

Online Dating: Are Pictures Worth 1000 Words?



By [Marni Battista](#)

As much as we may try to seem above it, there's no denying that photos are a major factor when choosing whom to pursue in the online dating world. While I always encourage women to look beyond a man's physical characteristics and delve deeper to determine overall compatibility, online dating presents a whole different animal.

Other than the mysterious algorithm working behind the scenes, most online dating sites give you a guy's stats, a few sentences, and a gaggle of photos to base your first impression on. It's only natural – and wise – to read into the

pictures these potential men choose to provide. So that you don't step on any online dating landmines, here's a Dating with Dignity guide to potential photo faux-pas:

Related Link: [Dating Red Flags Revealed on Facebook](#)

Obviously Outdated

It's tempting for us all to pick the fit, tanned photo from senior year sorority formal over the slightly paler and softer-around-the-edges candid photo from brunch last weekend. But the most secure and successful daters realize the value in posting something more recent and realistic. Guys who've posted something clearly from decades past are cause for a red flag. There's something on the outside or the inside that they haven't quite come to terms with.

Angles and Filters on Filters on Filters

Women have long been accused of using "the angles" in online photos, but just as many men are guilty of snapping profile pics from unnatural vantage points that put their most flattering face (or body part) forward. Popular apps such as Instagram add a whole other layer to the problem: This and other photo-editing apps can make any average Joe look like an A-list Hollywood stud.

Again, when you encounter someone who feels as though they need to dramatically alter their photo in order to appear attractive to potential women, you're likely dealing with someone who carries a level of insecurity, narcissism, or some combination of both.

Related Link: [How to Be Successful with Online Dating](#)

Another Lady

It blows my mind when I hear of men posting photos with significant others, whether past or present, to their online dating profiles. However, it's not uncommon to encounter men

online who have purposely included photos with girlfriends, wives, fiancées, or even blatantly exposed wedding rings. Some dating apps, such as Tinder or Hinge, pull profile photos directly from Facebook, inadvertently including cuddly couple pics from profile pictures past. But beyond that, there isn't much of an excuse for this kind of online dating behavior. Guys with other girls have got to go!

No Picture at All

A man who foregoes photos doesn't constitute an automatic deal breaker, but proceed with caution. Reasons abound for choosing to remain physically anonymous on an online dating site. Perhaps he's new to the concept or simply hasn't yet taken the time to upload any.

If a photoless gent reaches out to you and the conversation flows freely or something in his profile piques your interest, be sure to ask for a photo or at least a last name for a Google background check before meeting in person. But if his words aren't impressing and he balks when asked to put a face to the name, it's time to move on to someone who isn't afraid to show his true self.

[Marni Battista](#), founder of Dating with Dignity, is an expert dating and life coach with a 10-step system to manifesting love for your self and others. You can contact Marni at marni@datingwithdignity.com.

Single in Stiletto Show: How

to Be Successful with Online Dating



On this week's [Single in Stiletto](#)s show, founder Suzanne Oshima talks to dating coach and author Robert Manni about how to be successful with online dating. He answers the following questions: What are the three main things men look for in an online dating profile? What should you do if you're not getting a response? How can a woman contact a man without seeming desperate?

Related Link: [Robert Manni on 5 Ways Women Sabotage Themselves with Men](#)

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

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

What is your best online dating tip? Tell us in the comments below.

‘Online Dating Rituals of the American Male’ Reality TV Star Marcus Pierce Says Being Yourself is Key to Finding a Relationship and Love





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Louisa Gonzales and [Whitney Johnson](#).

Marcus Pierce is no stranger to the online dating world, having been active on sites like OkCupid since 2006. The celebrity trainer and Artist Muse creative director also isn't one to shy away from fun opportunities, so deciding to appear on the premiere episode of Bravo's new reality TV show *Online Dating Rituals of the American Male* was an easy choice to make.

Related Link: ['A Million First Dates' Offers New Insights About Online Dating](#)

Marcus Pierce Talks Reality TV and Online Dating

The Los Angeles resident feels like the docu-series came along at just "the right time in my life. I'm kind of at the point where I've run out of options. Plus, I'm so busy with work and everything else," he explains in our [exclusive celebrity](#)

[interview](#). “And I’m always up for new experiences – especially when it has to do with a relationship and love. I feel like you can find it anywhere if you’re open to it.” Along these lines, *Bachelorette* fans may recognize Pierce from the second season of the show, where he was one of 25 contestants vying for Meredith Phillips’s heart.

Despite his personal beliefs, the handsome trainer understands the doubt surrounding online dating. In fact, he hasn’t always been on board with the concept. When he first joined the online dating scene, it was more of a “joke” to him. And he wasn’t the only one with that mindset: “Back then, I think people automatically assumed that, if you were online dating, you were desperate.”

Of course, his opinions have changed since then. “At the time, I was younger and wasn’t working as much as I am now. I had a lot more free time to actually go out and meet women. So, here we are, eight years later,” he says with a laugh. “Now that I’m busier, online dating just makes it easier for me to look for a relationship and love.”

So what can viewers expect when they tune into *Online Dating Rituals of the American Male*? Pierce assures fans that he’s always true to himself as he reveals “the good, the bad, and the ugly” of online dating. “I know who I am, and I know I have to be vulnerable, so I’m always just going to be Marcus,” he shares. “I’m a pretty loving guy. I’m very personable. I’m a communicator. No matter what I get from a girl, I’m still going to be me.”

Related Link: [Celebrity Blogger Perez Hilton Talks Online Dating](#)

Bravo Star Shares Online Dating

Advice

The reality TV star also hopes that the show will allow people to learn from his experiences. He wants to help both men and women gain a better understanding of online dating, especially when it comes to developing their profiles. "You need to put your best representation forward. You know everybody's got their weirdness and their issues, but you don't want to put that all out there!"

Continuing with this advice, Pierce encourages online daters to show off their best qualities in the beginning and not worry about how you think a potential match will perceive your profile. "Always put up your best pictures. Don't put anything that's unflattering about yourself; let somebody naturally find out those things about you when they take you on a date. You don't need to lay it all out on the table. Include the things that will interest people and make them want to learn more about you."

Just like in real life, online dating matches don't always work out. Still, he doesn't let himself get too affected by rejection – and he advises others to do the same. "Don't think about what the other person is trying to get from you. Just be yourself, be vulnerable, and be open to love. And that person who truly belongs with you, who truly wants you for who you are, will find you."

Related Link: [How to Deal with Online Dating Rejection](#)

While he's dealt with heartbreak in the past, Pierce *may* be happily coupled up now. When asked if he was currently single, the reality TV star played coy. It looks like you'll have to tune into the show to find out about his current relationship status!

You can follow Pierce onTwitter @thefitartist. Be sure to tune into the premiere of Online Dating Rituals of the American

Male on Bravo this Sunday, March 9th, at 10/9c!

NoGamesLove Video Dating Tips: Hair Color and Online Dating



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

Dating Advice from E!'s *Famously*

Single Laurel House on Hair Color

What hair color do you think gets the most attention when it comes to online dating? In this week's [dating advice](#) video, relationship expert and E!'s *Famously Single* dating coach, Laurel House shares findings from AYI.com to answer this question and more. "It's actually blondes for women and silver for men," the dating expert reveals. Watch the video above to find out how your hair color affects how guys respond (or don't respond) to your online dating profile!

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

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

How does hair color influence your opinion of potential online dating matches? Tell us in the comments below!

The Dating Lounge: You're Invited to an Exclusive Dating Community





This post is sponsored by The Dating Lounge.

By Brittany Stubbs

The Dating Lounge is the first ever invitation-only dating community on Facebook where friends date each other's friends. It was created by Samantha Daniels, one of the foremost professional matchmakers and dating experts in the country, to provide singles with exactly what they want in today's dating world: real-time information, connections to people they know, and accuracy in an exclusive invitation-only community.

Unlike other dating sites, The Dating Lounge pulls information directly from Facebook profiles, allowing you to see how you are connected to a potential date through the mutual friends you share. The site is populated by all friends of friends; once you join, you get to invite 10 of your friends, and then they get to invite 10 of their friends, and so on.

