

Romantic Pro: **SUCCESSFUL DATING GUIDE**



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1. Finding Dates at Singles Clubs

Going to a club to enjoy oneself with the hope that you also meet someone you can date, is one of the most common ways practiced to find a date. But that's like casting your net into any body of water and hoping to catch fish. The same thing can be done in a more productive way by going to a singles clubs.

Singles clubs are advertised as just what they are – a place for individuals who are single to meet, have fun and find dates from among people just like yourself who have a similar objective. Individuals who join singles clubs therefore know that everyone there is available and is looking for someone to date and to develop a friendship with. Everyone at singles clubs therefore has a similar objective. There are no hidden agendas or motives.

That means people feel free to be themselves, to be more open and be genuinely friendly. It will be understood that if someone at a singles clubs asks you to go on a date or if you ask someone, and the request is declined, then you can feel free to move on because the person may have already found a date. And, you can also still maintain a friendly disposition even when rejected because there are so many other people who can become potential dates.

That's an advantage of trying to find a date at a singles club. There is a large selection of individuals with whom you can have contact and decide if you want to try and date. An added advantage of the wide selection of people is that they are also a 'select' group as they likely would have had to make an application and pay a fee to become a member.

Depending on the quality and rules of the singles club, individuals who seek membership may also have gone through a screening process. That process could include doing a background check for any record of criminal or fraudulent activity, verifying personal information such as name and address and also place and or employment activity.

While the screening process at singles clubs is not foolproof, it is important because it helps to offer some protection to the club and its membership against unscrupulous persons.

That makes the selective clientele at singles clubs also good for finding a potential date because the environment is not a free-for-all one with all types and sorts of people present, as is the case at a regular club. So if you were interested in having someone as a potential date, while you would still be careful and seek to find out information about the person's background, it wouldn't be like meeting a complete stranger at a regular club. There are certain basic assumptions, such as that the individual is a working professional, that you could make when you meet a potentially new date at a singles club.

Along with being more mature, the individuals at singles clubs will also be in your own age group or an age range that you would find comfortable for a potential date. Age often is an important factor in selecting a date because most people have partners who are in their age range. Age can also be an indicator of maturity and a way of measuring the accomplishments and achievements of a person. Those latter two factors play important roles in making someone appear appealing as a potential dating partner.

Singles clubs therefore present an appealing alternative to a regular club as a fun place with like-minded people from which a good selection of potential dates can be found.

2. Finding a Religious-minded Date

It is said that "godliness is a virtue," which would make a godly person a 'virtuous' person. That makes it attractive, or creates a powerful incentive to search for someone who would be a 'virtuous' date in the religious arena.

The first and most obvious religious place thought about to find a religious-minded date is undoubtedly the church. Looking for a date among your church congregation makes sense on many levels because there are several advantages to consider.

Among the most obvious advantage is that as a member or a regular attendant at the church, you have some familiarity with others who attend the church. The congregation of the church is somewhat like a family and so there is a certain level of understanding that exists among everyone.

That basic level of familiarity makes it easier to feel comfortable to go on a date with someone because the person will not be a total stranger. Even if it's a situation where you don't know and never met the person at any time while you attended church, it's likely that there is another church member who you could ask about your potential date. Dating an individual from church therefore means there is a strong chance you can get a reference about the potential date, so that you would have some advance knowledge before you go on an actual date.

Dating someone who is religious-minded like yourself means your date will likely have certain qualities. You can safely assume that religion and being spiritual will be important to your potential date, as those qualities are to you. And if the person is religious and spiritual, then he or she also should possess other appealing qualities such as being honest, genuine, and have a positive outlook from life.

When you decide to go on dates, it means that you and the other person have an initial attraction to each other and want to find out if there are other qualities you both possess that will make the two of you good partners for a possible future life together. By dating someone who already has a quality – being religious – and others that are important to you, it can make you more relaxed by reducing some of the initial anxiety about what your new date is like.

If a potential date is found at the church you attend, it means that you and the person will have a similarity in religious belief. That's important because disagreements can arise in situations where there are differences related to religion. Having similar religious beliefs and faith as your date means there is a stronger possibility for the two of you to have more harmony.

If you also date someone who has the same religious beliefs as yourself, especially if you both attend the same church, you also can experience growing together in spirituality and knowledge of your faith. As this happens, it would mean that you both would be forming a closer bond and the dating experience would also deepen and become more meaningful.

Finding a date at church also means there is a reduced likelihood you and your date will have disputes about where to go on a date. Because religion will play an important role in the lives of you and your date, the types of dates you go on will have to meet that quality of being suitable to your religious beliefs.

The dates you go on also may be different from those a non-religious person would enjoy. For two religious-minded individuals, dating will not strictly serve the purpose of being fun and enjoyable. While on a date, you likely will go to places and do things that also serve the purpose of enhancing your religious belief and spirituality.

3. Finding a Date Online

Finding a date by using Internet technology can be seen as the new form of blind date. It is very different however from the traditional blind date because finding a date online offers more advantages, such as being able to see a picture of the person, which makes online dating not really a blind form of dating.

In looking for a date online, you also will be able to get an idea of some qualities the person may possess. You can then explore further or make some determination about whether you would like to go on a date with the individual. Online dating therefore offers some benefits and advantages that are worth exploring.

An obvious benefit of finding a date online is the large selection of individuals. Although you won't be interested in many individuals you come across, there is certain to be a reasonable number of individuals in whom you may have initial or cursory interest. Acting on that initial interest, you can then proceed to screen them according to characteristics and qualities you desire, such as even mere physical features.

As already mentioned, one of the first benefits is that you can see a picture of the person. Since physical attraction is often the starting point of interest in someone, then it helps to be able to see a picture. But bear in mind that photographs on line can be easily edited or enhanced – digitally refinished – to remove even imperfections. But even if that's done, it's still a better option to have an idea of what a potential date looks like than to arrange a date blindly and hope for the best.

A big feature of sites for online dating is the personality profile that individual posts at the site. These profiles list characteristics and qualities about oneself, such as age, likes and dislikes, hobbies etc. The qualities listed are meant to define the person, give an idea of his or her personality. You can get an idea about where the person likes to go and activities they like to engage in, which in turn can provide ideas for possible dates with the person or give clues about what a dating experience would be like.

The personality profiles are also good for finding someone with a highly specialized interest or certain peculiarities. If for example you like to go riding on the tallest and fastest rollercoasters around the globe and see someone with a similar interest, it will be sure to get your adrenalin flowing as that is something you both will be able to do and enjoy immensely. Finding similarities in personality for an online date is therefore a positive because it will be a plus for any future dating experience.

Some personality profiles of individuals at online dating sites also go a step further as the sites may offer a service that can match personality compatibilities based on comprehensive qualities gathered from a questionnaire or survey the individual completed. While any suggested compatibility match is not a foolproof method to guarantee success, it gives a way to get some in-depth knowledge about the individual faster, compared to getting to know someone from going on a series of dates.

While you would still need to get to know the person, a compatibility match can go a far way in creating a real spark on a deeper level that is beyond physical attraction. It also may allow you both to focus on more hidden aspects of your personalities, or of who you really are, while you are dating and learning more about each other.

To access or get compatibility match service, you likely will need to pay a fee however and have membership at the site at a higher and more exclusive level than just a basic one.

So it means that in looking for a date online, you will have to pay before you have a good chance of playing – of finding one or more individuals online whom you have a high interest in dating.

4. Finding a Date Through Volunteer Activity

There are the usual places to find or look for a date, such as at clubs and parties, that because they are commonly used have become overused. There's a lot of competition at those places because a large number of people are also looking, prowling – some doing so subtly while others make no attempts to hide their intention. And then there are the unusual places or ways that present a good prospect because they are not among those one would think of to find a date.

Among those unusual ways and resulting place is through volunteering. And certainly not many volunteers would think that fellow good-natured colleagues giving of time and themselves also have another primary objective of maybe striking up a conversation and coincidentally picking up a date.

But a site or place of volunteer activity can be a good and prime location to find a date for several reasons. A primary reason is what volunteering reveals about the qualities of a potential date. One such quality that volunteering can reveal is that the person has a certain work ethic that is to be admired.

Someone who volunteers is an individual who wants to work at a completing one or more tasks without getting anything in return. Many people would not work if they could help it, so when someone volunteers, it means that individual is hardworking and believes more in accomplishing a task than in getting a tangible reward from it.

A potential date who volunteers also is likely to be someone who is gainfully employed, as that person obviously has a useful skill and is willing to use up their energy for work that does not offer pay. A volunteer is likely an employed person, or someone with the skills to be employed, which is a basic but very important factor to consider for any potential date.

Another important quality that volunteering indicates about someone you may consider dating, is that the individual is not selfish because he or she is engaged in an activity that does not offer any pay or reward, except the immeasurable gain of personal satisfaction. Volunteering also shows the person isn't selfish because it's an activity about giving back to accomplish a greater good.

A date who is a volunteer will be someone who likes working with others and therefore is likely easy to get along with. Although only two people are involved in the dating game, they will each have to interact with others, especially friends and families. If either individual has a problem with interpersonal skills and getting along

with others, especially strangers, then it could be a signal of trouble in the future when the individual has to interact with friends and family members.

And by volunteering, an assumption may be made that the individual is genuine and honest, again because those are attributes that are necessary to possess to have a desire to do a volunteer activity.

Individuals who volunteer also are likely to make good potential dates because they know how to manage their time. Volunteering shows that they can find the time for their own personal pursuits and free time to do one or more activity for the cause of goodwill.

By having and taking the time to volunteer, a potential date shows that he or she leads a balanced life. Such a person is good to have as a date because they likely won't be upset if you have other priorities or things to do and can't go on a date at a particular time. An individual who volunteers also is a good person to have as a potential date therefore because they are unlikely to make unfair or unreasonable demands on your time.

5. Finding a Date at Work

Having a romantic relationship in the workplace is a common occurrence. Sometimes it happens in secret, without the knowledge of fellow co-workers, while at other times it inevitable becomes known. Deciding whether or not to disclose that you are dating someone at work to fellow colleagues may not be a choice that you can control, however. That's because some companies have rules that dating work colleagues must disclose such a relationship to human resources or to a specified manager.

Company rules to disclose dating and romantic relationships at work are often in place to prevent abuse of power, sexual harassment issues and allegations of

favoritism. But despite such rules and some pitfalls – problems that may arise – the workplace will remain a prime place to find a date.

One reason the workplace will remain a primary location to find a date is because of the role physical attraction plays. Physical attraction is often the first factor that gives rise to interest in wanting to date an individual. That factor comes into play in the workplace because if there's someone you find physically attractive, you likely will be seeing the person all the time. Consequently, your desire to date the individual increases.

Additionally, because the workplace requires a particular mode of dress, it's a place with many people who are reasonably well dressed all day. That means, even someone who is not actively seeking someone to date may just have their interest sparked by frequently seeing another co-worker whose appearance is always eye-catching.

Attire and physical appearance are not the only qualities that may be frequently seen in co-workers to make them interesting candidates for dating. Co-workers will also be professional and have a certain level of knowledge, skills and intelligence, which are all positive qualities.

Another reason finding a date at work may seem attractive is because the constant interaction with co-workers will provide some knowledge of their personality. It will therefore be easier to decide if you really like the person and would like to date him or her to learn more about the individual. The interaction at work gives an opportunity to sort of test the waters with an individual without actually having to go on a date.

There are however, several potential problems that you should be aware of before deciding to plunge into dating someone with whom you also work. One of the first things to be aware of is the potential for allegations of sexual harassment.

If the dating experience goes sour, it is quite plausible for one party to report some of what happened as unwanted sexual harassment, which is a very serious issue. Depending on the positions of those involved, if one person holds a higher title and, or, has supervisory capacity over the other, there's also the possibility for abuse of power.

And such abuse of power can occur in a hidden way when the person with the power holds sway over the other. What can happen in such a situation is that the person with some authority may make promises to the other such as getting a promotion, facilitating a move to another position in a different department or even a salary increase.

The abuse occurs when the promises made can't be fulfilled but it is used to hold sway and have control over a person for the dating relationship to continue.

If the date goes sour and then doesn't work out, if one party is disappointed or if other disagreement develops then it could spill into the workplace and become a case of he said – she said. Along with dealing with the fallout, you also will still be working with the person and will have to face seeing him or her on a daily basis.

6. Dating at College

The college environment is one filled with lots of young people who have full of life and energy, are bright, fresh and are at a period in their lives when they are looking forward to life. It therefore is great ground, over the typical four years that college lasts, for finding a date.

Collegians also are young people who are on their own, many of them for the first time in their lives. They are away from home in an environment with many people their own age and with their interests. Along with being at college to get an education, they also want to have fun and enjoy their new found freedom as much as they can.

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College is fertile ground to find a date because the hundreds of students who are there have diverse backgrounds and interests, which makes them interesting and makes it more likely to find someone with whom you can find a romantic connection.

Although college is about learning and getting an education, not everyone has the same level of seriousness or intensity regarding their studies. Consequently, you'll be able to find someone suitable to date if you are highly motivated or stimulated intellectually. If you like to debate theories, argue about policy issues or have conversations to hear different viewpoints, you can seek out individuals who have a similar liking.

Consequently you will be able to engage your date intellectually and also have your intellectual curiosity sparked.

And if you are less serious, you also can find a date whose interest in learning is similar to yours. But instead of having discussions with your date, you may find that you both help each other out with class assignments and generally in managing the workload of college. Your date may therefore be studying the same or a completely different subject area. What's important is that you both compliment each other in being able to offer assistance in areas of common study. Of, you both can be supportive of each other by offering encouragement, which is always needed, when a challenging study topic arises or a difficult assignment has to be completed.

