

# Dating Advice: 5 Online Dating Tips to Start the New Year Right



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

New Years' Eve may have come and gone, but it's not too late to make those resolutions still, especially in regards to improving your dating life. Let's take a look at 5 online dating tips that you could implement immediately to get your love life on the right path this year.

New Year, New Profile!

## **Update the photo gallery**

This is one area of your online dating life that there is always room for improvement with. Unless you are a Kardashian garnering tens of thousands of likes with every picture you take, break out the camera and get to work.

Focus on taking pictures that highlight your best attributes, while also capturing you in scenarios that reveal your best personality traits. You will also want to thumb through some of your best pictures of the past year, with the focus being on combining your best experiences, with pictures that you look most flattering in. For some great advice on how to do this, you can read this guide to creating a perfect photo gallery <https://joshuapompey.com/women/guide-online-dating-profile-pictures-women/>

**Related Link:** [Expert Dating Advice: 5 Reasons to Hire a Professional Online Dating Profile Writer](#)

## **Rewrite the profile**

There is always room for improvement here, not to mention, the written portion of your profile is arguably the most important determinant of your success.

When you revisit your profile, don't think of it as a homework assignment or essay. Keep it fun, playful, and lighthearted. The idea is to reveal your best personality trait and interests in a way that jumps off the page and shows who you are at your core. And don't forget to proofread!

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## **Improve your emailing game**

With all the competition that exists online, you can't afford to be boring. You need to make sure your email stands out

from everyone else by making it fun, engaging, and interesting. The best approach is to scan the profile for something interesting about the other person, think of something playful to say, and then follow that up with a question. Once you do this a few times, you'll get the hang of it and be able to do this on autopilot in a relatively easy manner.

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### **Start initiating messages**

Here's a little secret. Often times the highest quality men and woman are not initiating conversations online, nor are they performing searches. Why? Because the more successful and well-rounded people are in their personal life, the less time they often have to spend on dating sites.

So while you might be waiting around for someone special to send you an email and sweep you off your feet, the irony is that they might not even know you exist. The best way to ensure that you get dates with the highest quality people is to actively perform searches and show up in their inbox with an incredible message and profile to match.

For more information from Joshua Pompey, visit [Joshuapompey.com](http://Joshuapompey.com) or [nemvip.com](http://nemvip.com)

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# **Ask The Guy's Guy: What to do if You Find Your Partner**

# Using Online Dating Sites



By [Robert Manni](#)

*Question from Anna B (Binghamton, New York): I recently found my significant other (who I met on online) using an online dating website when I was on it. What should I do next?*

**Caught partner on online dating site, what should I do next?**

The irony to this question is that when you are checking up on

your partner online, your profile must be active also. This happened to me a few times and like most singles, I pushed back by asking what she was doing online also. At the time, I thought it was a good idea to keep my options open and in case things did not work out. Truth be told, I was a bad boy and liked window shopping all the beautiful ladies still on the market. Was this fair? Of course not, but at the time I enjoyed meeting new women and did not think I wanted a serious relationship. But all that changed when I was taught a great lesson about dating by the woman who later became my wife.

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When we met online, she'd just returned to the dating scene after a long-term relationship ended. She signed up for a free three day pass on Match and winked at me. I was the only guy she met. I was having fun dating randomly and thought I was in no hurry to settle on one partner. But when after three great dates she asked me why my profile was still active on the site, she was not accusatory and asked in such an innocent way that I thought she was more curious than snooping. It felt like she was honestly wondering why I kept my profile active on this dating site while we were going out.

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When I thought about it, I realized that I had been dating so much that I'd waded too deep in the online dating pool and forgotten why I was dating in the first place. I was having a blast dating, but deep down, like most singles, I wanted a partner. So, after she asked me this innocent, but loaded question, I told her I'd hide my profile. And it's stayed hidden. The more we dated, the more I liked being with her. She taught me that it was important to give new relationships a fair chance. If things didn't work out, we could reactive our profiles and get on with our lives. Without saying

anything more about it, we began dating exclusively and never looked back.

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The moral of the story is that if you find your partner's profile is still active online, ask him or her why and what their intentions are. Ask them if they want to date around or give the relationship a chance to grow. This way, you know where you stand without having to juggle partners and sneak around. I found this to be a more honest way of dating. So, if you're feeling good about someone, consider giving your relationship the best opportunity to succeed by hiding or shutting down your online presence.

Good luck.

*If you would like relationship expert Robert Manni to answer your online dating/relationship questions, please email [gillian@nvmediainc.com](mailto:gillian@nvmediainc.com)*

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## **Expert Dating Advice: 5 Reasons to Hire a Professional Online Dating Profile Writer**





By: [Joshua Pompey](#)

Online dating can be tricky. With so many moving parts and different components, it's often hard to diagnose how to improve your results. If you are having trouble attracting the highest quality singles, you may want to look into having your profile revamped by a professional. Below are 5 reasons why you should hire a professional online dating profile writer:

## Hire an Online Dating Profile Writer

**1. The **experience**.** If you're looking to improve your fitness, you hire a personal trainer. If you're looking to become a better cook, you take a cooking class. Online dating shouldn't be looked at any differently. If you want the best of the best, let a professional assist you. They will be able

to get the right person for you, and better results than what you've been getting.

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**2. This could determine the rest of your life!** An online dating profile is about more than just writing something that reflects you well. It's about landing your profile to someone who you could potentially spend the rest of your life with. For that reason, it should be treated with as much importance as just about anything else in your life.

**Related Link:** [Dating Expert Reveals Why Online Dating Is Better Than Meeting In Real Life](#)

**3. It's hard to write about yourself.** It may surprise some people out there to know that I've written the profiles of best selling authors, English professors, and prominent journalists. Why? Because writing about yourself isn't easy. But, professional profile writers will be able to sell your profile in a way that you won't be able to. Professional profile writers will objectively take this task out of your hands in a way that comes across as down to earth, fun, and engaging.

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice: 5 Online Dating Photos That Will Instantly Up Your Profile Game](#)

**4. Pro's are Pros for a reason.** A professional has the experience, writing background, and knowledge that might take you months, or even years to acquire. Why work with mediocre results when you could be attracting the others at the highest possible level?

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**5. Profile writing is hard work!** At the end of the day, even



if you could write yourself a great profile, you probably have a whole lot of other things going on in your life. Spending hours writing about yourself probably isn't at the top of your list. Hiring someone from the outside takes the work out of your hands and allows you to simply focus on the things that you enjoy doing.

Joshua Pompey has been helping online daters since 2009 and written thousands of profiles. To learn more about his professional profile writing service, men, click here <https://joshuapompey.com/men/professional-online-dating-profile-writing-service-for-men/>. Women click here <https://joshuapompey.com/women/professional-online-dating-profile-writers/>.

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## **Expert Dating Advice: 5 Reasons to Hire A Online Dating Assistant**





By [Joshua Pompey](#)

As the head of Next Evolution Matchmaking, I am hired by busy and successful professionals to serve as their very own online dating assistant. But I don't just assist them with the process, I take complete control of the process. If you don't have the time to build an online profile, keep reading for some [dating advice](#) from [relationship expert Joshua Pompey](#).

## **Have Someone Find You Matches!**

As their online dating assistant, I'm not only finding them matches, but I'm also writing all their emails and lining up dates as well. While this may sound a little extreme to some, I believe that the birth of online dating assistants has only just begun. Below are several arguments as to why we should embrace the idea. Keep reading to find out more from our

[relationship expert!](#)

### **1. Hiring an assistant is nothing new**

Need someone to clean your house? You hire a housekeeper. Are you a busy career mom? You hire a babysitter. Too busy to find love? Why not hire an online dating assistant? People have sought help from skilled professionals since the beginning of time. Hiring a professional to handle what is arguably the most important component of your entire life, finding love, sounds like a worthwhile cause to me.

**Related Link:** [5 Steps To Securing Second Date](#)

### **2. There just aren't enough hours in the day.**

Online dating is a full time job if you are going to fully dedicate yourself to the process in a meaningful way. Being busy and successful shouldn't require love and happiness to be put on the back burner. A professional online dating assistant can complete all the time consuming aspects that you might not otherwise have the time to pursue on your own.

**Related Link:** [Moving Your Relationship From Online To Face-To-Face](#)

### **3. Online dating assistants can save you months, or years of loneliness**

Want to know one the biggest reasons people quit online dating? It's because they just aren't successful at it. After a few weeks or months of bad dates, they eventually quit, but it doesn't have to be this way. A professional online dater will bring experience and skill to the table, navigating the online world for you in a way that yields quality results.

Not being an expert at online dating shouldn't mean that you have to waste months, or even years of your life navigating these dating sites without finding the happiness you deserve.