Another reassuring part of this dating app is the fact that it was created by someone who knows the dating world. Daniels is owner of the bicoastal matchmaking service called Samantha's Table. Responsible for over 250 marriages and thousands of

substantial relationships, she works with high-profile people and celebrities, matching and advising them on how to find that one person who is missing in their life.

She founded The Dating Lounge with the idea that she could create “a small world for dating,” where people had the capability of dating as their real self, in real time, with the information pulled directly from an already-existing profile. Members of The Dating Lounge are busy and successful. They don’t have time to waste going on bad dates; they prefer to know more information upfront so they can strategically determine who they would like to meet.

Some things to check out once you are in The Lounge:

- The “About the Dating Lounge” page as well as the “Story Behind the Lounge” so you get a good sense of what the site is all about and the specifics of why it was created.
- The “Invite a Friend” page where each member gets to invite 10 friends, who in turn can invite 10 friends and so on, keeping The Lounge by invitation only.
- The “Facebook profile” button on each person’s profile page, which links their Dating Lounge profile to their Facebook page so members get to find out more about who they’re thinking about dating.
- The “Mutual Friends” button, which allows members to see which friends they have in common with a potential date, providing a natural connection and a sense of comfort.
- The “Email a Mutual Friend” button, which allows members to automatically request that a mutual friend make an introduction for them to a potential love interest, just like they would ask them to do *in real life*.

For an invitation to The Dating Lounge, go to the app page and request an invitation by clicking on “Don’t have invitation

code?"

Blogger Perez Hilton Talks About Being a Single Celebrity Parent, Online Dating, and His Recent Move to New York



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Video by Damian Kolodiy.
At the Match.com Singles in America event, CupidsPulse.com

Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco talked to panelist and blogger Perez Hilton about online dating and life in New York City with his sweet son, Mario.

Celebrity Video Interview with Perez Hilton

As for why he was on the panel at Saturday's event, the celebrity gossip columnist reveals, "I'm here to talk about my experiences – I'm on Match and many other sites. I think it's fun to offer my perspective, which may be different from the other panelists because I'm a gay man and a personality."

Related Link: ['Millionaire Matchmaker' Patti Stanger Talks Online Dating and Finding The One](#)

In our celebrity video interview, the blogger lights up when the subject turned to his son. "He loves New York! We do so much here," he shares. "I think raising a child in New York City is the best because there's so much to do and it's so easy to do so much."

Of course, having a child changed Hilton's dating life, but he doesn't like to use the word "difficult" when it comes to finding love. "It definitely presents challenges that a single person wouldn't face. Like I choose not to bring guys back to my place. You gotta work around it! Do what you got to do."

Right now, though, the single celebrity parent's priority is Mario's first birthday on Feb. 17. He shares that the father-and-son duo will be celebrating with a blessings ceremony. "I'm inviting all my close friends and family to come over and write down little blessings on a sheet of paper," he explains in our celebrity video interview. "I'm trying to get some spiritual folks – maybe a rabbi and a priest, maybe a monk – to share some words and blessings as well."

Visit PerezHilton.com for more from the celebrity gossip

columnist.

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

Looking for Love Is Like a Job Search



By Lisa Becker

We all know that finding love can be a lot of work. No disrespect to the Peace Corp, but it truly may be the toughest job you'll ever have. So if you're serious about wanting to find a great relationship, you should start treating it like a

job search. Consider these seven tips below:

1. Network, Network, Network: Just as people find jobs through networking, a great way to find a good personal match is through friends and friends of friends. After all, who is better to help promote your great qualities, positively position your odd quirks, and play down your annoying habits?

Because they know you and your desires, your loved ones will likely beat out most online dating algorithms in making good matches. If you do turn to online dating, consider a service like Clique, an invitation-only site that links you up with people through common connections.

2. Create a Digital Resume: If online dating is for you, treat your profile like a digital resume. Use this opportunity to tell people who you really are and what makes you special. Don't talk about your ex. That's tantamount to saying you got fired from your last job. Just let your personality, accomplishments, and assets shine through.

Include specifics that people can connect with – interests, hobbies, likes, and dislikes – but be honest. If all goes well and you make a connection, you'll need to provide proof of all of your claims. Be sure to proofread! Not only do you likely want to come across as literate and educated but as someone who takes pride in themselves.

Related Link: [Desiree Hartstock Says Confidence is the Key to Finding Mr. Right](#)

3. Be Selective: You wouldn't apply for every job advertised on Monster.com, would you? And you wouldn't hire someone you know is wrong for the job. Then why would you do that in dating? Don't ask out every prospective person or online match, and don't accept an invitation from all either.

Let's face it: Dating isn't cheap. It takes time, money, and,

likely your most valuable and scarce resource, energy. So take advantage of the “try before you buy” environment of online dating. You don’t have to meet for a drink, grab a coffee, or sit through a long dinner only to discover there’s no physical attraction or you have nothing in common, conversation is lacking.

4. Do Your Research: Online dating will allow you to narrow your focus if you do your homework. You can join a general dating service and design your dating search to make matches based on criteria important to you from interests and values to age and previous history. You can also select an online dating service that focuses exclusively on a niche market based on religion or education. Find the one that’s right for you.

Once online, really read profiles and send messages that are tailored to them. The generic “I like your profile and feel like we have a lot in common” email will likely find its way into the trash. Find one or two things in the person’s profile that you connect with and comment on them.

Related Link: [Five Tips for Falling in Love in 2014](#)

5. Job Interview: Treat your first date like a job interview. While you likely won’t be asked what your biggest strengths and weaknesses are or where you see yourself in five years, you will need to put your best foot forward. Good interviews are about seeing if the job and the candidate are a good match.

The job candidate who comes to the interview only asking about vacation days and salary isn’t going to get the job. Ask questions to learn about your date and determine if you have mutual interests. Even if you know this isn’t going to be a love match, use it as an opportunity to practice your dating skills. You’ll improve for the next time around. You also never know who this person might introduce you to (see

Network, Network, Network above).

6. Dress for Success: I'm not suggesting you wear a suit and tie or skirt and blazer on a first date. What I am saying is dress appropriately for the occasion. Pick something that puts you in the best light, is reflective of your personality, and fits the date. You'll feel better and more confident, which will shine through.

Related Link: [4 Best Practices for Talking to Your Date](#)

7. Decline with Grace: In *Click: An Online Love Story*, the main character Renee gets an email from someone halfway across the world looking to meet someone willing to move for him. After sending a polite and diplomatic "thanks but no thanks" email message, she proclaims to her friend, "It's so much easier to reject someone over that Internet than in real life. Score one for online dating!" While rejection is easier for both parties when done online, it's important to remember that people still have feelings.

Lisa Becker had endured her share of hilarious and heinous cyber dates, many of which inspired Click: An Online Love Story and Double Click. The books, about a young woman's search for love online in Los Angeles, have been called "a fast read that will keep you entertained," "a fun, quick read for fans of Sex and the City," and "hard to put down." Her third novel, Right Click, is due out Spring 2014.

Celebrity Video Interview:

'Millionaire Matchmaker' Star Patti Stanger on How a Relationship and Love Changed Her: "I'm Much More Relaxed"



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Video by Damian Kolodiy. This past Saturday, CupidsPulse.com Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco and *Millionaire Matchmaker* reality TV star Patti Stanger caught up at Match.com's Singles in America 2014 event where Stanger moderated a panel discussion with four sex and dating experts, including Celebrity Blogger Perez Hilton, Leading Sex Expert Dr. Emily Morse, *Cosmopolitan's* Sex and Relationship Editor Anna Breslaw, and Chief Scientific Advisor for Match.com Dr. Helen Fisher. Prior to the event, we had the

opportunity to sit down with the matchmaker, and in our celebrity video interview, we chat with her about online dating, her own personal love story, and her best dating advice for meeting The One.

Related Link: [Patti Stanger on Celebrity Relationships and Love in NYC](#)

Celebrity Video Interview with Patti Stanger

“I love Match.com! I’m the girl who dates online,” the reality TV star candidly shares. “This is the way to meet singles. 18 or 80, it doesn’t matter. We just need the tools and the ammunition to do it.”