Being on the same college campus also is an advantage in dating because you can get to see the person frequently. A date can therefore be as simple as meeting in the library between classes, relaxing on the college greens or taking a moment to take a break from study by going to the pool hall for a round or two.

Given the cost of college, which forces many students to be frugal, a date could also be having a lunch that consists of that perennial favorite of college students – pizza.

Despite such dates being simple, they will still fulfill the purpose of being with the individual and getting to know him or her.

Going beyond those simple dates, it also shouldn't be a difficult task to arrange times for fancier dates to go out on the town. Although different courses will have different volume of work, the basic college schedule is the same. That makes it easier to make time for dates and to arrange them.

Because interaction with others at college is inevitable, it also provides an advantage in that you also can get the opinion of others about your date. Getting an opinion will also be more specific, going beyond someone's mere perception. Others will be able to state what the person is like in the classroom, in the dorm room and in any other inadvertent meeting with the person.

A disadvantage of dating someone at college is that most college students are young and have no, or limited experience about life and its challenges. They therefore really don't have a true knowledge of themselves, their personality, what they may be looking for in a date and their purpose in life.

If you eventually form a close bond with your date, he or she could be someone who is shallow and who could change after having more knowledge and life experience. But that possibility shouldn't be very worrisome because many dating partners from college do eventually go on to be married couples.

7. Meeting a Date Inadvertently

So how many times, or have you ever been in the supermarket, out doing grocery shopping or just making a stop at a shopping plaza and someone comes up and

starts small talk. The conversation is light and friendly, and then the question is asked, “So, are you single?” And then you know where the conversation is headed.

Meeting a potential date by chance, inadvertently, or coincidentally is still possible. If you are the one who gets asked the question, it shows that you have something to spark an initial attraction. And if you are the one who initiates and eventually asks the question, it also shows that you have an attractive quality because you managed to attract and capture the attention of a stranger.

After getting that initial attention, if there’s still interest, then you’ll certainly be interested in trying to arrange a first date. That first date may even be the same location where you both had that first chance encounter. It would however be a somewhat unusual date as it would be geared toward whatever activity you both were doing at the time of the first meeting.

So for example, if it were grocery shopping, then you could both agree to meet at the store at around the same time, maybe about the next week or whatever time is convenient to both of you. Agreeing to meet at such a public location for a routine activity is best because you both are total strangers to each other. The way you and your date met would have been different from other situations where you would have gotten at least some chance to know a little about the person, or to get some knowledge from someone else who knows the individual.

It’s not impossible however, for there to be such a spark at that first meeting that you both agree to go elsewhere for a real first date. If that’s the case, then some caution needs to be exercised. You have to remember that you really don’t know the person and so your personal safety should be foremost in your mind.

That first date should be a very public place, such as a restaurant, movie theater or other venue with many people around. It’s unwise for it to be at a park or for you to venture to a secluded area even while you may have gone to a very public place for the

first date. For example, the parking lots of some establishments are poorly lit and an assault could take place in a matter of minutes without anyone knowing.

And while the date may be planned for a public location, attention needs to be also given about how you will get to the location. If the offer is made to pick you up, you also need to exercise caution to make sure there are no potentially dangerous spots along the way where the other individual could make a detour.

It's also important to note that the above-mentioned precautions apply whether you are male or female. If you are a male for example, you may not be intimidated by a female, especially if she appears to be far less physically strong than you are. But what if she has ---- and they all set up to rob or assault you?

For all the reason mentioned, it's also preferable that the first date with someone you met inadvertently not take place at someone's residence.

Among the pluses of meeting someone inadvertently is that it's very exciting to meet a new person whom you know nothing about. That will cause a lot of anticipation and you'll be very motivated to find out more about the person, which is what dating is all about anyway.

8. Etiquette to Observe During Dating

Etiquette is not a word that is used much these days, but what it represents still matters and is looked for in different ways by people. Etiquette refers to behavior and mannerisms that reflect on a person. Etiquette is also about how an individual's behavior and action affect others.

The mannerisms that are important include being courteous, respectful to others, and behaving in a way so that the public has a perception of you that is positive. Your date needs to be courteous because it affects what others will think. And while you

can't always be concerned about what others think, nor should it rule how you behave, you have to conform to certain norms in society and being courteous is one of them.

Being courteous also makes it pleasant to be around an individual. Plus, if your date isn't courteous to others, it's hardly likely he or she will be courteous to you. If being courteous is an issue, then it means there will be disrespect.

Having respect is another attribute that is also important. You must have respect for yourself and for others who deserve such respect, including your date. If you don't give or get respect from your date, then common sense would say that you shouldn't be dating.

Having respect during dating means that you won't engage in offensive behavior or say offensive things because it will definitely ruin the dating experience. Offensive behavior includes such seemingly little things as picking nose, clipping or cleaning nails in public or while out on a date, and spitting in public. Even a habit like scratching ones hair or any part of your body, isn't looked on positively.

But what is considered offensive can change over time, as well as how one reacts to offensive comments and behavior. When you have been dating for a while and you and your date have gotten to know each other better, you'll both feel freer to be open. Because you both know each other better, you also know the bounds of what is acceptable to be said and done.

But even with familiarity, some of the previously mentioned behavior like clipping nails in public and picking nose are never acceptable, because they are so highly personal and are only suitable to be done within very personal and private space of your home.

Punctuality and time are also valuable attributes that can be considered to be part of good etiquette while dating. Time is valuable. It therefore shows that you respect the person and the agreement that was made related to a date. It shows that you can keep your word and that the date or the occasion is important and matters to you. You

therefore want to be punctual and not have an unconcerned attitude that it doesn't matter and that you can show up late.

By keeping your word, it also helps to build trust and confidence in the dating relationship. If an individual can't keep their word, then you have to question if the individual can be trusted. If you or your date can't keep an agreement early in the dating process, then mistrust will develop. Without trust, there's little point in getting to know more about the person because you would have already not liked what you saw and know of the person.

The quality of speech displayed by you and your date should be good because it also reflects a lot about an individual. Speech gives an indication of your education status, affects how you are perceived and also reflects on you and your date's potential as partners.

Speech is a mode of expression that says who you are. If it is poor, then it will reflect poorly on you and have a negative effect on the person whom you are dating. Lack of good speech or using improper speech also means you won't be able to communicate properly. If you or your date can't communicate properly then it means others can take disadvantage of you, making both you and your date vulnerable.

9. Some Don'ts for Dating

Dating is about getting to know someone. It is therefore a process about exploration and discovery. But common sense and the norms of society dictate that there are certain things you can and can't do, or that you should and shouldn't do.

Among the first recommended don't is blabbing at work about someone who you are dating. This doesn't mean that you can't talk about the person to a few of your

colleagues at work or to the person who sits beside you or in a neighboring cubicle. It may be unavoidable to not mention your date especially after a weekend when everyone usually starts off the work week by asking, “so, how was your weekend?” If you went out on a date during the weekend, well, it’s fine to mention it.

What blabbing means, however, is that you shouldn’t constantly, seemingly in a never ending way, be talking about your dating experience or your date to just about anyone and everyone. Your work colleagues shouldn’t have the feeling that as soon as you open your mouth they will have to be subjected to hearing about what you did and where you went on your latest date, and what you think about the person.

It’s even worse if the person whom you are dating is someone at work or within the same company that you work. Even if that person is in a different department or at a different site, it’s best to maintain a high level of privacy about your dating relationship. Otherwise it is sure to become known to everyone, because even if the person is at another site, there is sure to be others who will have some contact with fellow workers at that site.

While you also should not blab about date, you also shouldn’t be telling everyone about personal habits or ways of your date that you have learned about through seeing the person and going out. Personal relationships are just what they are – personal. So if you talk to just about anyone and tell them about the type of person your date is, tell them things that are known only to you, then you are violating the personal aspect of the dating relationship.

And just as important, or even more important, is disclosing private, personal information about your date. This includes for example, health, financial or family-related information that your date may have disclosed to you in confidence. And although some personal information such as one’s address, phone number and email address is partially public, you also shouldn’t give that information about your date to just anyone.

In relation to the person who you are dating, there also are things that will directly affect the individual that you shouldn't do. You shouldn't post a picture of the person anywhere on the Internet without their permission. You also shouldn't be inconsiderate and do things like calling your date at anytime, such as extremely late at night and very early in the morning. Night owl and early bird phone calls are very irritating and annoying, unless the person is on an irregular schedule and again, you have been told that's it okay to call at that time.

Another annoying thing that is not recommended is to be constantly bombarding your date's email mailbox by sending Internet fwd. messages and Internet jokes, humorous and other types of pictures, poems, letters of hope or of desperation with a request to pass it on to as many people as possible.

Messages that keep getting forwarded via the Internet simply clog up mailboxes and also carry the risk of having a destructive virus attached to them that can ruin your computer's hard drive and all your files. There are some people who like getting these messages. But again, unless your date has said he or she doesn't mind getting those messages, you shouldn't pass them on.

The above-mentioned don'ts for dating should therefore be kept in mind. They aren't difficult to observe and you'll find that following them likely will enhance your dating experience and enrich the bond you are developing while dating.

10. A Few Recommended Things to Do While Dating

To ensure that you have an enriching dating experience, you have to concentrate and focus on doing what pleases your date and also makes you happy. Finding a perfect balance may not be easy, but there are basic ways to start and things to do that will make the dating experience a memorable one.

Among the most basic thing to do while dating is to say thank you. After a first date, you should always call or speak directly to your date and express appreciation for going on that first date. You should also mention how wonderful the date was and also how pleasurable it was to have gone out with the person.

Saying thanks and expressing appreciation should continue for the first few dates, or even for a while, until you both are at that stage where you are comfortable with each other and are in an exclusive dating relationship. At that stage, you will say thanks in different ways Or, it may be understood by some actions such as sharing a kiss, a squeeze or just a look in the eyes.

But it will always be a good thing to express thanks. Even after you both know each other very well, if a special favor was done or an unexpected gift was received, it will be an occasion to express appreciation and gratitude.

While each date will be special, there will be many other special occasions such as birthdays, Valentine's Day, the holidays getting a promotion, an award or other special recognition. For each or any of those occasions, it is a good idea to also do something extra special for your date to show what you think of the achievement in your own way.

By doing so, you will be expressing and showing that your date means a lot to you and that you also realize the importance of the event, achievement or milestone to him or her. That recognition will make your date know that you are very aware of what matters and what is important in their life. It will also show that you can take pride in your date's accomplishment without having any feeling or sentiment of jealousy or envy.

When there isn't a special occasion however, you can always make your date feel special by complimenting him or her. A common way of giving a compliment is by saying something positive about the person's appearance. But giving a compliment is also a way of praising someone. So, for example, you can compliment your date for

the way in which he or she did something, such as the way a situation was handled or how something was said. Again, such actions show that your date that you are paying keen attention and that you are very interested in the dating experience.

Another basic action that you need to display while dating is being courteous. Displaying courtesy shows a certain level of intelligence, education, respect for yourself and for others. It shows that you have certain intrinsic qualities that are worthy of admiration, and therefore that you have positive attributes. Without even knowing much more about you, having those qualities makes you a pleasant and personable individual who will attract attention and will be thought of in a positive way.

It's also recommended that you show concern about your date's safety and well-being, especially a female, by making sure she reached home safely. But the same can also be shown by a woman for man when a particular situation exists. Say, for example, during the date or even on the way to the date he experienced car problems or had cause for concern about how his car was driving, then after the date it's quite fine for you to call to make sure everything was okay and that he too reached home safely.

Communicating during dating in a positive way is therefore something that should be done because it will enhance your date's perception of you, as well as of the overall dating experience.

11. Uncertain Issues Related to Dating

Given the nature of dating, that you both are new to each other and therefore don't know much about each other, there are certain gray areas that will arise. There will be situations in which it may not be clear what the proper protocol or action should be. In those cases, it may be best to be honest and to talk it over with the date.

One of those uncertain areas maybe who pays for the cost of the date. In bygone days when society was more chauvinistic, and when men had a clear and far superior role in the working world, there was no question that the cost of a date would be paid for by the male partner.

But times have changed. Though they may not totally enjoy equality in all aspects, nevertheless women are just as dominant as men in the workforce and they also have jobs that pay well. Despite that, in most situations there is still the expectation that, especially for the first date, the man will take care of the bill. If the woman insists on also paying, then the suggestion can be made that she pay an incidental cost such as the tip, parking etc. Following the first date or the first few dates, the woman can then cover the cost if she so chooses.

Other options to take care of the cost issue can be explored as the dating experience continues. Both of you can agree to pay for alternate dates, or, you both can each contribute to the cost as necessary. You can also go with the traditional method of having the man cover the cost if he is comfortable and able to do that. As you continue to date, the important thing is to be aware of each other's financial status and to be considerate. That way, neither you or your date will feel any strain or feel financially pinched in any way, which is a situation you want to avoid as it takes away from completely enjoying the date.

Another situation that causes uncertainty is how to make the first contact when you see someone you like and whom you are interested in dating. It's usually assumed that such attraction occurs with a man and so he has to summon up the courage to ask for that first date.

But many times women also see a male in whom they have an interest and would like to date. Although there are a brave few who will feel and have no fear in approaching a man for that first date, most won't do so.

Regardless of the gender of the person who has that first interest in making contact for a first date, there are ways to arrange that first meeting without any awkward moments occurring. One way is to do so by minor manipulation. If you know a friend, colleague or anyone else who knows the person you'd like to date, then you simply have to find a way to have that person arrange a chance meeting.

And there's also the chance that there will be a third party who independently knows both you and your date and who can arrange a meeting without either of you knowing. This usually happens when the mutual friend knows that you both like each other.

