to traditional dating), and how can people adapt to it?

The main difference between cyberdating and traditional dating is that you are meeting someone that you haven't met before in real life and you are getting to know them from behind their computer screen. Online dating, Internet dating, and cyberdating are all terms used for those using online dating sites, chat rooms, video dating, and social dating sites. This also includes social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace. In order to completely embrace online dating, one needs to be comfortable using their computer. It's also important to be very organized as you may receive hundreds of emails in the first day or two. In order to be successful, if you create a system that helps keep all of the replies and emails sent, you'll be able to communicate with your dates with their background information. If you are already using Facebook to communicate with friends, it's the next logical step.

What have you seen change about the online dating world since you started?

When I first started dating online, Match.com hadn't been launched yet. There were very few sites to pick from. It was a much simpler process without all the Web 2.0 bells and whistles. You weren't seeing video dating and text messaging wasn't an option in the U.S.

What is your relationship to online dating now?

As an online dating coach, I help singles create their irresistible online dating profiles and work with them to search the best possible matches. I also help them decide which sites to join and teach them how to craft and email introduction and response that will grab the attention of those profiles they select.

What are your top 5 netiquette rules for cyberdating?

My Rules of Netiquette from my book, [*The Perils of Cyber-Dating: Confessions of a Hopeful Romantic Looking for Love Online*](#), include:

- 1. The Google Rule:** If you Google your date before you meet them, don't let them know on the first date. You'd be surprised how some people actually print out the Google results and start questioning their date about specific entries. It's not appropriate first date material and no one wants to feel like they are on a job interview or under the microscope.
- 2. The Food and Beverage Rule:** If you ask a date out for coffee, be prepared to order a beverage for her and yourself. I have heard stories many times where either someone arrives with their own water, or simply does not order a coffee or tea for their date. You should assume that a coffee date includes a drink, and a dinner date includes some form of food.
- 3. The Ex Rule:** Don't talk about your ex-wife or husband, ex girlfriend or boyfriend, or spend time talking about the past. You'd be surprised that some talk about their spousal support, or a relationship that didn't work out on the first date. Keep it light and leave the baggage at home.
- 4. The Send Button Rule:** My mother always says, "If you don't have anything nice to say about someone, don't say anything at all." Too often someone gets mad and drafts an email and pushes the send button. When in doubt, send it to yourself. You might feel differently in the morning. Once you push the send button, you can't take it back.
- 5. The Break Up Rule:** Never break up with a significant other in an email or a text message. It's just common courtesy to

have a conversation and preferably in person. Do you really want to go down in history as the one who frequently dumps their dates in an email or text? Sure, celebrities are ending relationships in text messages and on Twitter these days. But is it right?

Most importantly, be authentic. Authenticity is really in style now. With over 400 million members on Facebook, it's easy for someone to see if your photo on your online dating profile does not match the recent birthday or vacation pictures on Facebook. We know that many singles lie about their age in their online dating profiles to fit into a search, but the truth will come out when you meet in real life. You start out on a bad foot if you are lying about your age, weight, and height. Enjoy the process and look at cyberdating as a way to increase your social and business networks in the event it doesn't turn into a romantic relationship.