As for how finding love with fiancé David Krause has changed her? “I’m much more relaxed. I love nesting; I love staying home.”

Watch our celebrity video interview above for more information.

Tune in for The Millionaire Matchmaker on Bravo on Thursdays at 9/8c, and check out Stanger’s line of jewelry at Shop by Bravo!

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

‘A Million First Dates’

Author Dan Slater Offers New Insight about Online Dating



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Brittany Stubbs

When it comes to meeting The One, we're no longer stuck sitting alone at the bar or praying that our next blind date will work out. Today, millions of singles are turning to dating websites to help them find their better half. Although a new success story happens every day with the help of these online matchmakers, the unlimited profiles and possibilities these sites provide pose some issues as well.

In his second novel *A Million First Dates: Solving the Puzzle of Online Dating*, journalist Dan Slater invites us behind the scenes of the fascinating online dating business. He shows how

this industry is changing our culture in more profound ways than we can imagine. By altering our perception of what's possible, these sites are reconditioning our feelings about monogamy and challenging the traditional paradigm of adult life. Slater examines the questions that the digital revolution is forcing us to ask: Why should we settle for someone who falls short of our expectations if there are thousands of other options a click away? Can commitment thrive in a world of unlimited options? Can chemistry really be quantified by math geeks? In our interview below, we talk to Slater about the answers to these questions and more.

What inspired you to write on the subject of online dating?

A few things sparked my interest in this subject. The fact that my parents met by one of the first computer dating websites in the 1960s definitely gave me a reason to go back and research the beginning of this trend; after all, I wouldn't be here today if my parents hadn't met this way. I'm also one of the first generations that latched on to online dating – my friends were doing it, and people were always talking about it – so it was a subject that sort of surrounded me and seemed relevant.

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

What advice do you have for people exploring online dating?

As far as finding the right site, look for results. If you're going on several dates and you're not finding anything, maybe the community isn't right for you. I encourage people to use a few different dating sites.

When it comes to looking for a partner, I had the most success with online dating when I sort of threw away my checklist of things I was looking for and focused on maybe a single thing I wanted to find in a person. Maybe you just want to find someone who will go bird watching with you. If so, forget about what people look like, where they went to school, etc.

and just focus on finding someone who shares this interest. Online dating is a commitment, and it's sometimes scary, but if you're going to jump in with both feet, take advantage of trying to find that one thing you're really looking for.

In the book, you state that "Internet dating has helped people of all ages realize that there's no need to settle for a mediocre relationship." But it appears that we have higher expectations now on what is good. Can you expand on this idea?

In the past, I think people would settle because there weren't as many opportunities to meet new people; a new person didn't just pop up every day. With online dating, people are popping up with the click of a mouse. I don't see this as a bad thing or mean to imply that more people are running away from good relationships, but I do think people in relationships that are on the fence will be more liberated by all the opportunities that online dating provides. People are now less likely to stick around in a so-so relationship just because they're afraid to be alone or afraid they won't meet anyone else. I think the majority of people still want relationships and will commit when they find something really great, but again, I think it lowers commitment for those on the fence.

Related Link: [How to Deal with Online Dating Rejection](#)

Do you think technology or a dating website can truly determine if two people are going to have chemistry?

I think online dating can predict to an impressive degree whether two people are going to hit it off on that first date, whether they're going to sit down and have that spark where they can talk about common interests as an hour flies by. Online dating is getting better and better at determining if two people are going to get along. But I think that is a huge leap away from long-term compatibility, such as marriage, living together, and sticking with one another for a long time. I don't think that's something that can be quantified by

these websites yet. I don't want to rule it out, but I don't think technology is there yet.

What are some positive aspects of approaching love this way?

For one, it does allow you several options. I think another positive is that they provide you with more dating experiences, and these experiences are going to benefit whatever relationship you finally end up in. They grant you real life opportunities versus received wisdom from your parents or friends and allow you to discover the kind of relationships and people that work or don't work for you, which helps you ultimately understand what you're actually looking for and need in the end.

To learn more about online dating, purchase Dan Slater's new book on Amazon!

Watch the Winners of the Match.com Propose Perfectly Video Contest!





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

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

Background on the couple: Troy is an Arena 2 football coach and former police officer who was injured in the line of duty. He met the love of his life Eliza, a third grade special education teacher, on Match.com in February 2013. Both joined the site after previous marriages. Troy was blindsided by a divorce after 19 years, while Eliza was widowed six years ago

when her husband died unexpectedly in front of their son. They each have three children (six between them), making their family a unique and modern day *Brady Bunch*. Eliza's 13-year-old daughter has severe special needs, and despite all of their obstacles, Troy and Eliza have done a great job of blending their families.

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

Congratulations to the happy couple!

5 Tips for Creating a Perfect Online Dating Profile





By Kristin Mattern

It's time. You've decided to enter the world of online dating. Perhaps you've already been online for a while, but aren't getting the desired results. Either way, you're ready for love and looking to put yourself in the best light possible while searching for that special someone. Here are five expert tips for creating the perfect online dating profile:

1. Keep your screen name classy: This is the first thing people see when they're searching for a sweetie. Think of this as your first impression, so choose wisely. There's a big difference between HuggieBear73 and CALLMEBIGPAPA. eFlirt founder, and dating expert Laurie Davis notes, "Some traits resonate better face-to-face than wire-to-wire. Humor tends to be one of these. Unless the written word is your thing, something funny you say IRL might come off differently on screen." This doesn't mean you have to be boring; choose something catchy and clever. You have to stand out after all! Pick a name that speaks to you, and is attention getting without being overly outrageous.

Related: [The Good, Bad and Ugly of Dating Advice Guides](#)

2. Pick your pics: Place flattering pictures of yourself on your page. Just like your screen name, this is the first thing a potential partner will see. You want a pretty pic to grab attention. Choose pictures of yourself that you not only look great in, but also catch you doing activities you enjoy. “In profile photos, makeup is a must, but photo editing is a don’t,” says Davis, “Let’s face it; ultimately you’re looking for someone who loves every pixel off screen.” Davis also recommends only putting up four to seven images, to ensure your profile isn’t overly time consuming to look through. Also, be sure to use current pictures. Sure, you looked amazing on that cruise six years ago, but you might look different today. Your pictures should be good looking, but also a current reflection of how your appearance is now.

3. Go for the highlights: Pretend your profile is your personal highlight reel. “Everyone should aim to emit a friendly vibe,” suggests Davis, “Check your baggage at the door. It’s TMI up front. Instead, keep the focus on you. After all, that’s why matches are clicking on your avatar—they want to know more!” Use your profile as your time to shine. Do you have any awesome accomplishments, or neat talents? Think about whom you are trying to connect with. Do you LOVE to horseback ride? Highlight your passions to attract a honey with similar interests.

4. Save some for later: Keep a little mystery going. Don’t write your whole life story on your profile. Love is about intrigue; give just enough information to get someone interested. Make some flirty allusions and sassy hints. You aren’t trying to write a novella. Two or three paragraphs for the “About Me” and a couple of sentences under categories is a good rule of thumb says *HuffingtonPost*. Davis also notes that you should “Nix ultimatums. This is a first impression and negativity could turn off even the most awesome match for you.”

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

5. Be an original: You're the only you there is! When creating your own profile, don't copy other people, use clichés or regurgitate generic lines like, "I am a great listener." Instead, be specific and explain who you are. Tell a short story about yourself and your perfect mate. As Davis reminds us, "Online dating isn't about being the hippest hottie on the digital block, it's about meeting your One. So while you're writing, remember to consider what might raise an eyebrow from that ideal keyboard cutie." Be yourself, after all you're looking for a special someone to love you not some made-up version of you.