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#### **4. Nobody is being deceived on a massive scale**

If this was the 1993 Sleepless in Seattle version of online dating, where two people are pouring their souls out over dozens of emails and getting to know each other on an intimate level over the computer, than yes, this would be very deceiving and immoral.

Fast forward to the present and the email exchanges on dating sites are about as harmless and lighthearted as it gets. Sure, when I work on a client's account at Next Evolution Matchmaking, I am writing emails as my clients. But these are mainly just superficial exchanges where I help to facilitate the exchange of phone numbers. Once that's complete, it's entirely up to the client to take things from there.

#### **5. Online dating assistants take over the tedious aspects of online dating.**

Let's face it, online dating just isn't fun! Sure, you could endlessly swipe right, chase down other singles, and write repetitive emails day after day. Or you could hire a pro and be free to do things you actually like to do! At the end of the day, sometimes pampering yourself is just plain worth it!

Joshua Pompey is the founder of Next Evolution Matchmaking.

For information about how Joshua Pompey helps online daters, visit [this](https://www.nemvip.com/next-evolution-matchmaking) page.

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# **Dating Advice: What To Do**

# When Online Dating Isn't Working For You



By Lisa Smith

Although online dating is one of the most common ways to meet someone these days, it doesn't work for everyone. There are several [research-based reasons](#) why online dating isn't actually the best way to meet someone.

For some people, online dating is frustrating because it's so easy for prospects to present themselves in a way that is much different from who they are in real life. It's incredibly easy

to portray yourself as a great catch and hide your bad qualities in the online world.

Others claim the bigger problem is simply that online dating presents them with too much choice which is too overwhelming.

Overall, many of today's singles avoid dating apps and websites because they are a time suck. It requires so much time to sift through the bad matches and find someone worth talking to. A great way to waste your time is by chatting with someone online for ages, only to meet them in person and realize there is no connection.

**Here is some [dating advice](#) if you're single, and online dating just isn't working for you.**

### **1. Try Professional Matchmaking.**

Working directly with a professional matchmaker is like having a best friend who is on a mission to find your Mr. Right. A matchmaker is a trusted ally who knows exactly what you're looking for in a partner and wants to find that person for you. By choosing to work with a reputable and [elite matchmaking](#) company, you'll experience what it's like to only be presented with desirable and appropriate prospects. A matchmaker will also help to remind you not to commit certain dating mistakes, and will basically give you a much-needed pep talk before your first date.

One of the greatest benefits of working with a matchmaker is the screening process. They sift out the inappropriate candidates for you, and screen everyone to ensure they're only introducing you to someone great. While online dating might overwhelm you with options and present you with an exhausting [paradox of choice](#), matchmakers effectively narrow it down.

This saves you time and energy, resulting in a much more positive experience than online dating.

## **2. Get Set Up.**

Getting set up by a friend who has a single friend can definitely work. It might not be as effective as using a professional matchmaker, because there is not the same screening process; however, it doesn't hurt to let a friend set you up with their single friend. If nobody is offering to do this for you, try asking a few of your friends if they know someone who is in your age group and single. You might spark the idea that there's someone great they can try setting you up with.

## **3. Sit At The Bar Alone.**

Although it takes some courage to go to a bar by yourself, sitting at the bar alone is a great way to meet someone. Whether it be your neighborhood sports bar or a more upscale venue, sitting at the bar alone makes you approachable. You'd be surprised at how many people will chat with you, as it's not intimidating for them since you're sitting there by yourself. You might mistakenly assume that this makes you look like a sad person with no friends. However, it actually makes you look confident and esteemed. You aren't afraid to grab a drink by yourself, and that shows a sexy confidence. Patrons won't assume that you have nobody to grab a drink with – they'll simply think that you're comfortable being alone. It's a great quality to be independent and comfortable in your own company.

## **4. Work On Your Confidence.**

How many times have you noticed a beautiful stranger behind you in line at Starbucks, or seen someone who is totally your type in the produce section of the grocery store? By working on your self-confidence and realizing that you have nothing to lose, you might start getting comfortable approaching sexy

strangers in real life. With the rise of online dating, fewer people are getting approached or flirted with in real life, and you'll stand out as being confident if you do this. Remember that the worse thing that can happen is a polite decline, which isn't so bad.

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## Movie Review: Love, Simon



By [Karley Kemble](#)



*Love, Simon* is a charmingly modern coming-of-age movie that tells a story about a teen struggling with his sexuality. Simon Spier (played by Nick Robinson) claims to live a “normal” life, and has a strong relationship with his family, great friends, and thriving academic life. But, the big secret he has yet to tell anyone is that he’s gay. Simon so desperately desires to experience romantic love, but finds that his inability to come out of the closet is holding him back. Once he begins to correspond with an anonymous peer who is presumably gay through email, Simon begins to find full, true happiness: maybe even love! Will Simon embrace his identity? Is he actually finding comfort in a catfish, or is this person the real deal?

**This movie is a very heartwarming, and puts a modern twist on classic coming-of-age films. It also teaches us about relationships. Check out our [movie review](#):**

**Should you see it:**

Absolutely! You don’t want to wait ‘til this movie hits your local Redbox kiosk. This movie will open your eyes and will cause you think differently about how you interact with the world that surrounds you.

**Who to take:**

With a PG-13 rating, this is the perfect movie for teens, couples in need of a [date night](#), and single adults. See it with anyone, or by yourself. All that matters is that you see it!!

**Cupid’s Advice:**

Love, Simon is a comedy, romance, and drama that has themes related to love, acceptance, and self-discovery. It also touches on modern romances and finding love through the digital realm. If you've been wanting to dive back into the dating world and have been considering using an online dating service or mobile application, here is some [relationship advice](#) from Cupid:

**1. Know what you're looking for:** The online dating realm may sometimes seem like an endless cycle of tacky pick-up lines, boring conversations, and constant ghosting. It can be very tiring and cause you to feel hopeless. Don't give up: know what you want and engage in conversation! Take the chance and send the first message if you're usually the type to wait around.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Can You Fall In Love Just By Chatting Online?](#)

**2. Be authentic:** Yes, it's cheesy. *Be yourself.* We've heard that saying a million times, but it is an important one to stand by when you're seriously entering the online dating world. While it may seem tempting to tell little white lies from the onset, it's better to remain authentic and gradually reveal more details when you become more comfortable. By doing so, you'll attract authentic people, too.

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**3. Pictures, please!:** Perhaps the most important component to your online profiles are the photos. Since you are eliminating the in-person element, pictures are key! Refrain from posting too many group photos, and be sure to choose the ones that show your personality. Selfies are okay, just make sure you show other dimensions of who you are! (Stay away from Snapchat filters!)

**Will you be seeing Love, Simon? We want to know! Have any**

advice for online daters? Let's talk about it in the comments!

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# Relationship Advice: Can You Fall In Love Just By Chatting Online?



Dating sites have become very popular among people today. In fact, online dating is now the second most common way for

American couples to meet! From the onset, there were only a few dating sites available for users, but now there are very popular and specific dating sites that target the needs and interests of individuals. One such example is [interracial dating in the United States](#), which has flourished to the point where there are now so many interracial sites available. However, there are still many skeptics when it comes to opinions about finding love through chatting online. The ongoing debate over whether you can legitimately fall in love online is a ongoing one, and there are many opinions on the matter. Some will argue that you never really fall in love until you have seen someone or have engaged in physical contact. Others will say that falling in love is possible even if you have not met that person in the real life.

**Our definition of love and relationships has changed, and it is entirely possible to fall in love online. Check out our relationship advice:**

To determine if you are in love, you must have a real understanding of what love means to you. Love has taken a new form in the digital age. In the past, traditional courtship relied heavily on face-to-face communication and physical presence. Nowadays, meeting someone and having a relationship is more available to us through the online world. Meeting someone has become increasingly easier through the internet. For some, meeting in real life comes very easy and for others, it has always been a difficult task. In the online world, there are more opportunities created through online chatting. However, it is up to you to define what falling in love mean to you. Are you comfortable in divulging your emotions to someone you have never met? Does it matter if you have not

seen the person face to face, even if you have a strong virtual connection?

### **Online applications facilitate connection**

Attraction is not only based on physical attraction. It can occur when we share common ideas, perspectives, values and even opinions. If you meet someone online with these commonalities, you can very easily feel attracted to them. This connectedness is a baseline for any relationship, not just a romantic one. It doesn't necessarily demand a face to face meet, p as this can be facilitated easily through online communication. Social media and dating apps help determine if you have a connection or not because the ability to communicate with others is readily available

### **There is positive association between internet technology and romance.**

A study by Rosenfeld in 2017 concluded that there is a positive correlation between internet technology and romantic relationships. Furthermore, the same study found out that heterosexual couples who met online made a quicker transition to marriage than couples who met offline. This study is also supportive of other findings which state that the percentage of couples who have met online and married in real life are still increasing. Despite being faced with a multitude of dating candidates online, people have been able to sift through the competitive environment and marry the love of their life. This study supports the assertion that yes, it is possible to fall in love online. Technology has made dating tremendously easy, but at the end of the day, it is still up to the individual to make decisions and take the next step forward when it comes to online dating

### **Even if the other person is not real, the feelings are still real.**

Some people claim that a relationship is not legitimate until

you have met that person in real life. Being duped online is common and it is one of the hazards of online dating. This is known as “catfishing” and is a common fraud when people create a false online identity to lure others into communicating. This is very tricky since the victim is honest and true, yet the other partner is not who they appear to be. Deception is common in online dating apps.