Another situation that can create a dilemma is when dates seem to be going okay but you know that you don't want them to continue because you don't want to continue seeing the person. You may have seen someone else you like more, you may have discovered something about the person or there may just be an intangible reason – something you can't really identify – but you know that you aren't as excited about the person and the date as you want to be.

You'll need to communicate your feeling without causing hurt or disappointment. You can decrease the frequencies and length of dates for example. You could also say why you can't continue seeing the person, such as you need time to sort out certain personal affairs. The important thing is to stop the dating process in a thoughtful and considerate way.

12. Communicating while Dating

The technology explosion and the number of gadgets that are commonplace with everyone has given rise to a number of ways to communicate. But too much of a good

thing can be bad , because with the myriad of ways to communicate, you have to decide about the best way to do so and also when is the best or appropriate time.

You'll therefore find that making a wise decision on the mode of communication to use in a particular situation while dating is something you will have to decide. Communication is important during dating because contact needs to be maintained to sustain the dating relationship.

The modes of communication now available and in common use are via the computer through email and instant messaging and via telephone which includes text messaging. It may seem almost nonsensical to imagine that thought should be given to the mode of communication. But if you think about it, there are some things that you wouldn't want to communicate via email and there are times that you want to reach someone by telephone. So the mode of communication does matter.

The method you use to communicate with your date may be determined by your schedule as well as by time constraints on both you and on your date. If you have a personal wireless device that can receive email, then messages can be sent and received at any time without any concerns.

Email can also be a good way to communicate when there are time constraints, because it can be sent and read at any time. For example if you are on the road or somewhere at a far distance, email and instant messaging can be a good and effective way to keep in touch. It's particularly effective during those times as a way to send lighthearted messages or something funny to let your date know that you are thinking about he or she.

While an important message can be sent to someone at work via email, it's something that has to be done with care. You should always be careful about messages that are sent to work emails. That's because many companies, especially large ones, have rules that archive all messages. There also rules about not sending any offensive

content, which if discovered, can lawfully lead to punitive action against the individual.

In general however, email is an effective means of communicating in between dates for important and unimportant issues.

But there are times when email isn't the best way to say something, and in fact, may even cause a disagreement or make your date angry if email is used. If there's an issue that you both need to talk about, it's best to not try to attempt to resolve or discuss the issue through email. That's because it will seem cold and impersonal, and actually could give the impression that you want to avoid truly getting to the root of the matter.

In cases like that, if you can't meet in person, then a phone conversation is best. For issues that are important, and for a more personal and intimate interaction in which you are hearing the person's voice, communication is best done by a phone call. And of course making a phone call is the best way to contact your date when there's a need for instant communication about an important matter.

Technology has therefore played an important role in making more means of communication available, which enhances the frequency of contact you can enjoy with your date. As with anything else, caution and consideration should be taken into account when deciding to send off a quick email or text message. It's fine if the message is about something pleasant or routine. But if it's not, such as if its about a possible breakup, try not to do what many are doing now and just 'send an email' because that way you don't have to hear or deal with the person. Remember, if you do it, it could also be done back to you.

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13. How To Determine if Date is Losing Interest

There is a problem brewing if you or your date, while still seeing each other, have disagreements about such things as the frequency of dates, where to go and what to do. Those disagreements may be a signal that your dating experience may be on the path to fizzling, dying or ending. You need to know what signs to look for or to know about to help you to identify when your dating experience may be heading for trouble, before it gets really bad and ends.

A sure sign that you and your date may not be seeing each other for much longer is if you are finding that you spend a lot of time arguing. It could mean that both your personalities don't blend or that you both have very strong personalities and are both seeking control in your own ways.

If that's the case and any of those scenarios describe what is happening, the important thing is to recognize it, acknowledge the problem and then find ways to compromise. If the cause of the problem – whatever is causing the constant arguments – is not identified, then you both will continue to be verbally at each other's throat. That situation will not be healthy as it will take away from having any fun and enjoyment. It also will be a distraction from truly knowing each other. You both will simply have negative feelings about each other based on the heated arguments.

Another sign that there is a loss of interest in dating by your date is if your phone calls, emails and other messages are not being returned. Or, they may be returned but, for example, your date calls when he or she knows that you are unavailable and may or may not leave a message

Those actions all indicate that your date is trying to avoid you. Your date may even want to get you annoyed, frustrated and angry to justify you taking some action such as saying you aren't interested in seeing the person anymore. That way your date would have made you angry so that you are the one who eventually takes some drastic

action, a tactic that lets your date off the hook and avoids blame for the end result of not dating anymore.

Another avoidance behavior that shows there may be loss of interest in dating is when dates are made, but they are consistently being cancelled, postponed repeatedly or put off indefinitely. Again, this shows that your date doesn't have a great desire in seeing and spending time with you. If your date doesn't want to be with you, then there is no point to trying to date the person. It will be a futile attempt, even if you do go on a date, because the individual will likely be distracted and not show any enthusiasm.

If you also know haven't been invited to meet your date's family and friends after a significant period of time dating, it likely means that you aren't thought of in a serious manner by your date. If a dating relationship is to go to the next level, at some point you have to be introduced to your date's friends and family members.

You could have met some friends and family however, even be invited to family gatherings and still there could be trouble brewing for the quality of your dates. The danger signs are in the reactions of family and friends when you are around. You have to observe how comfortable they seem with you around. You need to assess if their conversations are guarded or if they speak openly and freely when you are present.

That's because your date, who isn't so interested in you anymore, could tip them off that you will be coming to a family event but that the dating relationship is headed downhill nevertheless.

If you see signs of a loss of interest from your date, tell him or her exactly what you think and ask for honesty about the issue. That way you can hear exactly what the situation is and even if it's not what you want to hear, you can nevertheless move on with certainty.

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14. When Dating is at Standstill Status

A different situation from when your dating experience may be losing interest, is when it's stationary, meaning that things aren't progressing, they don't seem to be going anywhere. In that situation, dating is still going on but it isn't flourishing. That type of standstill status can be frustrating because while it may seem like the dating situation is promising, there isn't any progress being made in the relationship or bond with your date.

Your dating relationship is at a standstill if you have been dating frequently but there is no commitment between both of you. When that's the case, it means there are times when the thought may have occurred to you that there could be someone else. In the early stages of dating, the idea of your date seeing someone else may not have been farfetched. But if you have been seeing each other for a regular and consistent time period, then it would follow that a commitment would be expected.

If you are beginning to have a feeling of dissatisfaction because the dating process is going on and on and you aren't happy with the status of the relationship, then it's an indicator of being at a standstill. Either you or your date will need to directly voice the opinion that the issue has to be discussed so you both can feel that your dates are worthwhile and satisfying.

Another indicator that your dating relationship may also be at a standstill is if there are times when your date is just not around and you don't know what has happened or where to find the person. If your date doesn't think it necessary to inform you of their whereabouts, then it means you aren't very important or special. It also means that your date doesn't respect you enough to be concerned about the impact on you of not maintaining contact, even if it's temporary.

Any type of relationship or friendship that lacks respect is not one that is worth fighting to maintain. So if your date has unexplained absences from time to time you

may need to be the one to bring up the issue about how things are progressing and if it's worth continuing.

Before you may attempt to address what you think is a standstill issue, you may also test the status of how things really are and try to see what your date really thinks by trying to get closer to him or her. You can do this by simple, thoughtful actions such as sending an unexpected surprise gift, a nice greeting card or by a physical action such as holding hands more, hugging or snuggling when you are together.

If your date's reaction is one of warmth and appreciation, then it could be quite likely that he or she is interested in having a closer relationship. But if the reception is cold and stoic, with your date not showing any emotion of joy or happiness so that you feel a bit rejected or that you are being pushed away, then it likely means that your dates aren't going to progress beyond the current status.

Another indicator of your dates being at a standstill is if there is some defensiveness on the part of your date. If he or she is hesitant to have you at their apartment or for you to spend a weekend at either place, then there also isn't much interest of both of you taking dating bond and friendship to another level.

A similar situation is also one in which your date seems a bit secretive. In those situations, your date doesn't have phone conversations in your presence. They may move away so that you can't hear the conversation or end the call quickly.

You have to know and decide what you want from dating experience. If you are happy to just be going out and have some socialization, then you won't have the view that dating may be at a standstill. But if you are seeking to develop a close bond with someone for a long-term relationship, then you will have to take some action when there doesn't seem to be progress toward that goal.

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15. Dealing with Adversity while Dating

So, you are describing the status of your date to a friend and you talk about the relationship being very 'serious' with your date. If your date is at a point where you can call it serious, you will feel like you are in a 'sweet spot.' But there's certain to be a time when a big disagreement arises and has to be dealt with.

The first step to take toward resolving the issue is to explore what caused the disagreement. The nature of the issue, whether it is big or small, has to be discussed. If an open and honest discussion does not occur, then lingering anger will remain and indirectly lead to other problems and disagreements.

Any problems that aren't resolved to the satisfaction of you and your date, will eventually affect the relationship in some way. The worst case scenario happens when unresolved issues get to a stage that they threaten the existence of whatever bond has been formed.

When problems pop up, you and your date have to be careful about the attitude you both have, and the behavior you display, in dealing with the issue. You both have to 'fight fairly,' which means giving each other room to voice your feelings, to say exactly what you think about the issue.

In discussing or talking about the issue, you and your date have to try to avoid being bitter. That means you both should be very careful about the words you use and your tone. It's very easy during an argument to lose control to anger and speak hurtful words, or, do things out of spite and revenge. Such actions will only prolong the problem and heighten the state of adversity for your dating experience.

The extent of how challenging the problem is will be evident by whether or not you are still involved in seeing your date. If you both are still going out and are able to do some things together, then it means there isn't an underlying feeling that the relationship is coming apart. Instead, you both realize that the issue has to be dealt

with, but you also have a strong bond which is important and which you both will work extremely hard to keep.

The difficulty of the problem and the extent to which it is affect your dating relationship can also be indicated by the status of any plans that were previously made. Again, if you both have formed a strong friendship that is highly valued, you will both not want that damaged. So while prior plans may be postponed, there is still the thought that they will be executed after the issue is resolved.

If the feeling or action is, however, that those plans are dead, so that either or both you and your date have no desire to carry them out anymore, then the adverse situation is definitely tearing your dating experience apart. Your dating had gotten serious but not to the point where it can withstand the test of still being intact when a problem arises.

In the latter situation, you both will need to assess how you feel about each other and if you have something from dating that you want to keep and want to grow. If that is the case, then you and your date have to put the focus on each other and what you have, and realize that problems are inevitable in life and simply need to be worked out.

By putting the focus on each other and what you have developed from dating, you and your date will test the true strength of the bond or friendship that you have. In doing so, you can identify where there is any weakness and work to strengthen it. You also may for the first time truly realize what you both have and develop a deeper appreciation for each other. Consequently, what started off as a bad or adverse situation can eventually serve a big positive purpose.

16. Meeting the Family While Dating

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The occasion of meeting the family is an important milestone while dating. It means therefore that it's a time for you to put on the best display of your personality and have all your best mannerisms and etiquette at the ready.

It's quite likely that if your date decides to invite you to meet members of their family, then you are very special and your dating is important and considered to be serious. Meeting the family means that your date wants you to become acquainted with the people who are among the most important in his life. You are being introduced into the fold, or into the circle, because one day you may also be a part of that family circle. It's important therefore for you to not take it lightly but instead, to see it as another big step in advancing and consolidating the bonds you have from dating.

The importance of meeting the family can be evaluated by the occasion for which you'll be introduced as a guest. If you have any doubts about the extent to which your dating has gotten serious then you may even have doubts about if it really matters that you have been invited to meet your date's family. But if the event is one such as a wedding, where just about all the family members will be present, then it means that your date really thinks seriously about you.

The same is true if you are invited to any family event that is a tradition, such as a yearly barbecue or holiday dinner. Those events are a showcase for all family members and for very close and special friends. Someone who is a casual or mutual friend wouldn't be brought to those events.

A casual or mutual friend would be invited to the home of a sibling or other relative for, say a party, where a few other family members and many other casual friends would be present. If your date invites you to such an event, then it's possible that your date wants a few family and friends to meet you to get an impression of you. And their impression could influence your date about whether or not the dating relationship gets very serious.

Whether it's a full-blown family event or a smaller affair, you need to be careful about your behavior for the first time that you meet your date's family and in subsequent meetings. You need to appear familiar in a pleasant way, but not so familiar that you take part in discussions and emphatically state opinions about volatile subject matters such as politics.

You also should observe very civil behavior and not curse, say lewd things or display any crude behavior, make demeaning jokes or say things that would be considered low brow humor. Even if others are engaging in any of the mentioned behavior and it may be the source of much laughter, with others seeming to enjoy and condone it, you should still refrain from joining in. That's because others likely are watching you, even if it doesn't seem that way. And after the party ends and there are personal one-on-one conversations about it, you don't want to be the subject of someone commenting in hindsight about your behavior and whether or not it was appropriate.

It's best therefore that at family events to which your date invites you, you observe basic etiquette for good manners and behavior. You should be pleasant and friendly but reserve showing any aspect of your personality that may be considered boisterous or raucous, as it will not necessarily reflect on you in a positive manner.

17. First Date

Dating is a way of seeking to satisfy a basic human need for companionship, friendship and a close association with others. Dating encompasses more however, because these needs can be fulfilled somewhat through ties with family members.

Dating is therefore a quest by individuals to establish a relationship or association with someone of the same or opposite sex, to satisfy longings of a deeper nature.

To begin to fulfill those basic but much desired longings, a 'first date' must be arranged. At first thought, a 'first date' seems simple and self-explanatory – the first date between two individuals. While that's always the case, a first date could also be the first time ever someone is going on a date. It could also be the first of a type of date – such as a blind date. And a first date could also be the first time that someone is about to begin dating again following a breakup, illness or other event.