For more information on eFlirt expert Laurie Davis, you can check out her book or website www.eflirtexpert.com/

Four Dates and a Wedding





By Lisa Becker

You've heard of the movie *Four Wedding and a Funeral*? Well, the story of how I met my husband online is *Four Dates and a Wedding*. Those online dates yielded some valuable lessons, which I'm happy to share in order to help other online love seekers:

Date 1: Justin

When I dipped my toe into the online dating pool, I was reeling from a bad breakup. Too modest and emotionally-bruised to write glowing things about *myself* in my profile, I instead wrote what *other* people would say about me, such as my family and co-workers. For example, I wrote, "My friends would say I'm fun, easy going and incredibly loyal, and my nephew would say I'm incredibly silly but sing a mean rendition of *I've Been Working on the Railroad*." I received dozens of generic emails reading, "You sound interesting and I think we would have a lot in common." It felt as though these men were carpet bombing the online dating site in the hopes of getting *someone* to respond. Justin emailed me one simple line

that captured my attention and heart: “I would say adorable.” I was hooked! While it didn’t work out in the long run, he was as sweet, charming and sincere as I had imagined he would be.

Lesson: If it doesn’t sound as if he’s read your profile, he might not have.

Related: [3 Benefits of Meeting People Online](#)

Date 2: Pete

From his profile and our brief email exchanges, Pete sounded like fun. He had three photos posted, and all of them seemed to be taken in a party setting where he was enjoying a cocktail. On our one and only dinner date, Pete’s true colors rang through. Every story seemed to begin with, “My buddies and I were out drinking one night.” I knew right away that he wasn’t the man for me.

Lesson: Pay attention to the little details, as they can often be quite telling.

Related: [How to Find Love Online with Non-Traditional Dating Sites](#)

Date 3: Eric

After receiving an email from someone and deciding I wanted to start an online conversation, I sent a series of questions to see if we would be compatible, such as the last book he read or the favorite part of his job. I’m a huge fan of pop culture so I also asked questions to see if we would have fun bantering about various topics. Eric and I seemed to be twins separated at birth. We had so much in common that I was convinced he was perfect for me. Unfortunately for me, after our lunch date, it became quite apparent that Eric was gay. And to toss out a *Seinfeld* pop culture reference here: “Not that there’s anything wrong with that.” As lovely as he was

and as much fun as we had together, I was convinced that once he came out of the closet, we would both be competing for the same man.

Lesson: If he sounds too good to be true, he probably is.

Date 4: Todd

Typically, I would avoid anyone who didn't post a photo online because I heard that men who were married or in committed relationships would secretly troll the dating sites looking for hook ups. Todd didn't have a photo posted with his profile, but he was so charming via email that I decided to meet him anyway. We planned to meet at a local restaurant. Since I didn't have a picture to reference, he gave me a description of himself. It could not have been farther from the truth. Fortunately, he knew what *I* looked like, so he was able to spot *me* in the crowded restaurant. I don't know if he was delusional or trying to be deceptive, but either way, it was a turn off.

Lesson: If there's no photo, proceed with caution.

Wedding: Steve

Not long after my date with Todd, I had my first date with Steve, which turned out to be my last first date ever. We've been happily married for 10 years, which in Los Angeles is apparently no small feat. So, if it happened for me, there's hope for anyone!

Lisa Becker had endured her share of hilarious and heinous cyber dates, many of which inspired [Click: An Online Love Story](#) and [Double Click](#). She is now happily married to a wonderful man she met online and lives in Manhattan Beach with him and their two daughters.

Relationship Advice: Online Dating Isn't a Threat to Monogamy—It's a Blessing



By Terri Trespicio for GalTime.com

Online dating is revolutionizing all relationships – whether you're dating or not.

For most of recorded history women did not have romantic options. You married the dude who your family deemed appropriate, and he likely lived within a quarter mile, and you stayed with him for life, like or not.

When I interviewed Dan Slater, author of *Love in the Time of Algorithms* (excerpted in *The Atlantic*, in a piece called “A Million First Dates”) on my show on Sirius XM, he agreed that it’s changing the way we view commitment. He also said that those who are happy don’t have that much to worry about.

But for those of you in less-than-ideal situations, or relationships that have gone south, online dating—even if you don’t actually use it – creates this sense of options. That this doesn’t have to be it for you.

This is the best news ever. Because if the only way you think you can “keep” a man or woman is by eliminating his or her other options, that means you want an inmate, not a life mate.

The internet didn’t invent options—it just brought them a little closer—made it a little easier, yes. But if you were under the impression that disconnecting someone’s internet is all you need to do to keep someone from having options? Yeah, that’s not gonna work.

Look, I’ve struggled with this myself – I worried that the more options someone had, the less likely he was to choose me. That’s not a technology problem. That’s a self-esteem problem.

Could someone decide to be with someone else instead of me? Of course! Always. That’s something you can’t ever protect yourself against – not you, not me, not anyone. But what I’m realizing is that what I’d rather have is someone who chooses me and continues to choose me, regardless of the other options.

Lest you think I’m not a romantic, I’ll remind you that there’s nothing romantic about being stuck in something going nowhere fast. You don’t get points for martyrdom. Just a sucky life.

While everyone’s freaking out about online dating killing love, rarely do we realize those options can work in reverse.

Competition – even the idea of it – works in everyone’s favor. The idea of options not only makes your partner hop to, but makes you bring it as well. Because throwing your relationship into park once you’ve “landed” him is a sure way to end the forward momentum. The whole “oh yeah where are you going to go” argument just doesn’t hold water anymore.

People will always gravitate toward coupling – and long-term coupling. Monogamy itself isn’t dying – but commitment for its own sake is. The idea that you’ll only ever want one person is not true for most people (and that’s being generous). So if having other options means you’re able to leave something that isn’t working anymore, then that alone is worth the price of posting a profile.

Dating Advice: 5 Red Flags in Online Dating Profiles





By Kelly Rouba for Galttime.com

If you're looking for love and feel like you just aren't meeting the right type of people, online dating *can* be a great alternative to the typical dating scene.

"Dating sites do increase the number of people, at least in principle, (who are) interested in meeting you," says Dan Sapen, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist who runs a private practice in Long Island, NY.

But navigating these vast online dating pools can be tricky.

"Dating sites sell the most powerful thing of all—the promise of love and/or sex. The responsibility for making it work or making it a disaster rests both with the seller and the customer. But, as we've all heard, let the buyer beware," Sapen cautions.

According to Sapen, if you are a woman who is looking for a mate online, you can "assume Mr. X is trying to impress you enough to get you to go out with him with as little delay as possible. Assume he is not interested in giving you a complete

listing of accurate, relevant facts.”

Sapen says some dating profiles remind him of sales pitches used by traveling salesman back in the good old days.

“Fancy talkers would roll into towns full of hard-working miners and poor folk with little education or money and convince them that the mystery liquid in the bottle would solve their problems.”

The same goes for guys looking to reel in vulnerable women, so it’s best to bypass profiles that sound too good to be true.

“With dating sites, a candidate’s sales pitch, based on the information he wants you to believe, mostly comes long before there is any chance the two of you will be in the same room. So, what is he going to tell you about his status, his success, or his financial security that will get you into the same room with him?”

Stacie Ikka, a relationship expert and founder of the dating consultancy Sitting In A Tree, shared this example of an online dating profile to avoid:

“I consider myself an honest and stand-up guy. I enjoy skiing, soccer, and cycling. Although, I don’t box, I am a avid fan of boxing. I think I am a pretty darn good cook. I love trying out new recipes. I like to travel and at least take one big trip a year. Guilty Pleasure: I still watch South Park.

When I do go out on dates, they are with very attractive females so after a few minutes you better win me over with your personality or else I move on. I am looking to date and have it turn into something long term but want to find that special girl to do it with. I am not looking for someone to hang out with, if you are emailing me to do so, it means there is something wrong with you and you don’t have any friends and aren’t good enough to be around me.

Please have a picture when you email, if you don't i'll just assume you are fat or very ugly or both and I don't have time for that. You might be very nice and have a great personality but there are fit girls who have that too so why would I settle for less?

I have a nice job downtown around the financial district. *Please at least be able to pay for half on the date. I won't be paying for you (at least not at first) so you better be able to pay your own way. Sorry I have to admit that was out of line. What I should have said is, don't expect to be going to upscale restaurants and have me pay for everything. (I don't mind picking up the coffee tab on the first date!!) I want an equal, not a freeloader!! If you are a picky eater, than you are not the girl for me.*

Quick Question: Why is the "average" female body 20 pounds overweight? They should really refer to the BMI when choosing a body type. I think it's a conspiracy of some sorts. I know my comments may seem rude but I am being brutally honest. Thanks for your time and best of luck!"