A study by Toma (et al in 2008) finds put that deception patterns are common. Participants in the study strategically balanced the deceptive opportunities presented by online self-presentation (e.g., the editability of profiles) with the social constraints of establishing romantic relationships (e.g., the anticipation of future interaction). This study also found that 81% of online daters admitted lying about their weight, height or age. This appears to support the claim that meeting up in real life is an important step in cementing the relationship. However, if you are duped you shouldn't give up on online dating. Your feelings were certainly real, and many people have fallen in love and even have gotten married because of online dating.

### **Falling in love must be approached positively**

Whether you fall in love offline or while chatting online, you must approach love optimistically. Even in real life, you can still be hurt by lies and deception. Just remain positive about finding your true love online. If you and your partner are truly connected, have formed a strong bond and share the same passions and interests, then you might just end up being together in real life.

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# Dating Expert Reveals Why Online Dating Is Better Than Meeting In Real Life



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

So often online dating is looked upon as a medium that people turn to after running out of options in “real life.” As an online [dating expert](#), I may be a bit on the biased side, but I personally think this is a mindset that officially needs to be put to death. Not only is online dating an incredible opportunity to meet other singles, but dare I say, it’s even

better than attempting to meet people out and about. Here are five reasons why:

## Online Dating Advice: Why It's Better Than Real Life Dating

**1. I don't have to put on pants to meet someone special:** Okay, so maybe *eventually* I will. But when I'm home on a weeknight, tired, cold, and worn down from my work week, it sure is nice to meet other singles without having to get dressed up, brush my hair, and psych myself into feeling energized for [date night](#). Online dating is always there for me. Rain, shine, morning, afternoon, or night, I can always meet someone from the very comfort of my own home.

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**2. There's almost no financial investment:** Going out to meet women isn't exactly cheap, especially in a big city like mine. Between drinks, transportation, and that inevitable late night snack, one night out can easily turn into a 100-dollar investment. Paying a 30-dollar membership to Match or even signing up for a free website provides me with a lot more opportunities to meet people for pennies on the dollar.

**3. Real life makes no guarantees:** Whether you are attempting to meet someone during your daily routine, at a social club, or at a bar, there are no guarantees. If you're lucky, maybe you'll stumble upon someone else who is single that you are attracted to. But how often does that happen? When you are on an online dating site, you are guaranteed to come across other people that are also single and actively looking to meet someone.

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## [Instantly Up Your Profile Game](#)

**4. Online dating can be less pressure:** One of the beautiful aspects of online dating is that you already know a fair amount about the other person prior to meeting. Between the profile and the conversations you have via email, you will have a nice insight into that person's likes, dislikes, and personality. That makes the prospect of talking to somebody new a bit more relaxed since you've already had some icebreakers prior to meeting. As an added bonus, you have a nice cheat sheet of topics that you can talk about on a first date.

**5. Online dating is what everyone is doing these days:** There's simply no way around it: Meeting people in real life is great, but with the busy lives we all lead, it's just not as realistic. Online dating has become mainstream and is, without a doubt, the most common way singles attempt to meet these days. You can't fight progress!

*For more advice from dating expert Joshua Pompey, including how to write [online dating emails](#) with 300 percent higher response rates, visit [this page](#). Or click [here](#) to learn why you aren't getting responses on Match.*

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# Dating Advice: The Do's and Don'ts of Online Dating First Dates



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

Ready for your very first online date? No? Well, don't worry. If you're nervous about meeting someone for the first time or simply need some solid [dating advice](#), today, we are going to go over some fundamental first date information that you should abide by when you meet your next online match.

## Online Dating Advice from a Relationship Expert

**1. Do take the time to look your best:** Whether you are meeting straight from work or have had long busy day with your kids

and are trying to squeeze in a date, you can't excuse yourself from looking your best. Men especially are very visual, so you need to put in the effort to reveal your best self if you want to impress him. Approach a date the same way you would approach a job interview: Dress for the occasion and take the process seriously.

**2. Don't sexualize the way you look:** Looking your best doesn't mean letting all your best assets hang out in all their glory. It's okay to show sex appeal – in fact, it's even good. But less is more. Do so in a classy way.

**3. Do meet in a public space:** Safety should be one of your biggest concerns when online dating. Bad incidents are very rare, but they do happen. Always choose a public place that is fairly populated. Bars, restaurants, parks during the day, and coffee shops are just a few of the many domains that will accommodate this concern.

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**4. Don't accept a ride:** Remember, safety first! Meet your date at the initial location that you decide upon and don't accept a ride home on the first date, no matter what. Even if your partner is safe, it still might create an awkward situation at the end of the night. If and when you get to a second date, then you can start expanding your boundaries a little.

**5. Do prepare some topics of conversation in advance:** Nothing is worse than awkward silences on a first date. Even if you're getting along great, it's still common to have lulls in the conversation when you meet someone for the first time. Circumvent this problem by having a few topics ready to go in your emergency conversation bank.

**6. Don't try to take over complete control of the date:** Making suggestions is great; most people will appreciate this effort. But don't try to take control over every aspect of where you

go and what you do, or you may accidentally create the impression of being controlling and high maintenance. Instead, being easygoing and open are always two of the most attractive qualities someone can have.

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**7. Do touch your date if you are interested:** Yes, you should touch your date. But before you jump on top of him in the middle of dinner, I don't mean in a sexual way! I'm talking about little touches on their arm or the small of their back when making a point. Small touches like that communicate interest and establish a physical bond that will make you feel less like friends and more like potential romantic partners.

**8. Don't start pre-planning future dates:** Sometimes, people get excited about how well the date is going and start suggesting future ideas about where the two of you should go on a second, third, or fourth date. Don't do this. You may accidentally scare off someone who was otherwise interested in asking you out again.

**9. Do text your date after if you had a great time:** If you enjoyed yourself during your date, let the other person know with a text and thank them if they treated you to anything. This small gesture will go a long way towards showing them that you're a good person who is appreciative when someone is kind to you.

Have any more questions? [Contact me](#) here at Cupid's Pulse, and I'd be glad to help out!

*For more information from [relationship expert](#) Joshua Pompey, including six lessons he learned from the world's greatest online dating profile, please visit [this page](#) now.*

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# 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.

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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*

# Dating Tips: Spring Cleaning Your Online Dating Profile



By Justin Lavelle

Online dating is all the rage, right? I mean, all of your friends say so. But after your last date with Logan, who



turned out to be less hard-working intellectual and more mid-30-year-old living with Mom, and the one before, Scott, the self-proclaimed genius surfer from Arkansas, you're feeling a bit wary. Maybe the problem, aside from your questionable taste, is closer to home than you anticipated—maybe the problem is your profile. Your profile deigns who decides to swipe right on you, and you have a lot of power here. Follow our tips to spring-clean your profile, and wash away the negative energy and scarring first dates. Start fresh.

**Spelling and Grammar:** Glance over your profile: is everything spelled correctly? Bad spelling and grammar is the equivalent of having bad breath when you meet someone in person. It will also make you look careless or like you're part of an online scam. No one is interested in dating someone that comes across as if they haven't even finished elementary school, and bad grammar is an enormous turn-off. So wipe your profile clean of typos and uneducated phrases, and start anew.

**Related Link:** [5 Tips for Creating a Perfect Online Dating Profile](#)

**Be Honest and Specific When Describing Yourself:** If you want to attract the right person straight away, be honest and specific when you describe yourself and your attributes. Then when you message someone or someone messages you, you'll be able to look at the profile, find similarities, and decide if this is someone you'd like to meet. Are you quiet or outgoing? Do you like sports or art house movies? Are you a creative type or in finance? Are you just interested in meeting new people or are you looking for marriage in the future? Throw out statements like, "People tell me I'm really nice and fun to be around" or "I like hanging out and getting to know new people." General statements like this describe half the population and say nothing distinct about you. Except that you're boring.

**Don't Focus on Flaws:** No one wants to read a bunch of negatives like, "I'm fat, but working on a fitness program," or, "I'm short and don't like my knees." While you might view this as a problem, there's no need to flaunt your insecurities. You're basically throwing yourself under the bus and giving them reasons not to like you. And if you write about your flaws, you will come across needy and self-conscious. Let's be honest, bad knees are hardly a deal breaker—but lack of confidence can be.