Whatever the situation, there are some common features and things to observe on that all important 'first' date.'

Among the things common to first dates is anticipation. Anticipation is what embodies or generates the feeling of excitement that is felt before the date actually takes place. The thought of being with someone and of engaging in a fun activity such as dinner, going to the movies or for a walk, should create a good feeling and therefore cause some level of excitement. Having some anticipation about a first date will also help you to evaluate the experience after it is over.

Anticipation about a first date will also likely lead to having some expectation of what the time together should be like. Whatever activities are engaged in, you will be looking to learn about your date. And based on your values, your likes and dislikes, the qualities you want in a partner, you will have some hope or expectations that this first date will reveal some of those qualities and other positive attributes.

Expectation and having some anticipation about a first date are therefore important because it establishes a measure or means of identifying what is or may not be acceptable to you. Whether or not you take a 'wait and see' approach, you must have some ideas about what you desire, or have certain preferences.

The extent to which your date shows any of the traits that you prefer can set the tone for future dates, or be an indicator of what potential the date has to become a part of your life.

Though important, expectation and anticipation about your first date has to be managed so that it doesn't have a harmful or negative effect. This can happen if you are so filled and overwhelmed by what you are thinking – what you are expecting and anticipating – that you expect exactly that to happen. You would then fail to see and to appreciate the true personality of your date. If that happens, then the purpose of going on a date will have been futile and useless.

For the first date, it's best if you simply ensure that the person meets certain of your basic expectations on qualities such as having acceptable behavior, being courteous, mannerly, and exhibiting appropriate behavior and mannerisms in public.

While it will therefore be virtually impossible for you to not have a high level of anticipation about your first date, you have to make sure it is managed so that it doesn't become overwhelming and prevents you from enjoying the moment and discovering aspects of your date's true personality. You therefore don't want to have so much anticipation and expectation that it obscures the purpose of your first date.

18. Identifying Lust While Dating

Individuals can joke about lustily being in love, but the two emotions are very different and will lead to different results and outcomes while dating. It's therefore very important to know and be able to identify the differences between the two emotions so that any bond or friendship you form is not based on a shallow and false belief.

Lust can be described as having strong sexual desire or an intense longing for something. Those are feelings and emotions that will be evident in your dating relationship if it progresses to being serious. But those feelings and emotions aren't love. The danger is therefore in confusing or mistaking such strong feelings and emotions for deep love and believing that they can sustain a strong bond.

Actions that define lust include being extremely passionate, possessive, jealous and envious, having a need to constantly see or be in communication with someone. Being extremely passionate can be good and bad. Your date may be very passionate in wanting to always display affection for you. But there's also the passion that causes one individual to hurt or harm another, sometimes fatally, when an equal amount of passion is not returned.

Such extreme passion can also be linked to being possessive. A possessive date will want you to be with them always and only and will object and be angry about time you spend with other friends because he or she will feel threatened by other relationships and friendships you have. A date who is very possessive will therefore not give you personal space or time to explore your interests because of their own insecurity.

Consequently, when the emotion is lust that is being felt, it will show itself in the form of jealousy. Because your date can only be secure when you are with him or her, they will also be jealous about your achievements, accomplishments and even dreams that you may be striving for.

Jealousy is felt when someone doesn't have the self-confidence and belief to be ambitious and pursue their own desires and dreams. They therefore feel inferior when others, like yourself, are able to go after and achieve any desires and dreams.

And another emotion close to jealousy that your date will display, if what is being felt is lust and not love, is envy. Jealousy will be displayed through anger but envy is often a more hidden emotion. A date who is envious of something you have

achieved or may be doing, will show that emotion by not being very happy or congratulating you on your accomplishment. That's because deep inside, your date is wishing he or she was the one to be enjoying success and not you. Your date may not even think you actually deserve whatever you may have achieved.

If your date also has a constant and overbearing need to see and be in continuous communication with you, that's also a sign that it's really lust that your date is feeling and not love. While communication is important when you are dating and there's the need to see the person, you both also need space to take care of your own personal business. If that isn't recognized by your date, then it is certain to cause a problem.

The disadvantage of lust is therefore that it can cause a lot of negative reactions and therefore bad feelings toward someone. But because it also involves emotions that can be positive – such as being passionate – it can also enhance the bond you have with your date.

You need to encourage the positive aspects of love but also curb the negative emotions associated with it. To do that, you need to point out how anything you achieve will also positively affect your date and also instill confidence in your date to seek his or her desires also.

19. Issues related to Personal Time While Dating

Dating is about spending time together, but since time is precious and can't be replaced, it can also become an issue while you are dating. Time will be a factor in determining the frequency of dates, when dates occur and also communicating in between dates.

When you begin to date someone, one of the first things you will have to decide is how long the date will last. Issues such as your work schedule and previous appointments may determine the length of date. But more important will be the extent to which you really like the person and you are having a good time.

If you think the date is going well you also have to be careful to be sure the same is true for your date. And even if you both are having a good time, you have to be mindful about any time constraints that may affect your date. While you may have unlimited time on the date, the same may not necessarily be true for your date. By finding out if your date has any other obligations to meet, you will be showing consideration and respect for your date's personal time and business.

The same is also true for the frequency of dates. If you both can arrange dates and are happy with how often you are seeing each other, then there isn't a problem. But what if you want dates to happen more frequently? Again, you should ensure that your date has a similar desire and then you both can explore meeting your common intentions. But if one of you is unable to increase the frequency of dates, that should also be understood and respected.

Maybe something that is compromising could be worked out such as shorter visits for coffee or a snack. That way you can see each other, spend some brief time together having short but intimate conversations. The brevity of those mini-dates may even bring you closer together and let you appreciate and enjoy the longer dates even more.

Another personal time issue that has to be worked out is the time that you spend together compared with the time spent with family and with friends, at work or even pursuing a hobby or volunteering.

A date who respects your personal time will understand that you have a need to pursue your own interests and to be with other people who are important to you and who you knew before you even met the person whom you are now dating. So, there

shouldn't be any disagreement, or, you shouldn't have to justify having to spend time elsewhere when you could also be with your date.

Friends are a significant part of your life and whether or not you are dating someone, you should always make time to keep in contact with them to maintain the friendships. Your friends are individuals in whom you can confide, from whom you can seek help in an emergency and who you can talk to for advice or just to share routine things that happen to you. You will therefore always need them and so shouldn't let a new friend, your date, ruin or lessen the importance of relationships with your friends.

The same is true for your family. While your closeness with different family members may vary, your family is your foundation and will always be there for you. So you need to respect your date's desires and decisions that are family-related and your date also needs to do the same for you.

Pursuing a hobby or taking time to volunteer for a cause that you believe in, are also personal issues that you shouldn't be denied or have to give up. They are activities that will enrich and enhance your life, and ultimately the experience you share while dating.

20. Problems that can Affect Dating

Everyone has different personalities that are formed from their cumulative experiences in life. Some of those experiences unfortunately weren't pleasant and had lasting effects that affected individuals for most of their life. Consequently, some of those issues and problems can also have a detrimental impact on dating and other relationships.

One of those issues concerns problems that you may have from a prior breakup of a relationship. When any friendship or bond is formed with a person, it is special. Therefore, when that bond is broken and the friendship no longer exists, it can be very traumatic. If you or your date had such an experience, there could be lingering anger based on the reason the friendship ended. Those lingering feelings of anger and thoughts about the broken relationship can be carried into your dating and affect the extent to which you trust or have confidence in your date.

Because issues from that past relationship were also not resolved, you or your date may even project them onto each other. You will see what you believe is similar behavior from the past relationship and be quick to condemn or interpret it in a way that may not be true. The problems from your past relationship would therefore be masking your view and preventing you from independently seeing and evaluating your present date and dating relationship.

The opinion of family and friends can also affect your dating experience negatively. It's likely that the occasions when your family and friends would have met your date, they would have formed an opinion about him or her. But a brief meeting is not enough time to really know someone and to have an opinion about the person. So while you need to consider any opinion from your family and friends, you also shouldn't see them as being absolutely valid.

Problems you have at work can also eventually affect your interaction with your date. Work is a significant factor in everyone's lives because it enables you to enjoy a certain quality of life. Therefore, if things aren't going well at work, it will be a considerable weight on your mind. It will affect your mood, your energy level and what you are most concerned about. If you aren't in a good mood and you are feeling depressed, then you likely won't have a high excitement level and want to go on a date to have fun.

While it's okay to expect some understanding from your date, because for everyone there are times when things don't go well, it's unreasonable for you to have a prolonged sour mood and expect your date to accept it. So, you have to learn to get over bad experiences or bad days at work and not carry over that sentiment into a date or even into conversations and other communication with your date.

Another issue that can be a problem while you are dating is if you are a pessimistic person. That is someone who always sees the negative side of things, doesn't have a positive outlook and is argumentative.

Again, your outlook is likely affected by certain experiences you had. So, you need to do a careful analysis of yourself and examine the extent to which your present reality is different from those experiences. By so doing, you should be encouraged by your present circumstances and draw upon them to help you to overcome negative experiences of the past. That way, you will be able to give the best of yourself to your date, and in turn, be very receptive to the best of what your date has to offer.

21. The Purpose of Dating

Before two people actually go on a first date, they would have made some connection. Even if a blind date is the first date, they still would have had some indirect contact by a third party, through a phone conversation or email. The real purpose of dating is there about contact and making a connection with someone. Contact can occur in several ways, but a connection may or may not happen right away, if at all.

Your first desire is that you want to date. You want to see someone and you have an attraction to that person, or you feel a connection, and you want to get to know the person better. By wanting to get to know the person, it's like you want to prolong

that initial attraction or standout quality that you saw in the individual. Dating is therefore a way to seek to confirm those initial beliefs, feelings or qualities you identified for or about the person.

But is what you seek to confirm real, imagined or not even present? That's what dating is also about – discovery. It's about discovering if the quality that attracted you to the person is really there, and also if there are other attractive and positive factors the person may also possess.

What is foremost in your mind, however, is what you really think the individual is like. But many times, your initial thoughts about a person reflect what you really hope or want the person to be like. And that is actually just imagined qualities that you are projecting on the individual who you desire as a potential date. That means there could be some conflict or disappointment when the individual truly reveals his or her qualities.

That's because while you begin to date and you start to discover more about your date and the qualities that you initially noticed, you may or may not find those same qualities. And you may discover other qualities that are good and bad as you get to know your date more.

Based on what you discover, you will decide whether or not to continue to date the individual. But there are also other ways to find out about your date's qualities, characteristics and personality except through dates. It may be worth it to also find out more through friends and family because the relationship your date has with them will also reveal a lot about the person.

In dating therefore, you also sometimes need to look beyond the individual to find out more about their world. That may be particularly true if you are dating someone who turns out to be secretive or very reserved and quiet. You could also be dating someone who doesn't like to talk about their life. In those cases, a friend or family member can be very useful in revealing qualities about your date.

The places your date goes and the things your date likes to do can also serve a useful purpose in dating. They can indicate hidden characteristics and talent which wouldn't otherwise have been seen.

For example, you could be dating a quiet and reserved person who likes to go bowling. So, when you actually go bowling on a date, you could discover that your date is not only a strong bowler but is also someone who is very competitive and focused when doing an activity like bowling. Those are positive characteristics that you wouldn't have known about just from going on regular dates with the person.

So while regular dates will still have the primary purpose of helping you to discover more about the individual, you shouldn't overlook other secondary means of information such as family and friends, the occasional unusual place your date may go and an activity that your date may enjoy doing from time to time.

22. Getting What you Want Out of Dating

With just about anything in life, to get what you want, you have to put in some effort and also make your desires known. Dating is an exception. That's because it is all about your personality, and because it really doesn't take any effort to be you or to be the type of person you are. But it may take some effort to suppress undesirable aspects of your personality. There are some actions that you can take while dating however, to ensure that you get what you are looking for.

You need to be honest with yourself and you have to be able to define and know what it is that you want or hope for. If you haven't really examined yourself to determine what you truly want from dating someone, then it will be quite easy for you to become frustrated and disappointed. That's because you will have a feeling of dissatisfaction and you won't be fulfilled.

While for most people the purpose of dating will be to find out more about a person and hopefully to develop a lifelong relationship that will include marriage or a similar commitment, it's not what everyone is looking for. You need to therefore decide if that's what you are looking for. If it's not, then it means you could begin dating someone and when it's time for the relationship to move on to the stage of being serious and committed to each other, you will feel like withdrawing or may even want to get out of it.

Instead of dating for that reason, you could simply want to have a deep, committed and intimate bond with someone without necessarily thinking about marriage or a civil union. You could want a partner with whom you know you can share anything, can confide in and can also enjoy shared interests. If this is known to your date, then he or she won't be expecting any other type of commitment and there won't be any miscommunication about what you both desire from your dating experiences.

To get what you want out of dating, you also have to analyze yourself. You will need to look at past dating experiences and assess what you could and would do differently. The reason to do this is to enable you to not make the same mistakes you may have made with past dates that you had. While it's easy to blame the other person and deflect blame from yourself, it's worth it to assess how you may have contributed to a failed dating relationship. Otherwise, you could have some fault that will remain unknown to you, which you will carry into other dating relationships and which will also negatively affect them.

In analyzing yourself, you also will need to listen to what others say about you and learn so that you can make any necessary adjustments and change. While you will think you know yourself best, you have to put importance on how your actions, behavior and attitude affect others, because that's also a reflection of the type of person you are. And you have to be brave and have the courage to change, to tone down

aspects of your personality or to show other attitudes and qualities that aren't been seen. That way, you can have some certainty of knowing that your date will also experience the best of your personality.