Unlike the sample profile above, some may be worded in such a way that women think they've found a catch, though the person is actually someone to avoid. To help online daters discern fact from fiction and guard their hearts, Ikka says there are at least five red flags to look for when perusing profiles (while keeping in mind that her remarks are generalizations and that there are exceptions as well as alternate perspectives, intentions, and interpretations).

1. Me, me, me

Some profiles overuse the word "I," and the person focuses too much on himself/herself. It is about what he/she wants, needs, or is looking for with little to no mention of what the lucky suitor will get in return.

“A well-balanced person and, therefore, a well-written online dating profile that accurately depicts one’s personality, preferences, and relationship goals will ensure that the profile covers what they’re looking for in addition to what they are willing to contribute to a relationship. You should be able to glean some observations around whether the person is a giver, a taker, or both by the way the individual packages their profile,” Ikka says.

2. Attractive picture but few words

“In these cases, [typically] this is a person who is accustomed to getting by on their looks and, perhaps, their looks alone,” Ikka says. She adds that this type of profile also suggests superficiality, lack of substance, and/or laziness.

3. Negative positioning

These profiles often use words like “can’t, won’t, don’t, shouldn’t, or wouldn’t. ” They contain statements, such as “I won’t date someone who doesn’t have a job.” or “You shouldn’t be too opinionated or you’re not for me.”

“These profiles indicate a variety of potential difficulties with their authors, including control issues, a negative perspective on life (or at least on dating), a sense of entitlement, or a victim’s mentality—basically nothing that one should find attractive right off the bat,” she says.

A former client of Ikka’s had a profile that fit this description when she started working with him, she shares. In it, he wrote, “If you’re not fit and into exercise, don’t bother contacting me.” After reading that, Ikka quickly worked with him to change the wording in order to make him sound more approachable.

“I helped him understand that his value of wanting to lead a

healthy lifestyle and wanting to find a partner who was like-minded was understandable (but that) he could communicate the exact same thing in a more positive manner. Ultimately, we changed the text to read, 'Because I value my health and enjoy staying active...I am looking to meet someone who shares the same or similar interests and fitness goals.'

4. Window shoppers

"These are people who are active on a website but who have not paid for a membership," Ikka explains. In some instances, "this is a huge red flag because they have no skin in the game and are one foot in, one foot out. You can identify these people only when you go to contact them and realize that you're not able to or your message goes unanswered; this is because they are not able to access messages, flirts, or e-cards because they are not paying for those services. In that case, do you really want to date someone who can't even commit to their own online dating profile?"

5. Monologues

"Although people who write long-winded profiles typically have the best of intentions, it is often an indication of what's in store when you meet them in person," Ikka says, adding, "It can be innocent and chalked up to a lack of dating experience, an attempt to be everything to everyone, an autobiography, or, in its worst form, it can be a preview to the 'it's-all-about-me' show.'"

Ikka believes online dating profiles should be like movie trailers.

"The purpose is to whet the audience's appetite, create interest and perhaps some intrigue and mystique, and then let those wanting more opt to buy a ticket to see the full movie. In this case, by reaching out through some form of communication."

Having to watch for red flags, like these, can make online dating seem daunting. “Some of the problem lies with the fact that the two of you are starting out backward. In the real world, there will be eye contact, body language, scent, and the ability to witness social behavior,” Sapen says.

“The good and hopeful news here is that a woman who is honest with herself, is willing to separate reality from imaginary romance, and who understands that real communication (in a real room, where eyes and hands can be seen, words considered, aroma savored, body language studied, and social behavior observed) stands the best chance of finding a lover for now or for forever, who is really a match based on the realities of sexual chemistry and interpersonal harmony.”

Movie Pick-Up Lines That Will Score You a Date





By Sarah Ribeiro

Life – and love – are constantly inspired by the movies. Even if they just inspire pick-up lines.

In the height of award season, [Badoo.com](https://www.badoo.com) offered female users from across the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand the chance to select their favorite from a list of ten movie pick-up lines to start online conversations.

“This is a study of pick-up lines in action”, says Louise Thompson, Badoo’s Director of PR. “And not just any lines but Hollywood’s finest.”

Badoo then analyzed the data on 1,000 interactions using the lines. They were able to gauge which lines were most picked by women to use on men and which lines got the highest response rate from men.

The line picked most by women was first delivered by Audrey Hepburn to Cary Grant in *Charade* (1963): “I don’t bite, you know . . . unless it’s called for.”

According to Jo Hemmings, a behavioral psychologist, relationship and dating coach, this naughty pick-up line makes sense for women to choose. As she tells Badoo, “It’s slightly quirky, with an element of naughtiness and sexuality about it – but in a fun way.”

The pick-up line that got the highest response from men was originally delivered by Bette Davis in *The Cabin in the Cotton* (1932): “I’d love to kiss you, but I just washed my hair.”

Badoo observed that older movie lines were more successful than newer ones to snag a partner. “The old lines do seem better – sharper, wittier, snappier”, says Thompson. “In fact, we found it much harder to find strong candidates from recent movies. They don’t seem to write them like they used to.”

In fact, the only contemporary pick-up line that made the list was from Natalie Portman’s 2011 movie, *No Strings Attached*: “You give me premature ventricular contractions... You make my heart skip a beat.” It was ranked fifth out of ten by women, and seventh out of ten by men.

This highlighted the other notable finding of Badoo’s study: that the lines women favor are not the ones to which men are most likely to respond.

Check out Badoo’s lists for yourself:

The Lines Most Picked By Women To Approach Men:

– “I don’t bite, you know ... unless it’s called for.” *Audrey Hepburn (Reggie) to Cary Grant (Peter) in “Charade” (1963)*

– “You don’t have to say anything... Oh, maybe just whistle. You know how to whistle don’t you?” *Lauren Bacall (“Slim”) to Humphrey Bogart (Harry) in “To Have and To Have Not” (1944)*

– “You don’t know how hard it is being a woman looking the way I do.” *Kathleen Turner (Jessica Rabbit) to Bob Hoskins (Eddie) in “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?” (1988)*

– “Was that cannon fire, or is it my heart pounding?” *Ingrid Bergman (Ilsa) to Humphrey Bogart (Rick) in “Casablanca” (1942)*

– “You give me premature ventricular contractions... You make my heart skip a beat.” *Natalie Portman (Emma) to Ashton Kutcher (Adam) in “No Strings Attached” (2011)*

– “Would you be shocked if I put on something more comfortable?” *Jean Harlow (Helen) in “Hell’s Angels” (1930.)*

The Lines Getting The Best Response From Men:

– “I’d like to kiss you, but I just washed my hair.” *Bette Davis (Madge) in “The Cabin in the Cotton” (1932)*

– “Don’t worship me till I’ve earned it.” *Shirley MacLaine (Aurora) in “Terms of Endearment”(1983)*

– “You don’t have to say anything... Oh, maybe just whistle. You know how to whistle don’t you?” *Lauren Bacall (“Slim”) to Humphrey Bogart (Harry) in “To Have and To Have Not” (1944)*

– “Was that cannon fire, or is it my heart pounding?” *Ingrid Bergman (Ilsa) to Humphrey Bogart (Rick) in “Casablanca” (1942)*

– “I don’t bite, you know ... unless it’s called for.” *Audrey Hepburn (Reggie) to Cary Grant (Peter) in “Charade” (1963)*

– “You aren’t too smart, are you? I like that in a man.” *Kathleen Turner (Matty) to William Hurt (Ned) in “Body Heat” (1981)*

What’s your go-to pick-up line from a movie? Share it with us below.

'DATA, A Love Story' Author Amy Webb Tells Us How to Find Love Online Based On Her Own Experiences



By Michelle Danzig

After countless failed dates, author and digital strategist Amy Webb decided to try online dating in a whole new fashion. To better understand what makes an online dating profile attractive, Webb created an online dating profile disguised as a male. Then she created nine more.