**Lists of Things you Dislike:** If your profile is full of claims like, "I hate liars, I hate cheaters and I hate smokers," you will be turning off most potential dates. It's objectively normal to dislike liars, but a list of everything you dislike seems pessimistic, grumpy, and off-putting. No one will be overly interested in a Debbie Downer. If you're allergic to smoking that's one thing, but a profile full of "hates" won't make you seem like much fun.

**Related Link:** [Love Advice: What Makes A Great Online Dating Profile](#)

**Pick Your Profile Pic Wisely:** Be honest in selecting your profile pic. It will only backfire if you choose an image that's 10+ years old, that is blurred or doesn't represent the true you. It's ok to do a little photoshopping or add a filter, but don't go crazy. The last thing you need is someone showing up and announcing you don't look anything like your profile pic. Sites like OK Cupid have posted helpful info on what makes for a good profile picture, so use this data to help you improve.

**Weed Out Bad Apples:** Before becoming emotionally invested in an online relationship, and definitely before meeting someone in person, perform an online background check through a service like [BeenVerified](#) on your date to make sure they are who they say they are. You'll be looking for basic information such as marital status and location, as well as arrests

records, history of domestic abuse, gun permits, and more. This is an important step in protecting your safety and well-being.

So now that you've cleared out your spring profile of over-the-top edits, spelling and grammar errors, and negativity, start anew. May your gleaming, fresh profile give you the strength to persevere. May the odds be ever in your favor.

*Justin Lavelle is the Communications Director for BeenVerified. He regularly writes about topics related to online dating and romance scams for the company's blog. The company's mission is to help people discover, understand and use public data in their everyday lives so you can confirm whether your online date is a love match or a scam artist. With millions of app downloads and millions of monthly visitors, BeenVerified is a leading source of online background checks and contact information and allows individuals to find more information about people, phone numbers, email addresses and property records.*

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## **Dating Advice: Love the Way You Search For Love With Online Dating**





By [Michelle Foti](#)

Imagine standing in a crowded bar with the music blasting, the lights down low, someone's drink spilled on you, and a bar fight breaking out five feet away. Definitely not the way to meet the man of your dreams, is it? Your quest to find your knight in shining armor is not looking too good, so why not just stay home curled up on the couch with your computer on your lap and search for a guy online?

If your fear of being catfished (remember [Manti Te'o?](#)) is stopping you, just wait until it's last call and the lights come on. Did he really have a biker ponytail and face tattoo the whole time? Online dating can save you so much time and money while you search around for someone you really like. In addition, you will be able to research potential matches, have time to plan your responses, and use actual science to help you find matches.

A great way to start online dating is by trying out a few sites and seeing which you like best. Luckily, reputable sites like these that also offer free trials can be easily found [at DatingAdvice.com](http://DatingAdvice.com). By signing up for these free trials, you can usually peruse others images, profile text, and sometimes even contact them. Either way, you will be able to choose a site that you are most comfortable with and that matches your dating goals.

## Dating Advice: 5 Advantages to Online Dating Over the Bar Scene

**1. Cool, confident, collected:** If your face turns red, you look down when you talk, or you get sweaty palms when you're nervous, it sounds like you may not make the best first impression on the guy at the end of the bar. One of the many perks of online dating is that it takes that pressure off. After you've messaged someone on a site, you can start texting and even talking on the phone. It's a process of communication and can take as long or as short as you both want before meeting in person. When you're ready to talk to him, you can be cool, confident, and collected. You can even have stock conversation ready to go next to your long list of cute and witty comments. Moreover, you can even take your time to plan your wardrobe, whether you want to be sweet and sexy like [Jessica Alba](#) or New York City Chic like [Kelly Ripa](#).

**2. Take a second and think about it:** Think about whether or not you can see yourself with this person. Is this the man you imagine in first date selfies, engagement photos, and standing at the altar? Online dating allows you to take your time to decide on these important factors. There's no last call on a dating site.

**3. Check him out without him knowing:** If he catches you checking him out in person, he may take this as an invitation to approach you. But when you search for love online, you can

decide first whether or not he's your type for reasons that stem beyond his perfect hair and rock-solid chest.

**4. Investigate thoroughly:** When you meet someone at a bar, you won't know until you get home (unless you take your smartphone to the bathroom), who that person really is that you are spending your time talking to. When you date online, you have more time to take his name and plug it into Instagram, Facebook, or even Google away. You can find out more than his relationship status including any criminal history, if he has a job, if he has kids: all things that are important to know!

**5. Matchmaking science, not vodka:** This time it's not your drunken best friend pushing you into the arms of disaster, but a matchmaker and science pushing you into the arms of love. It's not about who is checking you out, who bought you a drink, or who the last man standing in the bar is, it's about compatibility. There are even studies that show that online daters find someone within 6 months of going online, so any cost you do decide to spend is actually reasonable.

**What benefits of online dating have you experienced? Share in the comments below!**

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## **Dating Advice: Moving Your Relationship From Online To Face-to-Face**



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

So you've managed to exchange numbers with a seemingly amazing guy online. The hard part is over right? Think again. This is where your journey actually begins. The truth is, the highest quality men online have a lot of options. In fact, last week I received 97 total contacts on Match alone! If you want to make sure a great guy sticks around, you need to make the transition from the online world to a face-to-face encounter as smooth as possible. It all starts with the text message...and perhaps some [dating advice](#).

# Dating Advice On Transitioning From Online To First Date

**1. Texting should not be limited to making plans.** The dangerous part about online dating is that other women will still be coming after your man while you are trying to win him over. It's your job to make him forget about his other options and focus completely on you. My dating advice is to avoid making small talk and don't act disengaged with your conversations. Texting is your opportunity to cement a man's attraction to you with fun, playful, and light-hearted conversations, so that by the time the first date rolls around, he will feel as if he has known you forever.

**2. Don't let more than three days go by without communication.** Suppose your first date is a week away. If you go five days without contact, you will feel like complete strangers by the time you meet. Awkward first dates don't result in second dates. Avoid this by shooting your date a random text every couple of days just to keep the pre-date relationship going. Take this fun relationship advice seriously.

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice Q&A: How Harmless is Sending Pictures Via Text?](#)

**3. If you want a man to take you seriously, take him seriously.** Too many women treat the first meeting as a complete afterthought. Don't squeeze a date in at the nearest possible bar, between your 5 o'clock meeting and 7 o'clock spin class, or come straight from work looking slightly run down in business attire. I understand that we live in a busy world, but if you want to be remembered, give your date a reason to remember you. Try to coordinate a fun meeting location and put in a little effort.

**Related Link:** [Expert Dating Advice: 5 Surefire Signs He's Into](#)



## [You...or Not](#)

**4. Send a text a few minutes before the date.** Build up some fun and excitement before the date to avoid an awkward introduction. For example, 5 minutes before arriving, I sometimes text a joke such as, “Okay I didn’t want to tell you this but, I’m really 5’1 and 280 pounds. That won’t be a problem right? ;P...” As a relationship expert, I know a text like this will ease the tension, and will provide some fun dating story segues for when you arrive.

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice Q&A: Is it Appropriate to Play Hard to Get Via Texting?](#)

**5. This is a date, not a business meeting.** Nothing is more frustrating for a man than receiving a firm hand shake upon meeting. This comes across as ice cold and immediately squashes the romantic feel of a date. Dating tip: A small little hug, and dare I say, a kiss on the cheek won’t give you cooties. If you wind up not liking the person, I assure you, these actions won’t be something you regret one day!

*Want more information from Joshua Pompey? Visit [his website](#) to sign up for free online dating profile writing information, or read this [article](#) to learn the top five reasons women fail to attract quality men online. Check back for more dating 101 tips from the relationship expert!*

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# **Most Popular Girl in New York City Shares Online Dating and**

# Relationship Advice in New Book



By Mackenzie Scibetta

Lauren Urasek is your average, dark-haired, tattooed, mid-twenty-year-old make-up artist from Brooklyn. She lives a modest life, yet somehow, this ordinary girl is regarded as the most popular girl in New York City. With over eight million people in the Big Apple, how did she manage to claim such a grand title? The answer is through an online dating site called OKCupid. According to the co-founder of the site, Urasek is the most messaged woman, receiving an astonishing

245 messages each week. After garnering a lot of attention for this feat, she decided to write a [self-help relationship book](#) that includes the comical dating horror stories she has saved up and also offers up online dating and [relationship advice](#). We recently talked with Urusek about *Popular: The Ups and Downs of Online Dating from the Most Popular Girl in New York City*, and in our exclusive interview, the queen of online dating gives us a glimpse into her own personal experiences.