For your dates to be fulfilling, you will also need to be ready to look at yourself and your date objectively and not through 'rose-colored lenses.' That means you have to be honest and admit if you see flaws, faults or character traits that you don't like. If you aren't objective, you can deny what you see simply because it doesn't fit your desire. In so doing, you would only be setting up yourself for disappointment however.

Being honest with yourself and about your date, and clearly knowing what you desire from the dating relationship are the only ways to ensure that those desires will be met, or if not, that you won't suffer needless disappointment.

23. Managing Expectations While Dating

The fact of dating means that you will have some expectations, hopes and anticipation. Those emotions are important because they help to put a lot of excitement into your dating experience. But they also have to be kept in check as they can also work to your disadvantage.

In dating, you will justifiably expect to spend time with the person and to be a part of their private world. In getting to know the person, in sharing information about yourself and in getting information about the individual, you have to be respectful of your date and give him or her personal space.

Personal space means that you give your date time to be alone, to do other things without you and to also be with others. It also means that you have to respect your

date's privacy and not seek any personal information that your date isn't very forthcoming about revealing.

You also have to be careful and mindful about your expectations as they relate to your date's time – how much you demand and how you infringe upon the person's time. Again, dating undoubtedly means that you both will have to make time for each other. But you can't expect the individual to always make seeing you and arranging dates their only, or even most important priority. There may be times when your date will have to give priority to other matters that won't include scheduling dates. So long as those matters are reasonable and justified, you should understand, respect and support your date's decision.

Another thing to be cautious about is expressing displeasure by showing negative emotions or becoming irate. It's quite easy for this to happen if you have expectations that aren't being met, or if you were disappointed about something. Before you display any negative emotion or voice a complaint, it's best to ask your date to explain the reason for whatever happened. Even if it's the total fault of your date, by seeking an explanation and not becoming angry, you would have shown great self-control and a lot of understanding. Those are attributes that will indicate to your date the extent to which you really care and want the dating relationship to move forward in a positive way.

If you are relatively happy with your date you may have the tendency to want to move things along very fast. But your expectation of how the relationship should be developing may differ from what your date expects. Consequently, in managing your expectation, you shouldn't be too pushy. You will need to pace yourself and your date and go with the natural flow of your dating experience. If you act to try to affect the pace of the relationship, especially to speed things along, you could actually cause a negative effect to result, even though your intentions were positive.

In managing your expectations while dating, you also need to do to your date as you want done for you. That means you need to be thoughtful and considerate about what your date may want, or about what will be best for him or her. If you act only based on your expectation and what you think is best, you will again risk doing something that won't necessarily please your date.

An important way to manage your expectations while dating is to evaluate the progress of the dates and of any bond you have developed. In doing so, you will need to assess what is working and what doesn't produce the desired results. Those periodic evaluations will help you to determine the status of your dating relationship and also help you and your date to set common goals that you both can strive to achieve to meet your shared expectations.

24. Factors That Indicate a Bad Date

Even in the most promising situations in daily life, you can often experience letdowns or big disappointments. The same is true with dating as it can turn out to be worse than was expected. Because you are dealing with humans and their flawed characters, anything, including the most unexpected, can or should be expected.

An indication that a date and the subsequent dating experience may not be at all what you expect, is if the person scares you, makes you feel uncomfortable or afraid when you are together. Your date may not outwardly show any behavior to make you feel this way, but your guts, or instinct, tells you that something isn't right. Because you don't have anything solid to prove what you think, you may actually also feel like ignoring it or thinking that it's only due to paranoia. But many times when our guts tells us a situation isn't right, you should pay attention to those feelings because there obviously is something going on that you just may not be able to put your finger on.

Another sign that your dating experience may be a bad one is if you have doubts and uncertainty about trusting your date. Trust is one of the important elements that even a basic or young relationship needs. If it is missing, or if it isn't developing, then you likely won't be able to have a positive dating experience. You need to trust your date to confide in him or her, you need to trust that your date can keep their word and you need to establish trust that whatever your date says, you will be able to believe it.

If your date is disrespectful to others, and particularly if there are times when your date disrespects you, then you have bad dating experiences in the making. If your date disrespects you then it means that he or she will be doing things on a frequent basis that will be insulting to you and which will hurt your feelings. Having hurt feelings and insults thrown at you is not healthy because it won't make you feel good about yourself. And if you don't feel good about yourself, you can't have fun or enjoy your date. So there's no point in continuing dates or continuing to date someone who doesn't show you respect.

A person who is disrespectful is one who doesn't care how his or her behavior affects others. That person may also engage in other improper behavior such as being rude, cursing, and having poor social etiquette. To be in that environment or to be around someone who behaves like that is certainly not close to being the best of situations. You should get yourself out and not make the mistake of thinking that the person may change. Even if there's the real possibility of that happening, let the change happen first before you resume dating the individual.

A bad date and dating situation is also one in which the individual will lie, be caught telling lies and will also be selfish. Again, if your dating situation involves lies or half-truths, it will be bad because you will not be able to establish trust or to fully gain the confidence of the individual. If someone lies, you also can't be sure that what you know of them is true. If you can't be certain about what you think you know of an individual, then you need to end the dating arrangement.

If your date shows any selfish behavior, you also will need to stop arranging dates because it means that your desires won't be met. It's of utmost importance therefore that you recognize signs that indicate serious faults with your date and with the dating relationship. If the signs indicate a bad date and you experience a terrible time while dating, then quite simply, it's a bad situation and you should seek to end it as soon as you can.

25. Factors That Indicate a Good Date

When you start dating, all your expectation and anticipation is that it will be a positive experience that will be full of fun and will be enjoyable. It's hard not to think or visualize that the person you are dating will have wonderful qualities and a strong bond, friendship and relationship will develop. Well, that's not impossible and it could quite likely be so if the following factors are consistently present.

A good indication that you are in a good dating situation is when the bond or connection that you both have is strong. You will find that as time goes by you are getting to like the person more, you feel good about your date and your date also makes you feel good about yourself. The environment that is created by you and your date is therefore one that is positive, uplifting and filled with good feelings and emotions. That makes for a good date and good dating experiences because you both will be looking for the best and will constantly be feeling upbeat and energetic.

An upbeat and positive feeling will also be created if your date is pleasant and complimentary. Pointing out good things about someone shows that you are self-confident and secure and that you recognize valuable attributes and positive characteristics when you see them. Being complimentary creates a good dating experience because it will lift your self-esteem and self-confidence, making you feel good about yourself. In that state of mind, you are also likely to feel more empowered,

which also contributes to increasing your self-confidence. Even if and when your date is critical, it is done in a constructive way so that the focus is on correcting the problem.

When your date is also ambitious and encouraging, that is also a positive situation for you to be in. An ambitious person is one who is always working hard, striving to get to the next level, and someone who seeks challenges and wants to learn more. A date who is ambitious therefore is seeking to improve his or her life. If you are in a dating relationship with such a person, it also means that you will receive some of those benefits.

It's also a good dating situation when your date gives you personal space, respects your time and is trustworthy. These are all qualities that are part of the foundation for building a solid long-term relationship. Whether your desire is to have a dating relationship that will develop into a long-term commitment of marriage or a civil union, or you want to have a solid bond with a person where there isn't a formal union, you will need the above-mentioned qualities in your relationship.

If you and your date are having a lot of fun and one or both of you makes each other laugh, then it's a no-brainer that the dating experience is positive and you will want it to continue. Being able to laugh is an obvious way of showing that you are having fun. But it also says there is a relaxed atmosphere and that you are taking time to enjoy some of the lighter moments in life.

A positive sign that your date and dating experience is in a good place is also when your date is attractive to others. When other people like your date and you hear good things about him or her, then it means that the person behaves in a way so that others have a positive perception of him or her.

You may not find all of the qualities or factors mentioned in your date, but if there are more positive ones and none or very few negative ones, then you likely will

have dates that will be good, will be worth remembering, and which you will want to sustain.

26. Role of Family in Dating

Although the meaning of the word family is understood, it still is fairly broad as it doesn't describe the varying relationships that people often have with different family members. The extent of those relationships, how close you are to family members and the significance of the role they play in your life, will also determine the role family members play when you are dating someone.

Family is an undeniable extension of yourself. You can't escape them. That means that you have to acknowledge and accept the fact that you likely will always have some connection to them. When you are dating someone, it therefore means that if your dates progress to something serious, you will likely have to introduce your date to your family. You have to make sure therefore that you are totally comfortable with the person and that you are ready for them to meet members of your family.

You don't necessarily have to wait until you have developed a serious bond with your date however, to make some introductions. In considering the best way to introduce the person, maybe you could start with those family members with whom you have the closest relationship and get their opinion about your date. This is a good way to gradually bring your date into the fold of your family and to also have a few opinions you can consider, before your date meets the entire family.

Before your date meets a larger number of relatives, you can also have some of them – those who met your date, serve the purpose of mentioning and talking about your date to others. That way, they will have an idea of what your date is like before

the actual meeting. If the family members to whom you first introduced your date liked him or her, then they will also pass on those positive feelings to the others.

While you need to retain ties with your family, you also need to be independent of them in the way you choose to live your life. That means that you can't let rules and restrictions that family members may have or that you may have been subject to, be a part of your life and have an effect on your dating relationship. You can't impose those rules or restrictions on your date, unless it coincidentally happens to be things that you also both favor.

This means that while you will try to accommodate your family and their wishes at times, you should make what works best for you and your date the priority. That's because you essentially no longer live with your family, but possibly may later have a life together with your date. So, depending on how serious your dating relationship is, you have to consider and incorporate your family and their wishes if you can, with care and consideration for your date.

There may be times however when it may be best to not have your family play a role in the relationship you have with your date. If you have a relationship with your family that frequently involves disagreements and heated arguments, then it may be best to simply inform them about your date but to not introduce the person to that environment. That's because you may find that family members may say negative things about you to your date and actually put your date in a situation where he or she is made to feel as if you are a bad choice to have as a date. To avoid any such conflict and to avoid making a bad situation worse, it may be simply best to keep your date away from your family.

The important thing when it comes to your family and dating is to do take the action that will retain the most harmony between you and your family and also with your date.

27. Role of Friends In Dating

If you have found a great date, you will certainly be excited and want to share the news with your friends. Therefore, it figures that your friends will play a major role in your dating experience. Simply by hearing from you about a date and giving their opinion or making comments, your friends can have an impact on who you date and on the dates that you arrange.

One of the first things that friends will do is give you an opinion about your date, even if they have never met the individual. They will give an opinion based on what you say about the dates you go on and what you tell about the person you are dating. While the opinion of friends can be helpful, you also have to watch out for times when they may be jealous and may even want to sabotage your dating experience.

That can happen in situations where your friends, or acquaintances, are envious that you are dating someone really great. Or, it could be that one of them may even have wanted to date the person who you happen to be dating. While this type of behavior may not be common among friends, and certainly won't be shown by your best friend, it is possible. As with anything else, you should pay attention to how valid or untrue the opinion of your friends regarding your date may be.

Your friends, especially those closest to you will play a role in your dating relationship because there are times when you and your date and friends will go out to socialize. In those situations, it is important that your friends and your date can get along and will enjoy being together. If there's any tension or animosity during those mutual outings, not only will it spoil the enjoyment factor, but it could also negatively affect friendships and the bond you have with your date.

An issue you will have to be concerned about therefore is when to introduce your friends to your date. Since you are comfortable with your friends but they will be strangers to your date, it's best to consider such timing from your date's perspective. You can therefore ask or independently assess whether your date feels ready to meet some of your friends. If you are constantly telling your friends about your date, then they may be the ones who push to meet the person who they hear so much about. Their curiosity and excitement to bring your date into the circle of friends could encourage you to also bring your date forward to meet them.

When your date meets your friends, an interesting thing to do is to turn the tables and get your date's opinion about your friends. It will be interesting because your date will likely give you a different perspective that you didn't have before, as well as confirm some things that you knew. By getting a different perspective, it will help you to better be able to balance the extent to which you believe and act on opinions that your friends give you.

It's also likely that your date will also introduce you to his or her friends. So, again your circle of friends will be broadened and you will also have a chance to share your opinion and a different perspective with your date. The hope will be that by meeting people from each other's world, you will each gain a better understanding and knowledge of each other, and that it will enhance your dates and the bond that is shared so that you and your date become closer and have even more intimate and enjoyable dating experiences.

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28. Factors About Dating that you can Control

For any date, expectations and anticipation about what will happen and how it will go, are totally within your control. Other important factors about a date that you will have some control over are the location and how long the date will last.

The location is a significant factor because you will need to be somewhere that is safe, will be fun and is also agreeable to your date. On the occasion of a first date, safety has to be a consideration since your date is likely someone who is fairly unknown – a stranger -- to you. If safety concerns are occupying your thoughts during a first date, it obviously will take away from your enjoyment and from being able to fairly assess the overall general character of the person.

The location of the date is also important because it likely will play a major role in the extent to which you enjoy the time while on the date. The enjoyment factor will also be affected by the question of how long the date should last. If your date isn't very familiar to you, you may have a rough time established in your mind for the length of the date. Or, your date may set a time beforehand. There may also be other commitments to meet, schedule or appointments that could affect the time your date lasts.

Similar to the issue of expectation and anticipation that are within your control, is knowing yourself and determining what you want and desire from dating someone. You need a certain amount of self-awareness because, for example, you need to be honest about some things that you may not like and which can easily upset you. That may include even normal habits or mannerisms that your date may have.

You will need to feel comfortable to tell your date about any peculiarities related to your personality so that he or she is not suddenly surprised by any unexpected negative reaction from you. If your date doesn't know about particular peculiarities of your personality, it can lead to misunderstanding and uneasiness. But by having the

awareness and honesty to talk about those qualities, you will be able to control the possibility of any miscommunication or misunderstanding arising between you and your date.