In her book *DATA, A Love Story: How I Gamed Online Dating to Meet My Match*, Webb brings the expression “put yourself in

someone else's shoes" to an entirely new level. Dating can be hard enough without adding the pressure of creating an online dating profile that represents you at your best.

Using the data recovered from the multiple profiles and their different characteristics, Webb discovered what information is needed to help you boost your online profile, ultimately helping you get the most out of your experience. We had the opportunity to interview Webb about her new book, learning the dos and don'ts of online dating and how to make your online dating profile more appealing.

I find it so fascinating that you created a fake, male profile (actually 10 of them) to "game" the online dating system. Why did you take this approach? What surprised you most about your female competition?

My goal was to make the best possible profile that I could. In order to do that, I wanted to find out more about my competition, and the only way to figure that out was to sign up as a man. The first time I did that, it was really shocking to me to find this big of gap. I was looking for a very specific type of guy, a very specific type of relationship. So I created a profile that had all of the attributes of the type of guy that I wanted. I asked myself, "If these are the women attracted to the same men as me, how can I present myself better online so I can get the guy instead?" That's what it was really about.

I was surprised to find out that people were lying about their height, although I think we all round our numbers a bit. Men are rounding up on their height; women are rounding down, which I also found interesting. I was always told that men are typically the ones making the first moves. What I realized was that people who are really great at online dating and seem to be really popular are the ones who aren't afraid to make the first move, male or female. They were willing to reach out

first, which was a happy surprise.

Related Link: [5 Low Profile Online Dating Strategies](#)

You gathered a lot of data and uncovered specific characteristics that make an online profile “attractive.” What are some of the top characteristics?

Well, photos matter, but that’s common sense. It’s obvious when the photo is eight to ten years old. The photo should always be current and, of course, make you look great. Women should show some skin, and there should be no one else in the photo.

Keeping the profile shorter rather than longer is always a good thing. Creating an online profile is really branding and marketing yourself. You should always be optimistic in what you’re saying; try not to sound negative. I think the most important thing to keep in mind is that the dating part doesn’t happen online; the dating part happens in real life.

What are some key characteristics that users should eliminate from their profile?

I’ve never dumbled down who I am, but one thing I learned is that you can’t list all your accomplishments. When you first meet somebody, you wouldn’t give them a five minute speech about your life (although we’ve all certainly met people like that), so why on earth would you do it online? Try to paint a picture for whoever is looking at your profile; make it seem like you’re approachable and like you’re a really fun person to be around.

After you analyzed your data, you went back and changed your personal profile based on what you learned. What changes did you make?

I changed everything. I had to scratch the entire thing and start over again. From the photos to the description –

everything.

Related Link: [No More Excuses: 10 Ways to Ditch Bad Dating Habits](#)

The majority of our visitors are single women looking for love. What advice can you give them for finding someone online or even offline?

Figure out exactly what you want. I think a lot of people who are in unhappy relationships aren't being honest with themselves. Everyone who is looking for someone should start off with his or her own list of attributes, and they should be very specific. Market yourself appropriately. Digitally, that means using the right information and presenting yourself the right way. However, in the real world, it's the same thing. Make sure you look and feel your best. Have a lot of confidence and present yourself well when you meet people.

You can purchase a copy of 'DATA: A Love Story: How I Gamed Online Dating to Meet My Match' in bookstores and online from [Amazon](#). For more information about Webb, please visit [DATALoveStory.com](#) or follow her on [Twitter](#).

Find 'Love at First Click' with Some Helpful Online Dating Tips From Laurie Davis





By Michelle Danzig

With more online dating sites available than ever before, and the world of social media integrated into our lives, meeting someone new and having a successful relationship is so much different than it was just a few years ago. Take it from Laurie Davis, a former marketing consultant turned online dating expert, with her own personal story of finding love on Twitter. Davis, Founder and CEO of eFlirt expert and first-time author of *Love at First Click: The Ultimate Guide to Online Dating* prides herself on her uncanny ability to match up happy couples. In an exclusive interview, she talks with us about her new book, and shares some helpful tips for anyone who wants to give online dating a try.

Can you tell us why you left your job in marketing? Of all of the things that you could have done, what made you choose the relationship industry?

I was burned in the Maddoff scandal. I worked in marketing as a consultant for Fortune 500, and one of my biggest clients was invested with Bernie Madoff. Needless to say, I lost that

contract and a lot of others. I was really struggling to figure out how to pivot my knowledge and experiences into my next job, knowing that marketing consultant jobs were going to be hard to come by.

Then, one of my friends called and said that he was moving in with his girlfriend; I realized that I had helped him meet her online. In fact, I helped many of my friends meet their significant others online. It's a lot like marketing, so all of the skills I learned professionally really applied. I started my business within 48 hours with 50 dollars in my pocket and a Twitter account.

Related Link: ["No More Duck Lips!" And Other Dating Profile Rules](#)

What would be the number one piece of advice you would give to someone new to online dating?

My best tip is to experiment. Remember, online dating isn't just dating sites; it is any technology that touches your life. Online dating is still really important, but I think it's great to use "pop tech flirting," which are other ways of meeting people online. Just be sure that the outlet is something natural to your life; I wouldn't join Twitter to find dates if you don't normally use Twitter.

What is the biggest challenge people face when starting out?

I think the biggest challenge people face when entering the online dating world is that they are too judgmental when viewing profiles. Remember that nobody is perfect on paper – even your perfect match probably won't look that way on their profile. So, if someone sounds interesting, go ahead and start a conversation with him.

What is the biggest mistake someone can make when creating an online profile?

Writing too much. It is really easy to go on and on about yourself and what you want in a partner. Your profile should be a conversation *starter*, not the entire conversation. Keep your "About Me" section to three paragraphs: two about you and one about what you are looking for.

What are the three most important things that someone needs to do to find a successful relationship online?

First, you should join a site and develop your profile. Next, be active on the dating site. I know these sound super simple, but a lot of people think that if they simply put up a profile, they'll automatically find love. You need to be an active participant in your dating life. Even if you are getting a lot of traffic to your inbox, it's not only about the people who are interested in you; it's about the people who you like too. And finally, get offline because that is where the relationship really happens. I have a very important rule that you should get offline after six emails. If he keeps dodging your request to meet in person, move on to the next guy.

You met your fiancé via Twitter. We'd love to know more about how your relationship developed!

When I first started my business, I searched for people on Twitter who were single and I thought may need my help. I also searched for other people in the industry. I was just getting a feel for what to expect with my new career path. Eventually, I came across Thomas; I thought he was so cute, and I loved his avatar. His tweets were so insightful, and he was giving such great advice.

So, I retweeted something he said, and we started chatting via Twitter. We found out that we both grew up in Boston, where Thomas was living at the time. When I was visiting my parents one weekend, I direct messaged him and asked him out for a drink. That was the beginning! We still flirt in 140

characters or less, even though we live together.

Related Link: [Q&A: Where Does Social Media Draw the Line on PDA?](#)

Of all of your clients, which success story stands out the most?

One of my favorite stories is about a guy who was living in the south. When he came to me, he just wanted to meet new people in his area, not find a serious girlfriend. I helped him with his profile, and eventually, he realized that he was ready to make a commitment. A girl actually reached out to him and said, "I've never messaged anyone before, but your profile made me feel like I needed to say hi." Now, they are actually married!

Any additional advice you can offer to our visitors?

Whether you're looking for love online or offline, you just never know when or where you will meet someone. This is why it is so important to use online dating as an empowerment tool—so that you are in more control of your dating life. Hopefully if you take the time, you will find love at first click.

You can purchase a copy of 'Love at First Click: The Ultimate Guide to Online Dating' in bookstores and online from Amazon. For more information about Davis, visit [eFlirtExpert.com](#). You can also follow Davis on Twitter and Facebook. Don't miss her live tweets during MTV's 'Catfish' on Mondays at 11 p.m. EST!

“No More Duck Lips!” And

Other Dating Profile Rules



By Luba Tolkachyov, from GalTime.com

how to make your online dating profile stand out

Finding that special someone can be frustrating, and many people use online dating and matchmaking sites to open up doors to new possibilities. There are literally millions of people out there looking for their soulmates, and an online profile might help them find you!