## **Self-Help Relationship Book Gives Inside Look at Online Dating World**

**Can you give us some background on what made you decide to open up about your dating experiences?**

It all started with a *New York Magazine* article that was written about me almost two years ago. From there, I was inspired to launch my blog, which talks about all of the crazy guys who I meet online. I got a lot of questions from readers on these unusual experiences, so I decided to open up about it in a more in-depth way. It seemed natural to talk about my dating life to hopefully inspire, or at least entertain, other people. The book also touches on the brief fame I received from the *New York Magazine* article, which was really fun to reflect on.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Author Dr. Brandy Engler Breaks Down 'The Women on My Couch'](#)

**What do you think will surprise readers most about this book?**

I live in one of the busiest cities in the world, so although New Yorkers won't be surprised, I think other people will be shocked at the obnoxiousness of dating in such a large city. Guys can get away with a lot more here because they know there's a good chance they'll never see you again. Guys in a small town or suburb are different because everyone is

connected somehow and you have to worry about that gossip aspect. Some of the things I find to be normal might be pretty crazy to my readers.

**You talk about some of your online dating horror stories in the book. What was the weirdest interaction you had online?**

One time, I went out with a guy, and everything seemed great until, at the very end, he wound up randomly storming out on me. He demanded I pay for everything and even brought his weird, out-of-place cousin along. Before he demanded that I pay, he was telling everyone around us I was his fiancée. He had a million different personalities, so you really don't know who someone is until you meet them in person. I normally won't talk to a guy online too much before I meet him; that way, we aren't overly relying on technology.

## **Lauren Urasek Gives Love Advice Based on Her Unique Personal Experiences**

**Switching gears a little, I'd love to get your online dating and relationship advice. What do you consider are some of the major *don'ts* with online dating?**

Don't try to be anyone who you're not. I would approach everyone you're talking to as a real person. You have to remember that they're not just a photo behind a screen; they have a real life and real feelings. Basically, don't do anything online that you wouldn't do in real life.

**How do you avoid and get past the "creeps" on dating sites to find a genuine guy?**

It's just about following your gut. If someone sends something weird or creepy in a message, don't feel obligated to talk to them. Your gut isn't always right, so you might go on a bad

first date, but usually, it will lead you down the right path. If they're normal and respectful, then you're taking a good chance.

**Related Link:** [Dating Headshots](#)

**Our visitors are always looking for tips on how to find the right guy. What love advice would you give to singles who just can't seem to find The One?**

I'm in the same boat right now, so the dating advice I follow is just making myself happy as a single person. If you're constantly looking for a guy, then you're putting too much pressure on people, and it won't be a natural relationship. I would also say you can go online to meet people, but keep doing your own thing and stay busy with your friends. Don't let yourself become too dependent on online dating.

**Lastly, do you have any tips for singles who want to increase the amount of matches they're receiving online?**

First, have good pictures. That means take a variety of them at different angles, including face pictures, full-length pictures, and profile pictures. Make sure they're all high quality and up to date too. Then, write a good profile that actually shows who you are outside of "I like long walks on the beach." Everyone online writes "I like to travel" and "I'm outgoing," so don't write something every guy has seen a hundred times. Just write something that gives him a true sense of who you really are.

*You can purchase Popular: The Ups and Downs of Online Dating from the Most Popular Girl in New York City on Amazon. For more on Lauren Urasek, check out her Twitter @loandthecosmos or her blog, <http://theyreallysaidthis.com/>.*

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# Relationship Expert Reveals What to Do Before You Begin Online Dating



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

In this week's [dating advice](#) video, relationship expert and E!'s *Famously Single* dating coach, [Laurel House](#) talks about how to prepare for online dating.

# Expert Online Dating Advice from E!'s *Famously Single* Dating Coach Laurel House

Before you begin online dating, you need to turn your focus inward. “Do some soul searching and figure out who you truly are at your core, what you stand for as a person, what you actually enjoy doing, what your dating purpose is, and what you truly need as opposed to what you want,” says relationship expert Laurel House. She believes that the answers to those questions are essential when it comes to being authentic and attracting the right person for your next relationship and love. This idea holds true whether you use online dating or another method to meet someone special. Otherwise, according to this expert dating advice, you may end up in a partnership that doesn't suit you.

**Related Link:** [Love Advice: What Makes a Great Online Dating Profile](#)

“This is something that I work on with my clients every single day, and it's really hard – being honest with yourself first,” she adds.

*For more relationship advice videos from House, click [here](#).*

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

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# Dating Advice: How To Get Noticed on Dating Sites



By Molly Jacob

We know that dating can be hard, tiring, and disappointing. That's why online dating sites can be a great solution to get you out of a relationships and love style rut. More and more people are finding these sites to be successful in helping them find happy, fulfilling relationships. In fact, a study found that one-third of U.S. marriages today started with online dating.



# Whether you're on OkCupid, Match.com, eHarmony, or JDate, see what love advice Cupid has to get you noticed on dating sites!

**1. Make your profile photo stand out:** The photo of you on your profile is the first thing that people see. While we'd like to believe that looks aren't everything with relationships and love, first impressions can be important. In your photo, you should look your best, have a genuine smile, and be alone in the photo (no pets or other people). While some may be tempted to Photoshop or otherwise alter their appearance, this can lead to an awkward first date if you look different than what your romantic interest expected you to look like!

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice: The Psychology of Online Dating](#)

**2. Be specific in your wording:** There are thousands of dating site profiles out there, and you want to be unique and eye-catching when someone takes the time to read your profile. When you answer questions or write your profile, don't use overdone words like "fun-loving" or "outgoing." Instead, give examples to demonstrate your best qualities. You're not just "fun-loving," you travel around your state to find and ride the tallest and scariest roller coasters. Dating advice: if you're specific about what you like to do, someone on the site has a better idea of the kind of date they should ask you out on.

**3. Update your profile often:** If someone were to come across your profile and saw outdated photos and information about yourself, they might assume that you're not active on the site and won't bother pursuing you. Consistently add the new books you've read, the movies you've seen, and the concerts you've been to. Sometimes it may seem difficult or useless to be

constantly updating your profile if you are not finding a lot of success or getting asked out on dates, but our love advice is to never give up on finding love!

**Related Link:** [Online Dating: Are Pictures Worth 1000 Words?](#)

**4. Proofread, proofread, proofread:** Did you know that 43% of online daters think poor grammar is a major turn-off? Don't let something as silly as using the incorrect form of "your" hurt your chances of finding relationships and love! If you're not a grammar fiend, have a friend who is look over your profile for you and let you know if they see any mistakes.

**5. Target your approach:** So you've made your profile and you're ready to get active on your dating site. Someone's profile catches your eye, but before you message them, personalize how you approach them. Don't just say, "I liked your profile." Mention something specific, such as, "I also love Indian food and have been dying to try the new restaurant downtown!" Everyone wants to feel special and noticed, so make them feel that way. Our most important dating advice: put yourself out there! Even if you're used to other people making the first move, you never know what good could come out of one message.

**Have you used online dating sites? What tips and tricks do you have? Share in the comments section below!**

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## **Relationship Advice: 11 Steps to Finding a Husband Online**



By Rajiv Satyal

*I know how you can do it. Because that's how my fiancée got me.*

**1. Availability:** A lot of us want the fairytale spotted-across-a-crowded-room-sweep-us-off-our-feet story (yes, men, too), but you've got real life to let it happen. A great piece of relationship advice is, don't leave the biggest decision of your life to chance. Get online and make it happen.

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice: The Psychology of Online Dating](#)

**2. Context:** I was on several online dating sites: Match, eHarmony, Coffee Meets Bagel, and OkCupid (where we met). I

was also on Shaadi.com (the Indian JDate). Sure, every now and then, you find a white girl on there and wonder, "Is she lost?" But OkC has that cool factor. And that's where she was.

**Related Link:** [5 Pieces of Love Advice From Celebrity Couples in Long-Term Relationships](#)

**3. Name:** Her handle was "calvinnhobs," which was quirky and silly. Try to avoid too-common interests like FoodGirl and TravelLady. Everyone likes food and travel. Share something specific to you personally.

**4. Visuals:** Distant shots or only of your eyes don't tell me much. It's like a university guidebook. The pretty ones showed their campuses. The not-so-pretty ones had, like, a closeup shot of a brick. Don't be shy.

**5. Growth:** OK, I know this can sound condescending but... she had some grammatical errors in her profile. I'm a total grammar geek, so it told me I could bring something to the table. It's kind of like how women view a man who can't quite dress – she can't wait to take him shopping. If this seems too nitpicking, welcome to online dating.

**6. Mother Figure:** Couples will do lots of things together. But for couples who want them, the single biggest thing we'll do is raise kids. As such, I'm looking for a mother. I search for clues to determine whether you're a caretaker/caregiver. "I enjoy helping others through volunteering and teaching... I always enjoy a good night cooking a great meal... Things I could never do without: Family." Boom.