As you continue to date, another factor that you will be able to control is the bond and friendship you develop with your date. To control this aspect of your dating experience, you will also have to be very self-aware to determine if it will be to your utmost benefit to continue to date and possibly develop a stronger friendship and get into a deep relationship.

There are some individuals who are weak and can be easily led into relationships and situations in which they aren't happy. But because they lack the courage to do what they really desire, they suffer. You can control any situation, including dating, in which you find yourself, but it will take strong action and the resolve to make any necessary changes.

You need to know that you can control the progress in your dating experience so that you don't suddenly find yourself embedded in a relationship with someone that you aren't totally happy with. That can happen if your date has a strong personality and likes you more than you like him or her. Based on the feelings of your date he or she could think you feel the same way and therefore is in favor of progressing your dating to a serious stage.

It's therefore important that at all times you are aware of how your date is developing, what is planned and how things are progressing. You need to remember that you have a say in routine decisions such as the location for a date, but that you also can control more important matters such as how it progresses.

Because at the start there is such hope and anticipation about dating, the hope is however, that your dating experience will meet and exceed the expectations of you and your date, making you both wish that it didn't end.

29. Pitfalls in Dating

To reap the rewards from many activities, some degree of risk has to be taken. The same applies to dating. Much caution should be taken while engaged in dating, especially at the start. You will need to remember that the person is a stranger and therefore you don't know much about him or her. As your dates continue and progress however, there are some pitfalls or dangers that you will need to be watch out for.

In this technological age, you will need to be extremely cautious about guarding your personal information and also about how your date uses the Internet and the web. That's because there is the possible danger that your date could misuse your personal information in myriad of ways via the Internet. At worst it could be used for fraudulent actions such as making purchases. In more milder ways, your date could use basic personal information such as your email address for sending spam and junk mail to others. Your date could also pass on your email address to others and have them send you junk mail and spam.

It's also possible that your date could set up a webcam and capture images of you or of the two of you and post it onto a website. Images of you in the form of pictures that you may also give or show to your date could also be posted on the Internet without your permission. To avoid and prevent these actions, you need to expressly and clearly tell whoever you are dating that they shouldn't give out your email or any other personal information about you, nor put any images of you on the Internet without first informing you of their intentions.

Another pitfall that you should be aware of is if your date seems to be too much in love with you. It may feel great at first to have someone shower a lot of attention on you and tell you that you are the most wonderful person he or she has ever met. But if

it turns out that your date is obsessed with you, that he or she in anyway displays fanatic or unreasonable behavior, then you need to know that a very dangerous situation could develop from any dating experiences you have with the individual.

A dangerous situation that could develop is if your date's obsession with you progresses into stalking. That would mean that your date would want to know about your every move, would watches you, would begin to demand that you both spend more time together and would get enraged and jealous if you want to spend time with friends and family, or even want to pursue some activities on your own.

In such a situation, you wouldn't feel safe or be safe, so you need to be careful about whether your date's affection for you is reasonable or if it appears to be obsessive.

An undesirable situation can also develop if you discover hidden or questionable character traits about your date. If your date shows that he is untrustworthy, or you find the individual in situations where he or she is lying, cheating or stealing, then certainly those actions are an indication that your date is not someone with whom you should continue to see or be seen with on a regular basis.

The same is true if you find out that your date has been unscrupulous, has committed any criminal offenses or is the type of person whom you would describe as perverted. Even if there are other notable qualities about your date, you have to determine if you can deal with someone who seemingly has a dual personality that includes highly undesirable traits.

Being aware of these and other pitfalls while dating will prevent you from being hurt and disappointed, and also from extreme embarrassment that could result if in the future you introduced your date to friends and family.

30. Positive Developments While Dating

An anecdotal way that tells how important you are to someone is whether you are programmed in their phone on a speed dial mechanism. And once, it was also how high you were in the speed dial's number sequence, but that's now obsolete with the emergence of voice-activated technology. Nevertheless, there are other ways to tell how important you have become and about positive developments while dating, without violating your date's privacy.

One indication of positive developments in the date is if you can get information about your date from friends and family. Except for yourself, if you have become very close to your date, family and friends are the next most important people to him or her. Those are the individuals with whom your date will also share personal information and from whom he or she will seek advice. Because family and friends will have known your date for a longer period of time, they will also know routine or basic information about him or her that you may not yet have knowledge of.

Therefore, if you can readily get information about your date from family and friends, it means that they regard you as being in that privileged circle of people who are very close to the individual. That would indicate a very positive development for your dating experience because it would mean that you and your date have progressed into a serious situation.

If you therefore request and can easily get information from your date's family and friends then it means that you would have met your date's best friends and family members with whom he or she has a close relationship. This also shows a positive development in your dating because your date has felt comfortable and secure to introduce you to the individuals who are most important to him or her. It means that your date wants you to get to know those people, and also that they should become accustomed to having you around on any occasion in which he will be present.

To maintain a dating relationship and to make it progress, communication is a very important factor. The frequency of calls and other means of contact between your date and yourself will also tell you the extent to which the date is progressing. If you and your date keep in touch, you know each other's schedules, appointments and other routine matters, then it means that you are aware of what's going on in your lives. And if you know what's happening to each other then you also will be able to help each other out, offer support, advice or help as necessary.

Your dating experience will also be in a positive place if your date is thoughtful and engages in various actions to show how he or she is thinking of you. You may receive little gifts or even an offer to do some tasks such as helping you to mow or snow shovel where you live or offering help if you have car problems. Or, if you are male, your female date may even offer to do grocery shopping for you if it's something you dislike doing.

For a dating experience that is very pleasant and positive, you may also receive special treatment on special occasions such as for birthdays, Valentine's Day and other holidays. Sending gifts or recognizing special occasions by doing something different is a way of making your date know that he or she is extra special and is also appreciated. Such symbolic recognition will go a long way in deepening the bond and friendship you have with someone who you are dating.

31. Spending Longer or Prolonged Time Together While Dating

When your dates have progressed to a point where you both are comfortably spending more time together, or you are having more frequent dates, then it may be

the right time to take your dating experience a step further and consider even more intimate time together.

A more intimate time together means being in each other's company for a prolonged period of time. One way in which that can be done is by having a weekend together or by going away on a getaway trip. A weekend together could simply be spending the entire time at either you or your date's apartment. To make the best of that time, the individual who will be host should make sure that their place is clean and welcoming. There should also be plans about what will be done for dinner or lunch so that there aren't any inconveniences to interrupt the time you will be sharing. So it's best if chores like grocery shopping and cleaning are done beforehand. That way you both can spend the weekend in a totally relaxed and enjoyable manner. You will feel free to do whatever you both want to do and to go wherever you also want to go, without feeling constrained by the need to get any tasks done.

Another way to spend a prolonged period of time together is to have a joint vacation. That will mean planning and coordinating time off from work, planning how the trip will be coordinated and also making all necessary travel arrangements. You both will also have to agree on a place for the vacation that you both think you will find immensely enjoyable.

Going away for a vacation together can greatly enhance your date because you will be in a different environment and that, by itself, usually contributes a big benefit toward feeling positive, refreshed and energized. By being together on a vacation, you also will get to share and enjoy interests that are common to both of you, and others which either you or your date like. By doing so, you will also discover more and new qualities about your date, again enhancing your dating.

An extended time can also be spent with your date while you are dating, if either of you move in temporarily with the other. If you and your date enjoy a close relationship that has progressed to being very serious, then either of you will feel

comfortable to help out the other in a situation where there is need for temporary housing. Such situations can arise for example if your lease isn't renewed and you were unable to find a suitable place by the time you have to move. Rather than settling for a secondary option, your date may offer to have you stay at their place until you find somewhere that you are totally comfortable with.

And if you own your house or apartment, a circumstance may arise in which there is work being done there that makes it inconvenient for you to occupy it. In such situations, so long as you are very comfortable with your date, it's quite fine to temporarily stay at their place.

A shorter time may also be spent with your date if from time to time you both have sleepovers at each other's place. You will see more of each other and be able to share time and talk in a more intimate manner and setting than when you are on a date, or by a phone conversation. Because a sleepover is also a brief time together, you likely will be more attuned to making the most of it and in so doing will also increase how close you become with each other.

32. How to Tell if Dating is Worth Continuing

After a period of dating, you have to assess and determine the status of what is going on. You will have to make such an assessment to determine what to do and where your dating relationship is going. Is there progress toward being serious, is it about to fall apart or is it just at a standstill. Several factors can be considered to help you to find out if it's worth it to continue to date the person you are seeing.

One factor to examine is if there is compatibility. Compatibility means that there is general agreement and similarities between you and your date. It means that you both have certain shared interests or, where there are different interests, it is understood

and appreciated by the other. When there is compatibility in dating, it means that you and your date can discuss issues and reach a consensus. Whenever agreements are reached, you and your date will also feel satisfied and happy with the end result.

The opposite of this, in situations where there isn't compatibility, you and your date will constantly be arguing and both or at least one of you will often feel dissatisfied and unhappy with the end result or supposed agreement that was reached. Instead of being able to move forward happily and freely, both or one of you will instead have underlying discontent and suppressed anger. That in turn will lead to even more disagreements and arguments with your date, which can then cause the bond or dating experience to go downhill.

Another factor that relates to compatibility is if you and your date have some similar interests, values and you both are willing to share. While each individual is different and will have different traits and qualities, there must be some similar ground that you and your date can share. If you both are so different and have likes for such different things, then maybe you both can be mutual friends but not be involved in dating. While being friends is a part of dating, the total experience goes beyond being mutual friends. You both must be able to have some similar things that you enjoy and must be willing to share in each other's world in a close and intimate way for it to be worth your time to continue to date.

It will also be right or worth it to continue dating if you and your date find that you have a certain passion for each other and that there is some magic between the two of you. If there is any progress in your dating toward being serious, you both would have become closer and that involves the emotion. While you need more than just emotions or warm, fuzzy feelings of love to sustain a good relationship and a serious dating affair, the presence of strong and intense affection for the other person is an indication that you both share something deep and meaningful. Having a fair amount

of passion and feeling magic in the air when you both are together is therefore a strong indicator that it is worth it to continue to date the individual.

If you have been dating for a while and you find that you also like and are fond of the person, that you both enjoy a close friendship but share a bond which goes beyond just being friends, then you also likely have something special from your dating affair that makes it right. Again, it is important for you to feel an emotion such as fondness for your date because it plays an important role of helping to sustain the relationship when a problem or crisis arises. And that eventually will happen.

Should you find the above-mentioned factors or qualities part of your dating experience, then you are quite fortunate because you would have found a date with whom you can quite possibly enjoy a happy future.

33. Romantic Dating Affairs

A desirable dating occasion occurs when both people have fun and recall the time spent together as memorable. One of the surest ways to ensure that happens is to have a romantic date. A romantic date can be planned, or it can just happen accidentally or by coincidence. In either case, there are some factors that must be present for magical and romantic moments to happen.

Among the factors needed for dating occasion to be romantic, are three that can be described as 'A' factors – ambience, activity and attraction – between two individuals who are dating.

Ambience is what creates the all important feature of mood. The mood, which is the overall environment and atmosphere of a location, has to be right for the time spent there to be considered romantic. The mood created by the ambience can propel what would be an average of ordinary date into one that becomes romantic. The mood is

therefore what helps to create sparks to make the time together feel special, magical and romantic.

Among the things that help to create the right ambience for romance are the lighting, music and an attractively decorated environment. Lighting that creates a romantic moment for a date is usually subdued. This can be in the form of controlled lighting with a switch to modulate it, or it can be from the use of candles. The presence of candlelight is pretty much a must-have for romantic experiences while dating, if there is no controlled lighting.

Lighting by itself isn't enough to bring out the romance factor in a date. The right lighting has to be paired with the right type of music to truly be able to have an effect on the atmosphere and on the two individuals who are dating. While music tastes differ and vary, and musical melodies differ from one culture to another, romantic music usually also has a subdued quality. Music and lighting can therefore be seen as the twin factors that must be present to create a romantic date.

The right ambience for a romantic date is also enhanced by an attractive and pleasant environment. Simply stated, the place where individuals go on a date, where they plan to spend time and where they may hope to have romance in the air, must be clean and pleasant. This can be achieved with minimal decorations. The most important factor is that you and your date must feel comfortable and totally at ease, which will happen if you are in a pleasant surrounding.

Along with ambience, the activity to be engaged in during the date also will determine if the time on the date will be experienced or looked back on as a romantic one. Again, while different individuals will vary in the activities they choose for a dating experience, there are some that were more conducive to creating romance.

Going out to dinner, or staying in at home for a dinner date is one of the most sure ways to get or set romantic fires alight during a date. It's unexplainable, but there

is something about the combination of good food, good music and low lights or candle lights that can transform eating into a romantic affair.

And lastly, even with all the above-mentioned factors, time spent on a date will not be romantic unless the two individuals are attracted to each other. Romance happens when a touch, a glance or some other gesture cause that warm feeling to envelop the two individuals who are dating, and also happens to them simultaneously.

While certain factors can be present to enhance the creation of a romantic date, it can't be planned. If you have a date with some or all of the factors previously mentioned however, and if you are highly attracted to your date, you likely will share a memorable dating experience that just may turn out to be a very romantic one.

34. Long Distance Dating

There's a familiar phrase that goes, 'absence makes the heart grow fonder.' If there's any truth to that, then being engaged in a dating scenario with someone in a distant city should bring an almost guarantee of working out for the best.

But of course, that's not necessarily the case. Long distance dating simply makes geography an added factor to consider or overcome, along with all the other considerations and issues that affect, and play a role in any dating relationship, whether it's established or just a dating one.