Here are some tips on how you can maximize your profile – and find someone great.

LOVE ISN'T ALWAYS SIMPLE, BUT YOUR DATING PROFILE SHOULD BE

Writing your online profile shouldn't feel like a college

assignment. It should be a brief, natural extension of your own personality. A lot of people are reading dozens of profiles, so you want to communicate who you are as quickly as possible. Help your readers learn whether they have something in common with you as easily as possible.

When you're sharing information, simply ask yourself, "Can I sum this up in five words?" Most likely, you can and should; the second readers see you've written a short novel about yourself, they'll lose interest and move on.

You also want to keep in mind that dating is supposed to be fun! If it starts to feel like a job that's weighing you down and stressing you out, you need to change your attitude and approach it differently. Keeping it simple will help you spend less time overanalyzing things – and give you more time to meet people.

SHOW THE REAL YOU

Honesty is key. Online profiles are meant to lead to meeting people in person. If you're not honest in your profile, you won't have good experiences meeting people face to face. Chemistry is something we all want, but it develops when you interact directly, not when you read about each other. The more accurate and true the online version of yourself is, the more likely you are to click with someone who's drawn in by your profile.

You also want to be approached by people who share your objectives, so if you're looking for marriage, say so! There's no reason to beat around the bush. I would hate to end up on a date with a nice, attractive, funny man I could fall in love with, only to find out he's not interested in falling in love as well.

SAY CHEESE!

The picture you choose for your profile is just as important as the words you write. Select one that clearly shows your face. Avoid group shots, since it makes it difficult for those browsing your profile to know which person you are. It also can imply that you're being misleading and want other users to assume you're the most attractive person in the photo – whomever the viewer might deem that to be!

And please stay away from clichés. Duck lips, cleavage shots, and photos of you hanging on others don't help you stand out. They just make you look tacky. You want a picture that's flattering and looks like the real you, not a gimmick.

LEAVE SOMETHING TO THE IMAGINATION

Of course, everyone is displaying her best side on an online profile, but don't feel a need to put every single positive detail about yourself on there. You want to make sure you include enough in your profile to describe yourself well and honestly, but you still want to have something to talk about when you meet.

Keep any emails and chats short. If you think you like the person, take it offline and meet for a date to get to know the real him. Remember, dating is about face-to-face interaction!

The dating world can be complex and intimidating, but setting up an online profile is an easy, wonderful way to start meeting new people. Keep your profile simple and honest, and online dating will be a fun adventure. (If nothing else, you'll have some great stories to share.) You never know – you just might find what (or who) you're looking for!

5 Dating Rules You Need to Break



By Karl Stockton

It should be fairly clear to most people that are trying to rekindle their love life that the way people meet and get to know each other has changed significantly in the last few years. Between online dating, and shifts in what is considered socially normal, it's a shame that so many people still seem to stick to the same, tired old routine when it comes to dating, especially first dates. Here are five common rules that should probably be avoided:

1. Dinner and a movie are acceptable for a first date.

Breaking this rule actually has little to do with stepping

away from cliché, and a lot to do with wanting to put yourself in an environment with your date where you have an easier time interacting them. This will result in doing the most productive thing you can be doing on a first date: getting to know them on a more personal level. While a dinner is almost universally acceptable for this, it's definitely advisable to skip the movie, or at least save it for a later time. There's nothing to be gained from sitting next to your date for two hours in complete silence.

Related Link: [What to Wear on a First Date](#)

2. The man should always pick up the check.

Due to a number of unfortunate factors, it's becoming a widespread reality that most middle-class households in the future are going to depend on more than one income. A willingness to help out with the expenses associated with a pleasant evening out on the part of the woman, at least every now and then, isn't about the death of chivalry, or any other such nonsense. It's about an acknowledgment that times are tough, and that she's perfectly willing to be a part of a two-person team effort to make life just a little bit easier.

3. Never kiss on the first date.

It simply isn't the 1950's anymore. Nobody's saying that a woman has to compromise her own sense of morality when it comes to intimacy, and romance should certainly be allowed to progress at its own pace. Still, if a man treats a woman to a nice evening out on the town, and she genuinely had a good time, a nice, direct kiss when he's preparing to tell her goodnight will tell him more about her desire to see him again in the future than words ever can. It's the ultimate way to make sure that he'll be thinking about her pretty constantly until the next time he talks to her.

4. Avoid awkward silence during dinner.

This is a rule that seems to appeal more to an innate desire to not feel conscious of oneself while getting to know someone new than anything else, but it's actually fairly silly. After all, you're in a restaurant to eat, and if dinner is the only chance you've given yourself to get to know your date for the evening, you're probably doing something wrong. Certainly, conversation shouldn't be avoided, but there's no point in breaking a sweat from trying to come up with filler just for the sake of avoiding silence. Silence among two people that are clearly attracted to one another can even denote a sense of comfort and compatibility, in its own way.

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

5. Talk at length about your personal history.

Even if you've gotten to know your date before first meeting with them, such as through online chatting or phone conversations, the importance of pacing yourself when allowing them to get to know you in person really can't be stressed enough. Information about people you've dated in the past, or traumatic experiences that are sensitive talking points for you should probably be saved until you've spent a significant amount of time with your new partner. This is particularly true on first dates, and trying to reveal too much about yourself too quickly can be a good way to scare off someone that might actually be good for you.

This article was written by Karl Stockton, a writer with interests in relationship dynamics, corporate culture, and dating trends. This particular piece was penned for speeddate.com; visit them to see an online dating service, a critical aspect of modern dating.

Match.com Survey: U.S. Singles Dating More Than Any Other Participating Nations



Match.com released findings yesterday from a new international survey that revealed U.S. singles are going on more dates than singles in any of the other participating nations.

Inspired by the 2012 Olympic games – when countries around the globe will unite in the spirit of competition – Match.com, the world's largest dating website, surveyed singles from **six countries including the U.S., U.K., Australia, Japan, France and Canada** to compare dating norms and preferences of each nation. The data revealed many stark differences between the countries on topics ranging from who pays for the first date to which countries' singles are the most likely to kiss and

tell. The survey also shattered cultural stereotypes – for example, in many categories, US singles were more traditional than singles from the other countries.

Related: [3 Benefits of Meeting People Online](#)

1. US Singles Win the Gold for Most Dates, with 77% reporting they have gone on two or more dates in the last year, followed by Canada (71%) and the UK (67%). Australia came in last place at 46%, showing that Aussies may want to focus a bit more on getting back into the dating game. **US and Canada's trick to winning the dating race?** Could be their abundance of bold women, with more Canadian (63%) and U.S. (62%) women reporting they have asked a man out on a date – more so than other countries.

2. Friends' opinions matter the most in the US; the least in France: France took the gold for independent thinking, with 74% of French singles reporting that their friends' opinions weren't a factor for choosing a date. Japan, trailing by a large gap, came in second at 47% to claim silver. **For US singles, the opposite held true**, with a large majority (70%) reporting that friends' opinions of their date matter. Northern neighbor Canada held similar attitudes in this category (68%).

3. Who pays on the first date? US singles were the most likely to believe that no matter who initiated the first date, the man should always pay (48%), while 37% of UK singles felt the first date bill should always be split. French singles however were the least likely to believe in a specific rule, with 36% reporting that depending on the situation, either person could pay. **Additional data on how nations are 'split' over who should handle the bill are included in the below release.*

Related: [Why Amazing Confident Women Remain Single](#)

4. Kiss and tell? US singles bare it all, while the French keep details hush-hush: French singles were least likely to

kiss and tell, with 35% of respondents not sharing details of their dates with their friends, closely followed by Japan at 30%. On the opposite end of the spectrum, U.S. singles were the most likely to tell their friends everything that happened on a date – with 92% admitting they would share at least some details with their pals.

5. Hottest singles in the world? Worldwide, the familiar trumps the exotic, with singles from every country overwhelmingly reporting that the hottest singles were in their **OWN** country. Besides expressing loyalty to their own countries, those we surveyed agreed that Southern Europe is home to the hottest singles in the world. Japanese and Aussie respondents preferred the singles in Northern Europe.