**7. Specificity:** She painted the picture of who she was. "I love all things science too, so if you can stand someone talking about the latest cholesterol guidelines, the latest pics from the Mars rover, and even the effects of global warming over coffee...you are very cool!"

**8. Outreach:** I was touched and flattered that she messaged me

first, especially since she was in Texas and I was in California. I'd gotten to the point that I'd also increased my radius to the max: the options are something like 25 miles, 50 miles, 100 miles, desperate.

**9. Humor:** She was funny, using words like "snazzy" to describe my shoes, quotes from standup comedians, funny capitalizations. Little things, victimless humor. Expose your fun side, but save the really edgy comebacks for when we know each other. We're looking for life partners, not bowling buddies.

**10. Patience:** She messaged me on April 30. I didn't respond until May 14 as I was traveling. OK, so the first few days were my trying to play the game. But after that, I really did get busy. And what did she do? She waited. My love advice is, people who write you RIGHT BACK come off as needy. Almost everybody says, "I don't want any drama." I don't think that's true. No drama at all is boring. We all want a little – but just a little. And after she and I sent several messages back and forth, I asked her for her phone number, and we were offline.

**11. Commitment:** Within six months, we were engaged. I actually proposed to her when opening for Kevin Nealon. At that point, we figured it was probably time to disable our OkC profiles. I sent her one last note. And she replied – after a day.

Yesterday – 11:01am

Wow. So, I don't normally do this kind of thing. But you're really cute. I'd totally, like, marry you or something.

Today – 6:50am

You're kinda cute too, I'd think of marrying you only if Kevin Nealon is there. Love you fool!!!!

*Rajiv Satyal is a standup comedian from Cincinnati, Ohio, whose witty, universal, and TV-clean act resonates around the world by covering everything from racial issues to soap bottles to his favorite topic – himself (and his relationships). This University of Cincinnati engineer and former P&G marketer has repeatedly opened for Dave Chappelle, Maz Jobrani, Tim Allen, Kevin Nealon, and Russell Peters. Rajiv has garnered 4 million+ YouTube views, performed on three continents, and been featured on NBC, NPR, Nickelodeon, Fx, Netflix, Times Now, TV Asia, and Pandora, as well as in The Wall Street Journal, Advertising Age, The Huffington Post, India Abroad, The Cincinnati Enquirer, and the LA Times. You can find Rajiv regularly performing at the Laugh Factory and Improvs in Los Angeles, acting in commercials, doing improv, on TV, on XM and Sirius Satellite Radio, or admiring himself on his Funny Indian Fan Club on [www.facebook.com/funnyindian](http://www.facebook.com/funnyindian).*

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# Relationship Advice: How Do You Know When Prince Charming Is Actually Prince Alarming?



By Justin Lavelle, [BeenVerified.com](http://BeenVerified.com)

When you hear someone say that they met their significant other online, you wouldn't think twice, as online dating is one of the leading ways singles meet potential suitors. Although it's commonplace to meet people online, there are always risks associated with dating people you don't know. You might end up connecting with someone who has a fake profile

and is more interested in scamming you rather than determining if you're Mrs. Right. But how do you know if you're dealing with someone who has a fake profile? And what are the red flags you should look for? Fortunately, there's [relationship advice](#) to navigate the online dating scene and figure out if you're dealing with prince charming or prince alarming.

## Relationship Advice: Tips to Help Protect Yourself When Dating Online

1. It's a big red flag if your online interest asks you for money, especially if it's early on and you've never met face-to-face. Scammers will often ask for money on behalf of a sick relative, a short term loan to pay rent, or travel money to visit you if he lives out of state.

**Related Link:** [Match.com Studies Singles in America](#)

2. Be careful if he avoids meeting you, especially if he says he will be out of the country. There's a reason that scammers don't want to meet face-to-face. If they're running a game, they will come up with all kinds of excuses to avoid meeting. Some may use work travel as an excuse, others may say they have shared custody of his kids and it's his weekend to keep them, or that an ill mother needs to be taken care of. Listen to this relationship advice: Pay close attention to what they're saying.

3. Dating experts say to meet relatively quickly in person and in a public place. It's advantageous to meet face-to-face to see if you have chemistry and if he is who he claims to be. It's far easier to walk away from a bad situation before you feel an attachment. Choose a place that has foot traffic in case you need to call out for assistance. Always tell a friend or family member where you'll be and what time you'll be there. It might be wise to have a bail out call



come 30 minutes into your meeting, just in case you need an escape strategy.

**Related Link:** [Julie Spira Discusses 'The Perils of Cyber-Dating'](#)

4. Accept the fact everyone tells lies, even little white ones, so decide where you draw the line. Online daters want to put their best foot forward. Men may say they're a couple of inches taller than they are in reality, and women may not accurately describe their body type. Many online daters accept superficial lies as part of the deal. My dating advice is to decide what is acceptable for you.

5. To avoid identity theft scams, try Google's reverse image search. Take a few minutes to search the profile's pictures, and if the reverse search shows up across hundreds of pages, it's highly likely that the person is being deceitful and is using someone else's images as his own.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Expert Reveals What to Do Before You Begin Online Dating](#)

6. When chatting online, make sure the flow of conversation makes sense to ascertain if you're talking to a live person or a robot profile. Mix up the conversation; see if the person continues to track with you. If they're unable to switch gears, it could be a robot responder giving predetermined responses.

7. Relationship experts say if his profile is comprised of only one photo and the text is basically empty, they could be a scammer. People who don't want to be held accountable to the content of their profile will simply leave it blank. If they're too lazy to take the time to self-disclose and post some self-descriptive text, then you should probably take a pass.

8. If his Facebook account has fewer than 100 friends, there's

a reason to be suspicious, especially for younger users. Most people on Facebook have more than one hundred friends. There could be an explanation; he may be new to social media or a teacher that is trying to remain private. Delve deeper into his reasons. This doesn't necessarily apply to older users, as the average person over 55 is more likely to have smaller amounts of followers.

**Related Link:** [Online Dating Advice: When To Jump Back Online After A Breakup](#)

9. If people claim to be famous or know famous people, it could be to lure you in. Some women get star struck and might continue in conversation with someone they aren't interested in if there is hope of meeting someone rich and famous. Take their stories with a grain of salt; don't continue the dialogue if you're not truly interested.

10. Research as much as you can about the person before you meet face-to-face. Search their name on Google, search all social media profiles and ask friends if they know them. You might find out that the person has a criminal record or may be in a serious relationship and love already! Also, you can do a thorough background check on the person via BeenVerified.com, which consolidates information from public data sources to make it a one-stop shop for accessing personal information.

*Justin Lavelle is the social media and blog content director for BeenVerified.com. BeenVerified is a leading source of online background checks and contact information. It helps people discover, understand and use public data in their everyday lives and can provide peace of mind by offering a fast, easy and affordable way to do background checks on potential dates. BeenVerified allows individuals to find more information about people, phone numbers, email addresses and property records.*

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# Dating Advice: The Psychology of Online Dating



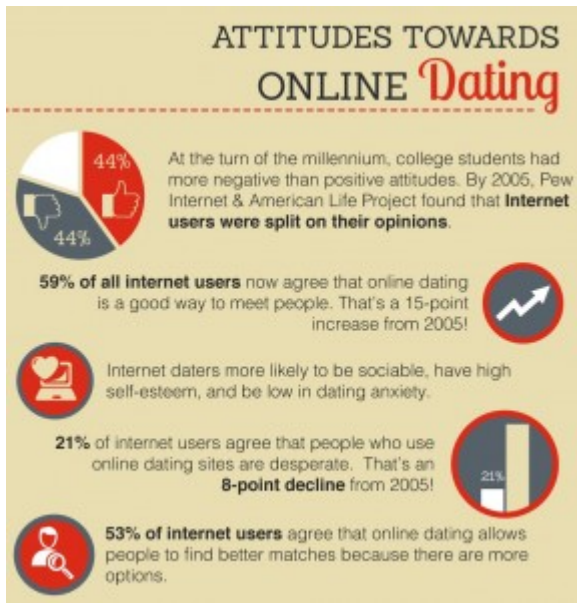
By Jill Kapinus

Have you ever wondering just who, outside of the people you know, is using online dating to meet potential partners? And whether people actually think it works? We can't quantify love—heck, we can't even define it!—but we can look at some relationship advice and the statistics of online dating.

**What makes a person reach out or respond to a virtual stranger? What about the stigma that has lurked in the shadow of online dating since its outset? Let's reveal some dating advice below.**



The Pew Research Center has conducted surveys that look at these aspects of online dating and how they've changed from 2005 to 2013. Back in 2005, 44% of respondents thought that "online dating is a good way to meet people." In 2013, that number rose to 59%—a pretty positive climb.



The stigma around online dating seems to also have taken a positive turn as well, as 53% of internet users agree that online dating allows people to find “better matches” because there are more options.