Let's establish though what is considered to be long distance dating. It would seem that any definition would or should have some reference to distance. But in defining long distance dating, it's also helpful to define the term 'dating.'

Dating is defined in the dictionary as an 'appointment that is made with a person to meet for a social occasion.' To add to this definition by incorporating expected norms of society has regarding dating, such appointments are made on a reasonably

regular basis and serve the purpose of getting to know someone to form a closer bond that becomes a romantic relationship.

Dating therefore involves an appointment between two persons to meet; such meetings should occur fairly regularly and meetings should enable the choice to develop a closer bond with a person.

Keeping the above definition in mind, long distance dating can therefore be defined by the extent to which the above actions can or can't take place. So for example, two pairs of dating partners could live in two different but neighboring states, but only one pair has what could be described as a long-distance dating experience.

That's because they live in different cities in the neighboring states. Consequently, one pair live in cities but are able to travel to see each other fairly regularly, but the other pair live in cities where it isn't easy or convenient – maybe because of the expense – to travel to be together regularly.

Long distance dating is therefore a situation in which distance plays a big role, and a negative one, in preventing two dates from being able to make that social appointment to see each other. What therefore happens in long distance dating is that the dates are able to meet, but such meetings happen infrequently.

The frequency of meetings may vary. For one pair of long distance dating couple, it may be two to three times per month or fewer, or even once every two or three months. So long as the dates are able to make that appointment to meet and the meeting occurs, it can be defined as long distance dating.

Long distance dating therefore doesn't occur in cases where dates are unable to meet, for example between dates in different countries. What exists in those cases where two people are involved but are in different countries, is a close bond, or an already established relationship.

A clear disadvantage of long distance dating is the inability to be together to see each other and to spend time together. If a dating pair can't physically be together, then

it means there's a lesser chance for romantic sparks to fly between them. While that would seem to be a big negative factor, it doesn't have to be.

By using new technology available via the telephone and the Internet to send pictures and video, for text-messaging and instant messaging, as well as the usual phone call, long distance dating couples can still keep in regular contact and keep interest and a connection between them going strong.

When dates do meet on those precious few occasions, those times will likely be more highly anticipated and appreciated. And where there's high anticipation between two dates, there certainly will exist a high possibility for romantic sparks to fly even if their dating is long distance.

35. The hook-up or Short-Term Relationship

One factor to consider and which often comes to the forefront in dating is how long should the dating association continue. One or both individuals will in some way have to make a determination about whether to continue to make time, and agreeing to spend money to keep going out on dates. This question can be answered by individuals who decide to 'hook up.'

By so doing, individuals who are dating and who decide to 'hook-up' have pretty much by default decided that their dating relationship is going to be a short-term experience. That's because a 'hook-up' is understood to be a short-term association.

Dating that involves hooking up evolved among college students and young, working adults. It seemed to evolve in part from the stress and frustration in the search for finding a date with whom a long-term relationship into the future seemed possible or probable. When there was a failure to find such dates, people felt even more

pressured as time passed and their age increased. Additionally, not having a steady date invariably meant that periods of loneliness would be experienced.

But by meeting someone who at the onset is friendly and with whom you can also get along, both of you can agree to hook-up – to become friends, be intimately involved and to have fun. By hooking up, individuals don't bother to burden themselves with concerns about issues such as long-term commitment, or of spending time together to determine if a long-term relationship will develop.

Dating someone who you have hooked up with means that you both have decided to be together primarily to have someone to share time with and to be able to engage in intimate sexual relations.

Regular dating involves individuals spending time together. But a lot of people will be very careful and will take a reasonable length of time to get to know a date before deciding to be very intimate with that person.

Dating that involves hooking-up can therefore get very intense. But despite this intense nature, dating that involves hooking-up is not demanding. Individuals who hook-up tend to not become pre-occupied with larger issues such as having and meeting expectations of a long-term or serious relationship.

As previously mentioned, hook-up by nature refers to a short-term situation. So long as that is understood, it means that any issues that relate to dating over a long-term period shouldn't arise.

If long-term matters or issues related to prolonged dating arise, then it is quite likely that will cause the dating and hook-up to end. In a sense, introducing long-term issues into a short-term dating agreement is breaking what was agreed upon. Consequently, the hook-up will likely end.

Short-term dates that involve hooking-up and regular dating do have the similarity that they can also come to an end if one or both of the individuals who are

hooked up meet someone new. The short-term date would have then run its course and it would be time for both individuals to move on.

Dating that involves hooking up clearly has some advantages and disadvantages. The advantages include the absence of pressure and of stress to try to please someone. There's also the advantage of not being lonely, of having someone to share fun times with and to not have to think about or look too far into the future.

Not having to think much about the future while engaged in hook-up dating is somewhat of a double-sided sword, however. The disadvantage is that the future comes close with each passing day and it cannot be avoided. Time that is spent now and which ignores the future is time that is lost and which can't be regained.

An added disadvantage of hook-up dating specifically related to females is that it can cause an individual to be labeled as promiscuous, which is a big negative factor.

Like so many things therefore, short-term dating or 'hook-ups' has some seemingly positive aspects. But as an individual, you have to consider what will be best for you. You also have to weigh the advantage and the disadvantages to make sure you aren't sabotaging your future long-term dating prospects.

36. Long-term Dating

If the point of dating is to agree to meet someone socially to possible effect a closer bond, then it would seem that dating that continues for a long-term period would be what is or should be desired. Simply stated, long-term dating refers to the same two people going on dates for a prolonged period – from several months to one year and longer.

When two individuals have been exclusively going on dates for at least several months up to a year, they clearly have embarked on, or are into something that has

gone on for a period that can be described as long-term. That's because over that period of time, the individuals would likely know the important aspects of each other's characters.

Another way to think about it is, if you started a job and developed a mutual friendship with a colleague, then you both kept in regular contact away from work for several months to a year, then you likely would see that person as a mutual friend. You would have formed a closer bond with that person compared with other colleagues.

The situation is therefore similar with long-term dating. You would have learned more about your date's personality over the months, about his or her likes and dislikes, and your date would therefore mean more to you than someone whom you dated for a short period.

The opportunity to know more about a person is the precise reason long-term dating is important. Remember, part of the definition of dating involves developing a closer bond with someone. Dating over a prolonged time is a definite way to possibly develop that closer bond, or, to decide against getting closer to the person.

Dating for the long-term enables you to know more about your date because you are spending more time together and are engaging in activities that will cause each of you to show aspects of your personality. This is important because if you don't get to see and understand your date's personality, you can't make any determination about how suitable both of you may be for each other.

And while some individuals engage in dating simply for the fun of it or to avoid loneliness, dating at its core for most people, is really about meeting and getting to know someone with whom you can possibly share a life together.

To fulfill that prospect of possibly finding a life partner, it is important that adequate time be spent dating someone to get to know them. That being said, it isn't impossible to meet the objective of finding a possible mate by engaging in short-term dating. The likelihood of that happening is just reduced. And if it happens, you likely

will face greater odds of finding out unfavorable things about your date, and your future mate's, personality and character at an inopportune time.

So how does long-term dating develop or happen? The most obvious way is that it is planned. You and your date will keep making appointments for dates as time goes by until it stretches over several months. That scenario can be both positive and negative. In a positive light, hopefully it would indicate that you and your date have 'clicked' or 'connected' and that there is some attraction for each other.

But long-term dating can be negative when you continue to date despite lingering doubts and despite unresolved issues that may exist. If that occurs, there's the possibility that even after a reasonably long time dating, it could fall apart and amount to nothing.

For long-term dating to work and be meaningful, serious attention must be given to more than just how long you have been dating someone. There has to be honesty and openness to confront any disagreeable issue that arises. Having honesty and openness while dating will ensure that you and your date truly get to know each other and will be able to determine if you are right for each as life partners.

37. Reasons to Date Only One Person

When dating, there aren't any rules that state you have to date only one person. Unless you and your date have an agreement or an understanding of exclusivity, then the field is open for play. Whether you have been engaged in dating with one or multiple dates, depends on you and you are affected by certain factors.

If you are new at dating, if you are just beginning to date, then you likely will have only one date. Essentially, you'll be taking part in something that you don't know

much about. So it's therefore best to take it slow for the beginning stages. Unless you are extremely confident and self-assured, you may become overwhelmed and get too anxious about balancing the routine of life and your dates to have more than one dating partners.

Dating is about having fun and getting to know someone. If it becomes stressful, especially at the onset, then its purpose would be lost and the goal or objective a failure, before your efforts at dating were fully materialized.

Another circumstance in which you may be 'new' to the dating scene is if you are coming out of an established relationship that ended. While you wouldn't be new to dating like someone who is on a first date, it would have been a while since you would have been out on a 'date.' Although you would have gone out with your previous partner, it wouldn't have been the same as going on a date. That's because you don't hear individuals in established relationship saying that they are going on a 'date' with their boyfriend or girlfriend. Usually they will say my partner, girlfriend or boyfriend and I plan to go to the movies or to dinner.

The reason it may not be advisable to have multiple dates if your are coming out of a relationship, is that you really need time to get over that breakup, to analyze what went wrong, and to understand and acknowledge where you are emotionally. If you don't take the time to do such emotional assessment, then it could cause you to carry over negative emotions into your dating experiences, which would cause problems. Consequently, you may find that your dates would fizzle and you would be left wondering 'what's wrong with me.'

If you do an analysis or assessment with honesty, there's a high possibility it could be a great benefit to your dating experiences. That's because it will enable you to know what to look for, you would know what you want and you would be better able to identify it. You would also likely find it much easier to spot red flags that indicate something about your date that doesn't meet your desire.

So it's therefore advisable to have one date if you are starting to date again after being in an established relationship. Again, remember that dating should be a pleasant experience. So if you can, it's best to minimize the possibility, or better yet, to eliminate anything that may cause your dating experience to go awry.

To express the thought another way, it's best not to risk the possibility of complicating the situation by having multiple dates when you are starting to date again after recently experiencing a breakup.

Having multiple dates is also complicating to the extent that you are trying to weave through, to understand and keep track of various personalities and their likes and dislikes. For someone who doesn't like to clutter their brain with being forced to remember such facts, multiple dating wouldn't be a pleasant experience.

To get the most from dating and to give yourself a fair chance at having a successful relationship after a recent breakup, it's therefore best if you begin to date again by concentrating on dating only one person.

38. Reasons Having Multiple Dates May Work for You

Having a date relieves much of the anxiety or question of what you are going to do on a Friday or Saturday night. Removing pressure and lessening stress are also primary reasons it may be good to consider having two or even three people to date simultaneously.

It's important to point out that the dating being referred to is one in which you haven't established any exclusivity in a relationship with anyone. The two of you have agreed to go out and may or may not explore the possibility for a serious relationship. Given that agreement, it therefore wouldn't be unfair play to be involved in dating other individuals.

There's also the possibility that one type of date could be a 'quasi-date.' This means that although it looks like a normal date, it really isn't. It could be a situation, for example, where you know someone who doesn't have a lot of free time for dates, but when that person wants to go out on the spur of the moment, both of you make an arrangement to go out. You both know and are familiar with each other, so its okay and easy to go out. But you both know that you also aren't looking for a relationship to develop into a serious one.

That is different from a real date where there will be much consideration and thought given to the possibility of the relationship getting serious. So having multiple dating is acceptable since you may be involved in dating a familiar person in a quasi-date scenario, as well as the usual regular dating.

But even having more than one regular date can be justified. To get back to the reason for that, having more than one date is a way to take the pressure and stress from the situation where the hope is that it will work out with the person and the relationship will progress to a serious one.

Having more than one date removes the pressure as there's now more than one person to consider. Or, maybe you have multiple dates but you aren't looking for a serious relationship because you may not be ready, or it just may not be the right time to enter one. If you are going out with more than one person, it makes it easier to have 'cordial dates.' That's because it may be inevitable and only a matter of time before the expectation or question of 'where is this going?' comes to the surface when you are involved with a single date.

In other words therefore, you can feel justified to have multiple dates if you know that you aren't looking for, expecting, anticipating or hoping that a committed relationship will evolve from the dating experience. Having multiple dates will therefore be like going out with different friends simply to share time together that is fun-filled and enjoyable.

Another reason you may find to have multiple dates is a surprising one – if you have a pleasing personality or other attractive feature that attracts others to you. Having some type of attractive feature, including good looks, is an attention grabber and a big magnetic pull. If you have those qualities, don't be surprised to get very willing dating offers, even if you volunteer the information that you already have one or more dates.

Each wannabe date will have the belief that they will be the one to capture your heart. It will therefore be up to you to decide if you will accept more than one of those willing suitors and explore what it's like to be engaged in multiple dating.

39. Status Considerations When Dating

In deciding to date someone, it's common sense that there must be some quality that you can identify in the person that makes you feel comfortable to go out with the individual. Or, there must be something about the person that creates a desire to find out more about he or she.

That first initial attraction is sparked by curiosity. But if you continue to date the person, curiosity also will develop into taking into consideration the status of the individual. Consequently, a determination will have to be made about whether you and the individual are of equal or unequal status.

One of, or the top factor that is considered in terms of status is money – how much do you have? While money doesn't make someone's true character, it is important to know or to have an idea about how your date stacks up concerning money or financial matters. You may not need to know their total net worth, but you will need to get an idea of how the person is able to live and meet his or her expenses.

Why is this important? For starters, in dating, expenses will arise. There will be expenses for the date itself but also for gifts, and other incidental costs. So that, even if one party is always 'paying for the date,' it will be comforting to know that the other person is also in a position to pay. A bond with your date will also deepen if the gifts are given for occasions such as birthdays.