For more survey results, visit <http://blog.match.com/dating-championship>. For more information, visit <http://www.match.com>.

Ashton Kutcher Goes Online to Look for Love!





This post was sponsored by Popchips.

By Daniela Agurcia

Insiders tell us that Kutcher is in search of love (again). Could this be proof that he and Mila Kunis are just friends? You be the judge! We got our hands on Ashton Kutcher's dating video below. We aren't matchmakers but we know a thing or two about celebrity relationships and we are here to help him sort things out. In fact, there are several bachelors in this video that we could help. Let's meet our bachelors right now:

What these Bachelors all have in common is that they all share a slight resemblance to Ashton Kutcher, no?



Darl is the over the top, vain diva. He shares what he's looking for by telling us what makes him so special, and he loves his dog, Pupu. Is this Ashton Kutcher in this dating video? You tell us...



I never thought I'd see the day that Ashton Kutcher would need a dating video in order to get a girl, but hey, he is looking good on that motorcycle.

Check out Ashton's profile on WorldWideLovers.com, let us know if you like what you see on the new dating site.

What do you think it would take to date Ashton Kutcher? What type of girl would he like? Tell us in the comments below.

5 Low Profile Online Dating Strategies



By Heidi Lee Munson

Dear Heidi Lee,

Help! I think I'm a Toad!

I'm on an online dating site, and I lie about who I am ... I use my sister's photo. I play down my interests – leaving out that I'm Jim Carrey's ex and a former Playboy model. I feel guilty for lying, but I can't be honest because of stalkers, psychos and creeps. I want a regular, low-key guy who can throw back a burger and a beer in a bowling alley ...

Don't these guys have the right to know up front that my world is paparazzi and tabloids? Do I have the right to lure them with false promises of an All-American romance with the girl next door?

Who am I to lie to these men? A Toad?

xoxo,
Jenny

Related: [Fishing For Mr. Right – Types of Guys to Throw Back](#)

Dear Jenny,

Even asking such a question shows that you are a strong, lovely and thoughtful woman. Whether a Big Screen Celeb or a Midwest Farmer's Daughter, you and your future Prince Charming have the right to be honest with each other now.

Fortunately, my friend, you've found a Midwestern girl. I understand your unique need for privacy within the Toad Kingdom as well as your pull toward the rugged sexiness of the strong, meat-eating types. In small towns, we are all celebrities in our own right. Toads who recognize us may be interested in our career status, income or somewhat gullible reputations. So, Ms. All American in L.A., let me share a few small town girl strategies to help you avoid the Toad label :

5 Small Town Strategies for a Celebrity

1. Communicate proactively: Initiate conversation first to have control over the flow of it, and reveal yourself as early as appropriate.

Related: [How to Communicate to Get What You Need](#)

2. Go au natural: Use a natural picture of yourself – a naked face with a warm smile – preferably with a shadow from a tree or a ball cap shielding your true identity.

3. Minimize exposure: Hide your profile when you are talking to a handful of promising men.

4. Use geographic camouflage: Register your account using a zip code outside of your location to throw the Toads off your trail.

5. Be a rhinoceros: Grow a thick skin, doll. Even the best laid plans have holes. Not only does a rhino have thick skin, but he or she can crush the Toad in one mighty step.

Most importantly, have fun! I'm proud to hear that you chose online dating to meet "the one". We Citizens of the Toad Kingdom share good company having you here. Thanks!

Warmest Regards,

Heidi Lee

P.S. May I offer you a copy of my eBook, *How To Toad Proof Your Online Dating Profile?*

From struggling single mother to Happily Married Author, Marketer, Blogger and Online Dating Professional, Heidi Lee Munson kissed the toads so that you don't have to. From Couch Potato Toad to Lounge Lizard Toad and Freeloader Toad to Bad Toupee Toad, Heidi Lee kissed them all.

**HowAboutWe.com: Where
Chemistry Happens Offline**



This post is sponsored by HowAboutWe.com.

If you're looking for love online and haven't found it yet, perhaps all it takes is a little *offline* help. You see, many singles meet potential partners online and carry on great conversations via email but sometimes that's as far as it ever goes. Or, they spend weeks, even months, emailing someone that they think could be a long-term partner but when they meet in person they realize that they have nothing in common.

Online dating is a brilliant way to meet someone new but the the real connection happens when two people are face-to-face.

That's why we were excited when we saw the launch of HowAboutWe.com's recent commercial, *Chemisty Happens Offline*.

HowAboutWe.com really "gets it." They influence their members to get out there and go on dates when they find an initial connection. In fact, they are so committed to this idea that they are running a very cool contest asking people to submit their own video explaining what "Chemisty Happens

Offline” means to them. The video with the most votes could walk away with \$1,500. Here’s a look at the video we pulled together:

Remember to enter the contest and vote for your favorite video by “liking” it. Also as part of the promotion, those who sign up for HowAboutWe.com are eligible to take 33% off their subscription simply by using Coupon Code: **VDAYLOVE**

Here are five reasons why we at CupidsPulse.com feel that people need to go offline to find love:

1. Unflattering Photos: Some people aren’t photogenic and they actually look better in person than they do in a photo. Someone’s personality and mannerisms can also add to a person’s attractiveness. As they say, Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder. It’s hard to get an impression or build chemistry from a one-dimensional image.

2. Poorly Written Emails: Many people, mainly men, are not the best writers or good at expressing themselves. It’s hard to read the tone of someone’s voice or know when they are using wit and humor. Verbal communication is necessary in order to build chemistry.

3. Impersonal Connection: Even if your email chatter creates an initial spark there’s only so much you can build and sustain over the internet. Meeting offline allows you to ascertain facial expressions, eye contact, body language and host of other physical attributes.

4. Lack of Trust: You really don’t know who you’re talking to when communicating over a mobile device, or computer screen. There have been many cases where people make fake profiles, use photos from twenty years ago or they’re in a serious relationship and just looking to have fun. Meeting someone online is great initially, but if they’re reluctant to meet you in person, it could be a red flag that they aren’t being

truthful.

5. No Physical Interaction: If you want to establish chemistry you need to date. You have to observe your potential love interest in various situations, everything from how he acts at a restaurant to the conversation he has with your friends to how he treats his own mother. These things can't be experienced online.

Lori Bizzoco of CupidsPulse.com Discusses Love During Social Media Week Panel





By Steven Zangrillo

The next time you sit at home, clicking around your computer on Facebook or Twitter, think about your online activity. Have you looked at your current or ex-lover's social media pages today? Have you ever used a dating site? To what extent do you research a new lover once you get to know them? (Admit it, you Google them!) We're in an age where we can, at will, summon information about anyone at anytime with just the click of a mouse or swipe of the tablet. You can even look this stuff up on your smart phone. No stone is left unturned, because we can flip them all over at once with digital precision. This begs the ultimate question: How has social media affected the way we handle our love lives?

On Valentine's Day, Cupid's Pulse Executive Editor and Founder, [Lori Bizzoco](#) was asked to participate in a discussion concerning this very topic. She joined a panel of distinguished colleagues in the relationship industry including Nancy Slotnick, Founder of Cablight.com, Rob Judge of DateHotterGirls.com, and Tom Miller, General Manager of YourTango.com. The event was staged at Big Fuel, one of the hubs for Social Media Week in New York City.

The main topic of discussion was how the social web has had a profound impact on the way we connect with each other. It's affected our friendships, our relationships with our families, our professional networks, and ultimately our love lives. People are now discovering romantic partners in a whole new way, and social networking continues to play a major role after a relationship has ensued.

Lori drew on her personal success as an online dating success story to highlight the positives that this form of romance can yield. Along with Tom, Rob, and Nancy, there was a general consensus that online dating is fine but maintaining a balance between digital and in-the-flesh experience is key. Sites like HowAboutWe.com were cited as places where the initial spark can be created, and then taken into the real world.

The panel served as a sounding board for the new atmosphere that social media has provided to daters. The way we reconcile it, apparently, is with appropriate balance. Too much of a good thing is, indeed, too much.