**Related:** [Relationship Advice: Social Tips from Ben Franklin and Other Maxims Masters](#)



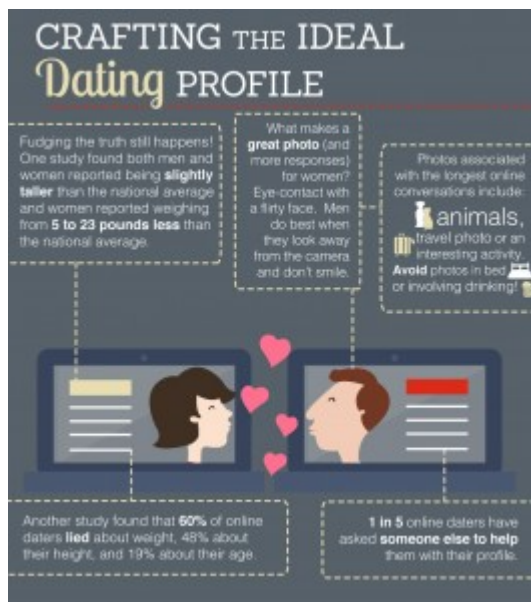
One thing that may always be consistent is that people tend to embellish the truth when it comes to self-describing. One study found that on average, men listed their height as being slightly taller than the national average and women listed their weight as 5 to 23 pounds less than their actual weight. And while women whose profile pictures that featured eye contact and a “flirty face” garnered more responses, men who

looked away from the camera and didn't smile received more replies.

**Related:** [Relationship Advice: 3 Ways to Handle Unmet Expectations in Marriage](#)



No matter what draws someone to online dating, it seems that the popularity is increasing, with new online dating apps and websites popping up all the time. So, take our love advice. If you feel like branching out of your typical dating comfort zone, you're not alone! Take this dating advice and take a fun photo of yourself, ponder what your "type" is, and give it a whirl!



**What are some other pieces of psychology behind online dating? Share your thoughts below.**

*A native of northern New Jersey, Jill works as a copywriter in the education industry. She has also written for the healthcare, home mortgage, and home furnishing industries.*

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# Online Dating Site Celebrates Birthday: Match.com Is Turning 20!



*This post is sponsored by Match.com.*

By Meranda Yslas

The way people find relationships and love has been constantly

evolving because of technology, and Match.com was one of the first companies to help with this change. After 20 years, this well-known online dating website has created over a quarter of a billion matches, started more than 10 million relationships, and helped “make” more than a million babies. If these numbers don’t convince you of Match.com’s reliability, then maybe a few online dating success stories can.

## **The First Successful Relationship and Love Story on Match.com**

In 1995, at the start of the dating site, Bill and Freddi logged in online, not realizing they were going to be the first couple to meet on Match.com. The two had previous marriages that ended, and they were looking for that special someone. “After ending a five-year relationship, a friend told me I had to go on Match.com and meet someone my age and eventually think about getting married again. I met many men and was just about ready to give up before I saw Bill’s profile. He was exactly what I was looking for,” shares Freddi.

**Related Link:** [Match.com Studies Singles in America](#)

After about a week of emailing and talking on the phone, the two finally met for a lunch date. But it was during the beginning of their second date that Freddi knew Bill was The One. She greeted him at the door with a paper bag over her head after getting a bad perm. “He laughed and loved it, and that was it! It was a done deal,” she says.

After a few years of dating, Bill proposed to Freddi, and the two had their wedding on January 1, 2000. They have been married ever since.



# Three Times Is a Charm: Persistence is Key When It Comes to Online Dating

Of course, Bill and Freddi are not the only success story from Match.com. CupidsPulse.com Founder and Executive Editor [Lori Bizzoco](#) also met her husband on the famous online dating site. Lori first tried Match.com around 1997 after a long-term relationship and love had ended. Although she met several men online, this type of dating was so new and unfamiliar that she didn't pursue it further. Around 2003, Lori's younger sister convinced her to try Match.com again and helped her set up a new profile. The site had grown tremendously since Lori had used it last, and she went on date after date. But when she still wasn't finding that special someone, she gave up on the online dating world for a second time.

**Related Link:** [Match.com Singles in America Study Breaks Down the World of Modern Relationships and Love](#)

It wasn't until 2006 when she and a friend took a trip to South America that she had a spiritual awakening and premonition that she would meet someone as soon as she got back from the trip and that they would be married the following year (needless to say, the friend she was traveling with thought she had completely lost it). As soon as Lori got home, she made a commitment to enter the process of looking for love with an open mind, and she threw away the long checklist that had been holding her back from finding Mr. Right.

Once again, Lori uploaded a new photo of herself to Match.com and updated her profile. She got dozens and dozens of messages. Within two days, she received a message from a man who she had gone on a date with three years prior but never returned his call when he asked her on a second date. She remembered that he was very successful, good-looking, and

nice, but at the time, she wrote him off as not her type. She decided to give him another chance – and it's a good thing she did. They got along great, and NINE WEEKS later, he proposed! Today, Lori and her husband are still married and have two beautiful daughters.

Lori says, "Match.com is a great way to meet someone if you just open your heart to the opportunity and live in the moment. You may need to go on several dates, and it could take kissing a few frogs before you find someone special, but all it takes is just ONE person for a happily ever after."

Congratulations to [Match.com](https://www.match.com) on 20 years of matching couples and creating romantic relationships!

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## **Relationship Author Daisy Buchanan Shares Her Dating Advice For 'Meeting Your Match' Online**





By Jenna Bagcal

Daisy Buchanan knows that online dating can be overwhelming for some people, but she wants to show readers that love *can* be found on the Internet. In her new book about love, *Meeting Your Match: Navigating the Minefield of Online Dating*, the relationship author teaches people how to get the best results when venturing into the virtual world to find a mate. She provides a comprehensive guide of [love advice](#) that includes how to find the best site for you based on the website's "personality," how to make your profile appealing to potential partners, and even how online dating should be approached by first-time users. In this exclusive interview, Buchanan, who met her fiancé online, shares her firsthand dating advice with readers interested in finding a relationship and love in the age of the Internet.

# Relationship Author Discusses Dating Advice In Her New Book About Love

**First, what inspired you to write *Meeting Your Match*?**

I've been online dating, on and off, since 2009, and I've been amazed to see how the technology evolved but humans basically stayed the same! I love to laugh, and I think that, if your date isn't a romantic adventure, it will probably turn into a funny story. Whenever a group of single women are gathered together, the bad date tales will flow! I wanted to make daters laugh and show them that, even though the process can feel a bit lonely, you're not alone.

**Related Link:** [10 Tips to Being Successful With Online Dating](#)

**Do you have any love advice for someone trying online dating for the first time? How should they approach it?**

This makes me sound like an especially nerdy teacher, but just have fun! I think this is especially important for people in their twenties and thirties who think it's time to settle down. If you focus on finding the person with the great job and savings who wants kids in the next five years, you might miss your actual match.

Also, remember that it's a two-way process. Prepare yourself for some rejection but know that you'll have to do the rejecting too. Make sure a helpful friend is there for back-up and screening – ideally one who has done it before and knows when the messages are too good to be true or when there might be more to a profile than you initially think.

**You describe the “personalities” of different dating sites in order for people to choose which one is best for them. Why is it important for people to use the right site when looking for**

## **a relationship and love?**

The Internet is overwhelming, whether you're looking for love or pizza. If you're new to online dating and want a lot of choices, the bigger sites might be better for you, but there's something to be said for narrowing the field. Think of it as searching a smaller haystack. Also, if you're just out of a relationship and you're fairly sure you're not ready for something serious, a casual, free site or app will suit. If you're sure you want to meet The One, you're more likely to find someone with similar intentions on eHarmony than Tinder.

**Let's talk a bit about online dating profiles. If there was one piece of information you'd recommend that online daters always include in their profiles, what would it be?**

Always use a picture. Various studies confirm this idea; no one will click or look at anything if there's a big blank space where your face should be. Other than that, you should name the one, super specific thing you're really passionate about. It doesn't have to be niche – it can be a kind of wine or a particular movie – but “For a great night in, I need a bottle of Margaux and *Anchorman* on DVD” is much more exciting than “I like watching films with a glass of red!”

## **Daisy Buchanan Talks About Staying Safe During Online Dating**

**To shift gears a bit, this book is aimed at young women who are online dating today, and safety is always a concern when strangers are involved. What are some tips for staying safe when meeting someone new for the first time?**

I think that a big thing is not to mix your social networks. If you met them on Match, don't add them on Facebook yet. Obviously, this doesn't apply if Facebook is where you've been communicating, but we give out so much information online

without realizing it. Also, if you swap e-mail addresses, set up a separate dating one instead of giving out your personal one. Hopefully, it's an unnecessary precaution, but safety first! Remember that it's easy to feel like you've known someone forever when you've been talking online a lot, but they're still a stranger, even though they don't seem like one.

**I had never heard of apps like "Grouper" before, where groups of friends can connect with other groups of friends of the opposite sex. I'm sure this really helps people feel safer! What date spots would you recommend as being ideal for group dates?**

It is great for safety.

I think it depends on the group! If you're all quite confident, I say go to a karaoke bar. Going bowling or planning a picnic might be fun too. A lively bar may make you all feel at ease, but if it's too lively, you won't be able to hear each other.

**Related Link:** [5 Red Flags in Online Dating Profiles](#)

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers?**

Ultimately, online dating is just like traditional dating. The technology exists to make it easier and more fun and to give us more choices. But it's only as good as the people doing it. I think it's incredibly effective as long as you're patient, open-minded, and willing to see the funny side of any situation!

*To read more online dating advice, get your copy of Meeting Your Match on Amazon. Follow Daisy on Twitter @NotRollergirl.*

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# Coffee Meets Bagel Dating App Co-Founder Talks About Being on 'Shark Tank'



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Lori Bizzoco and Emma Wells.

Looking for a unique way to find love on your mobile device? Well, one of the biggest names in [dating and relationship](#) apps is about to get some air time on television tonight (and no, it's not Tinder). Coffee Meets Bagel co-founders and sisters, Dawoon, Arum, and Soo Kang, are heading to ABC's *Shark Tank*

for the season premiere to seek funding for an Android app expansion that launched two days ago to compliment their growing business.

## **What is the Coffee Meets Bagel Dating and Relationship App?**

Coffee Meets Bagel was started by the Kang sisters in April 2012 in New York. As smart, attractive, young, and busy professionals who weren't having much success with dating, they wanted to make finding love easier and more fun for singles by creating a unique dating and relationship app. According to their website, Coffee Meets Bagel operates under three guiding principles: Firstly, your dating life should be as private as you want it to be; secondly, meeting people through friends is safe and easy; and finally, it shouldn't be hard, uncomfortable, or tricky to meet good potential partners.

**Related Link:** [New Dating Apps to Manage Your Love Life](#)

Coffee Meets Bagel sets itself apart from other dating and relationship apps by providing users with only one potential match – or “Bagel” – per day at noon. Users then have 24 hours to either “like” or “pass” on their match. If you select “like” and your match does too, you get connected via SMS messages and can schedule a date. Additionally, Coffee Meets Bagel only provides matches it finds through your Facebook friend network. Perhaps this is why it has been so successful: They claim one million matches/introductions since they launched!

## **Their Experiences on Shark Tank**

Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco had the chance to meet Dawoon a few years back at the New York launch party, and she spoke to her again this week. She wouldn't disclose too much



information about what happens on *Shark Tank* or about the company's user numbers. "We don't give out our numbers," she reveals. Well, that's going to make for an interesting segment tonight considering *Shark Tank* investors are ALL about the numbers! When asked if we'll find out more about this on the show, she replies, "You'll have to wait and see!"

Interestingly, Mashable reported that the sisters were attacked by the sharks for being coy about their users.

It's not that the sisters don't know the premise of the show. In fact, Dawoon said that they are big fans. However, she does tell us that they didn't seek out the opportunity to be on *Shark Tank*, explaining that ABC actually contacted them directly. "I never considered going on *Shark Tank* before because we are a bigger company than the entrepreneurs they typically have on the show," referring to her company's 11 person team and their recent funding. The company received their first round of funding in September 2012 for 600,000 dollars from LightBank Venture Capital and the co-founder of Match.com, Peng T. Ong. They received a second round of venture capital – 2.8 million dollars – from an unknown source in May 2014. Speculation is that this came from one of the sharks, but Dawoon confirms it did not. "The investment happened before the announcement was made and before *Shark Tank*," she says.

**Related Link:** ['Shark Tank's' Barbara Corcoran Talks Business, Relationships, and 'Shark Tales'](#)

But when the opportunity presented itself, they knew it was too good to turn down. "We thought it would be amazing to have one of the sharks involved because they are so smart and experienced," she shares. "So we decided to go for it. It was very nerve-racking, but it was a lot of fun!"

When asked if there was a particular shark they would want as an investor, she points to Mark Cuban. "If I were to pick one shark [to work with], I would probably love to have

him involved because he's just so tech savvy. All the sharks are very straightforward and sharp, but I find Mark to be particularly so. I can totally see him adding a lot of value to Coffee Meets Bagel. We are very excited at the prospect of getting any of the sharks involved though."

Like any good reality television show, there is always the possibility of some drama. We'll just have to wait and see if Coffee Meets Bagel will be a match on the premiere episode of *Shark Tank*!

*Tune in for Shark Tank tonight on ABC at 9/8c!*

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## Does Your Dating Radar Need Some Tuning?





By Maggie Manfredi

Swimming through the 21st century dating pool can be a complicated endeavor. Not only are you searching for a soul-mate but you have to doggy paddle your way through cringe-worthy dating apps, dating websites with a price tag or crowded bars with minimal lighting. It's no easy feat and according to *psychologytoday.com*, "It's been found that 81 percent of people lie on their online dating profiles, most often about their age, height, weight, and earning power—and that doesn't include photo shopping." So before you go out there with all the liars and the dirty, dirty cheats of the world, you need to make sure your dating radar is as active as your tinder inbox.

**1. Be honest with yourself and with others:** You can't prevent people from telling you falsities to make themselves look better but you do have control over your own actions. Everyone

has experienced that moment where your finger hovers over the send button as you over analyze every single word in the conversation. Make it easier on yourself and simply make sure your words are truthful.

**Related:** [Should You Date Someone Going Through a Divorce?](#)

**2. Don't get stuck in the cyber limbo:** So you've started chatting with a cutie on OkCupid. You're chatting, and chatting some more...Warning: you are getting caught in the cyber limbo. If you don't feel a spark don't drag along a boring conversation. If you get butterflies every time you get a notification, do not be afraid to make the first move. (Dating app tip, make sure the first in person encounter is at a public place that you are comfortable at or have been to before.)

**3. Be prepared for rejection:** If you are lucky you will get some dates with some interesting people. Not every date is going to be a love connection, that's a fact. Sometimes you may be thinking there is something there but the other person is just not that into you, remember that this is okay. For a monogamous relationship to work there has to be mutual adoration and respect. When you go for drinks or grab a coffee don't set your expectations too high. Dating is supposed to be fun and if someone says thanks but no thanks, think of it positively, as one step closer to love.

**Related:** [10 Signs That Your relationship Has Hit a Dead End](#)

**4. Keep it simple:** With all the different dating resources you might find yourself getting caught up in the many ways to meet people. Dating app tip number two, limit yourself to one or two apps/websites so that you do not drown in eligible bachelors or bachelorettes. Though these apps are the greatest because you can find a date while sipping wine in your pajamas, remember that there are plenty of singles out there right now just waiting to meet you in person. So get out

there!

How do you survive singledom? Share your comments below!

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# Celebrity Gossip Columnist Perez Hilton on Dating in NYC: “It’s Raining Men, But It’s Exhausting”





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Christina DeRosa. It's hard to keep up with Perez Hilton, as he's always on the go trying to get celebrity gossip for his own popular website. But the blogger slowed down for a moment to catch up with CupidsPulse.com at *OK!* Magazine's New York Fashion Week celebration. During a one-on-one celebrity video interview, he gave us the latest scoop on living a healthy life and looking for a relationship and love in New York City.

## **Perez Hilton Talks Celebrity Dating**

When asked about [celebrity dating](#) in New York, Hilton shared that he isn't giving up on the hope of finding someone special. He's continued to online date, as he shared in his last interview with us (see related link below). "It's great; I'm not gonna complain," he adds. "It's raining men, but it's exhausting going on so many first dates."

**Related Link:** [Perez Hilton on Dating with a Child and Finding Love Online](#)

What he wants in a partner is quite simple: “Somebody who is happy – happy professionally, happy personally, and happy with the direction their life is heading in,” the blogger tells us. “Someone who knows who they are, knows what they want.”

With his son adjusting to the New York lifestyle, we were curious to find out if there would be more kids in his future. The celebrity gossip columnist replies, “If I’m lucky!”

Hilton also reveals his plan for staying slim and healthy: that large bag with him on the red carpet. When asked what was in the bag, the star admits, “My food.” His secret: “Nothing special – no juicing, no weirdness, just healthy food really.”

**Related Link:** [Perez Hilton Opens Up About Fatherhood](#)

## **Celebrity Gossip Columnist on Fashion**

Ever the fashionista himself, he says, “What I have most enjoyed about fashion week is just getting to wear so many fun clothes.”

He said that his inspiration behind the black and white unitard and black boots he was wearing at the *OK!* event was to pay homage to the beloved red carpet queen herself: Joan Rivers. So sweet!

*Keep up with Perez via Twitter @PerezHilton.*

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