There's a difference between being willing and able to pay for a date even if you don't have to, and being unable to pay. In the latter scenario, such a person is dependent on the date while the former isn't. If you are dating someone who is dependent, it could mean, or you could find that you also will be providing for other costs beyond the date. Unless you see or know that the situation is temporary for the individual, and that it likely will change, it's not a strong incentive to continue dates with any anticipation of forming a closer bond for a serious relationship.

You can get an idea of how your date's financial status stacks up by knowing their mode of employment. You can also get information from what the person says in conversation about things they buy and other activities that they engage in.

Another status factor to consider is the type of values the person has. It shouldn't be difficult to determine this as the behavior, mannerisms and some things that are important to your date, will be evident from the start of even the very first date.

Values are important because differences can cause personality clashes and deflated expectation. If expectations are dashed during your dating experience, then it's quite likely there won't be much to enjoy. Having fun means having your expectations met, or getting surprises. If your expectations are dashed on a date, it will cause a disappointed feeling. If you are feeling disappointed, it isn't conducive to having fun.

The level of education that your date has is also another indication of status. Generally, the lower the level of education one has, the more limited their outlook and knowledge will be. And they will also likely be limited in what they can aspire toward

and achieve. That's not always the case as some people without much education have achieved astounding accomplishments. But generally, that's not the case.

Given that therefore, you need to look at your aspirations, those of your date and make an assessment of how the level of education you both have may affect the time spent together on future dates or for the long-term, should a closer bond develop from the dating experience.

40. Finding Dates at Social Clubs

It seems almost nonsensical – going out to find someone to go out with. But going out to find a date was once the most popular way to find a date. And it still is a much used practice despite changes in society and the different ways that one can find a date.

Going out to find a date means that you go somewhere that has social activity – a bar or club – to relax and have fun while also hoping you will meet someone new who will become a date. Maybe while dating both of you will even visit the same location again.

Relying on the social scene at clubs to find a date works for several reasons. There will be a large number of people who are in your age group, there will be a group of people having fun, who are fun-loving and who will have similar entertainment tastes or likes in common with you.

While there are exceptions, generally most people will date someone within their own age group. Attending particular clubs makes it easy to meet someone in your age range because the clubs have different qualities and cater to, or attract, clients by

qualities such as the music played and the décor. Finding a date in your age group will mean that you and the person can immediately find some common ground.

That makes it easy to break the ice and begin to get to know each other. With the noise of the music and the conversation inside a club, it's easier to be relaxed and to talk to someone who may become a potential date. Various distractions in the club also help to remove any anxiety that you normally would experience in trying to get to know a new date. That therefore makes a club a good location to try to find a date.

The very nature of trying to find a date at a club means you will likely be friendly with a date who is fun and who likes going out. Since a big part of dating is to have fun, to go out to clubs and other places, you won't have much of a worry whether your date will be enthusiastic about that, since you would have met in a circumstance while out having fun.

A disadvantage about a date you meet at a club is that you really may be basing your decision on limited information than if you had met the date under other circumstances. Because you also would have met the potential date in a fun-loving environment, you may begin to wrongly expect that the same quality will be evident in the person and also should be present during dates you later have. It therefore becomes important to manage your expectation and the sense of anticipation you have so that you don't suffer any possibly huge disappointment.

The atmosphere at a club with drinking and loudness can also give a false impression of someone as a potential date. There will be no real way to tell if the individual is a regular at the club, someone who visits occasionally, or someone who is there for the first time. A first-timer for example, could appear outgoing and friendly because he or she is in a club environment, but otherwise is someone who is really more reserved.

In summary, therefore, meeting a potential date at a club or in another social, fun environment, should still be given careful thought and consideration. The environment

of fun at the time shouldn't play an overwhelming role and possibly cloud your judgment about whether you would really like to have the individual for a date if you had both met in a different setting.

41. Guarding the Safety of Your Personal Information While Dating

Although you have to give up some privacy when you are dating, there is definitely some information that you shouldn't disclose. Information that you will want to protect include your financial affairs. That means credit card, bank and investment account numbers, ATM cards, PINs, User ID and passwords. This includes those that are used to access information online.

Everyone is very reluctant and never, ever reveals salary information. You should regard your financial information in a similar manner. Revealing details about your personal financial information can leave you vulnerable to identity theft, unauthorized withdrawal from your accounts or use of your credit card.

Stories are told of how crooks spy on unsuspecting individuals conducting transactions at ATMS, see their PIN and then are able to make withdrawals. Imagine then how easy it could be if you pass on the information firsthand to a dishonest person. Again, you have to remember that you are dating someone who you aren't familiar with. And though you want to trust and hope that your date is trustworthy, you don't know and you'll only be able to find out with the passing of time. Even then, there's no reason to pass on confidential financial information to someone who isn't your spouse, a close relative, or next of kin.

Other personal information that you shouldn't disclose includes your mother's maiden name, which is often used as a security feature. You should also seek to keep

personal space and maintain some boundaries with your new date. You therefore shouldn't give extra copies of keys to your car or home to your date until you are sure he or she is completely trustworthy.

Even if your date is offended by your wanting to keep some things private, you shouldn't relent. You likely won't be seeking similar private information from your date and you can point that out.

It's also a good idea to not reveal your full daily routine to someone you don't know much about and whom you are dating. You should actually be suspicious if your date wants to know what you are doing 24/7. Even if your date doesn't have any unscrupulous plans up their sleeve, it could mean that he or she may be jealous or possessive. Those qualities, if they exist in your date, aren't ones that will facilitate the development of a close and trusting bond.

Guarding your personal information also means you should be careful about letting your new date into your home or apartment at the very early stages of dating. Having someone come to your home is letting them into your private space. When that is done, it means that a certain level of familiarity has been reached.

In monitoring your personal safety, you in turn should also be wary of a date who won't give you certain basic information, or is evasive about revealing information such as their home – where he or she lives and if the person is constantly changing their phone number. It could indicate that your date is hiding negative information. If you have a queasy feeling, if your instincts or guts tell you that something isn't right about your date -- about your date's actions and the questions asked – then you should listen and follow your instinct or gut feelings.

While you will always have hope and be full of anticipation about the new person you are dating, you also have to remember to always exercise caution because your personal safety is of the utmost importance. If aspects of your safety goes away, for example through identity theft, it is very difficult to untangle and to regain what

you would have lost. And even after you do untangle it, you will never quite feel the same sense of safety and security again.

42. Safety Issues Related to Health While Dating

Of more importance than your personal information while dating, is your health. If your health is affected, you hope that you can be treated and that you will regain and be restored to your former healthy status. But unlike your personal information which if stolen you can regain, there is no certainty that you will be able to get back your good health, should something happen to you as a result of dating.

The primary health concern while dating is the transmission of disease through sexual intercourse. To prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases, it's of the utmost importance that a condom be used during intercourse. If your date objects, then maybe it's not yet right for the two of you to be so intimate.

When you are sleeping with someone, technically you are sleeping with all the people that person has slept with. It may be ironic, but when you are dating and getting to know someone, you are hoping for the best about them but you also really don't want to know all of their past personal history. You are hoping that your date's past personal history doesn't include sordid details such as promiscuity. If your date is totally honest and open and reveals such details, it's certainly going to affect your opinion and likely in a negative way.

Without getting every bit of intimate detail, you have to therefore make a judgment about your new date and about the extent to which they may have been involved in risky behavior. Bear in mind that risky behavior also means drug use, as a dirty needle can also transmit HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

You can be safe healthwise, however, with an individual who has HIV. It may not have been his or her fault. The individual could have contracted the disease unknowingly from a promiscuous partner. But if you accept being with someone who has HIV, regardless of how your date acquired the virus, you will always have to use a condom.

If your dating relationship gets serious, you also should insist that you both get tested for AIDS and other sexually-transmitted disease, and that you both reveal the test results to each other. That way you can be at least certain about one aspect of your date's health hopefully before you both become intimately involved.

Although HIV is the most serious sexually-transmitted virus to be concerned about, you can't forget other sexually-transmitted diseases such as gonorrhea, syphilis and chlamydia. They still exist in individuals in the society at large and they can also cause very serious ailments.

You also have to be cautious with your new date about seemingly everyday habits. They are important because they can cause the spread of germs. While there is hardly any reason for an extremely high concern about 'super germs,' there is harm that the common bacteria can cause that shouldn't be overlooked. Serious, painful maladies such as gastroenteritis and diarrhea can result from lack of cleanliness and poor hygiene.

Moreover, if you aren't healthy, you can't really go out on a date. So, all the precautions and actions to observe and maintain good health should be taken by yourself and your date.

Observing everyday health habits also makes your environment pleasant to be around. And no matter how much you may like your date, if he or she can't be clean, it's going to be upsetting to you. And that will affect the interaction and subsequent quality of any dating experience.

It's often noted that money can't buy your health, and your health can't be replaced. Therefore, it is to your benefit to do all that you can to ensure that your health and a healthy environment are maintained while dating.

43. Red Flags that Indicate Safety Issues

Common sense is sometimes thought to be a misnomer because it should be capital sense. That's especially true when it comes to picking up clues, little actions or behavior that serve as red flags or warning signs to watch out for something that may be suspicious about your date.

A big red flag can be picked up with how your date deals with money. If your date is always asking to borrow money from you, common sense should tell you that something is very wrong and that dating that person is unlikely to turn out to be romantically happy. If your date has to borrow money, then it means he or she doesn't have a stable financial situation.

There could be a myriad of causes for that, but regardless of the situation, your date shouldn't be dating because he or she has personal issues that need to be worked out. You don't want your dating experience or relationship to be one that includes someone's financial problems.

Alongside borrowing money, if your date seeks use of your ATM card, you should also be alarmed because your ATM card should be for your use only. If your date has access to your ATM card and knows your PIN, you have opened up and let go of a big area of your private domain.

Allowing use of your ATM card could give your date access to bank records, which should remain personal. So, another red flag is if your date seems to be trying to get hold of, or access to other personal financial records of yours. If you question the

reason why your date wants to access your financial records, he or she will likely have a good or reasonable answer. But you need to realize the danger of giving out your private information, and not be convinced by your date to reveal it.

If your date really wants the information, he or she may resort to snooping, trying in a secret way to invade your privacy. You will have to be extremely alarmed and taken aback if this occurs and not wait for any explanation from your date. You will need to realize that when someone engages in such actions, they don't want to be caught. But if they are caught in the act, they will have a ready and very believable explanation that can sway you.

Along with being deceptive, snooping also shows that your date is unable to give you personal space. If your date feels the need to snoop because he or she feels that you are hiding information that should be known then your date is clearly immature and insecure as well as not trustworthy. You don't know how the individual will use the information and so you have to be alarmed because your safety, your name and your reputation will be at risk. Identity theft or other fraudulent activity could result from using the information that has been gathered.

And if there are times that your date seems extremely anxious and worried but says that everything is alright when you ask, then you should trust your instinct – what your gut is telling you – and also be anxious about continuing to date the individual.

You should never, ever disregard any situation you have suspicions about. And especially while dating, you have to always have your eyes open to spot any 'red flags' that could signal problems, and especially problems regarding your safety. You will need to remember that in many cases when individuals didn't act early when they had suspicions about a date's actions, the outcome was near fatal or fatal.

44. When Your Dates are Progressing to Become Serious

So, you have been dating for a while and your dates are still going on. You both feel comfortable and enjoy each other's company and so you both keep arranging dates. That shows that there is a need and a desire to want to be together. It could therefore mean that your dating is getting serious. But how can you be sure if you are right? Some factors to consider that will indicate if your dating is becoming serious are: trust, confidentiality and exclusivity with each other.

Trust is perhaps the biggest element in a relationship so some amount of trust has to be established from the time you begin dating. Trust means that you know the individual will not do anything to harm or hurt your well-being or dating experience.

While you can't totally trust your new date although you may have gone out a few times, there are still steps that can be taken to begin to build trust. By telling your date confidential information, it means that you have some trust in the person. So, if it's a case where confidentialities have been shared and there's no concern about your personal and private information being shared or misused, then you and your date have build up solid trust in each other.

The experience between you and your date is also getting serious when there has been full disclosure and confidentiality about personal issues including health, family, problems being experienced or any worrisome issue or matter. It means you can trust the individual with your affairs and that you want your date to know about issues that affect you so that you both can share your thoughts about them.

Another big indicator that your dating is getting serious is when you both decide not to date anyone else. Exclusivity to and with each other is a big factor because in fact, you both are now acting like a couple – two people who are dedicated and committed to each other. So, from dating as strangers, you have now gone up another notch to say you will concentrate on each other and what you have together.

When this happens, it means you and your date are both in each other's world and boundaries that were set, or which existed before, will start to disappear. You will also start to spend more time together, such as by having weekend getaways, even if it's at your date's house. You may also plan vacations or longer periods away with each other.

As your dating gets serious, you should also feel more totally relaxed in each other's presence. You should both feel free to say and do some things that you didn't do before because of uncertainty about the other's reaction.

When your date has progressed to being serious, it doesn't mean that everything has to be or will be all good. There are certain to be times when you disagree or have arguments. If your dating has become serious however, then no ill feeling will last. If you and your date are serious, you will talk about and try to reach a consensus in which you both feel fairly happy and satisfied with the outcome.

There shouldn't be any lingering negative thoughts that are left unresolved. Attempts that you and your date make to resolve conflicts will show that there is maturity in the bond you both have and that you both want to work things out for the better. When you both are committed to the outcome, your dating relationship has definitely moved from mere dating and seeing each other to a serious relationship.

45. Issues that can Stymie Dating

Dating, like a lot of things in life, can start off promising and hopeful. But like life, it's not without some prickly problems. There are various issues that can arise that can stymie or put a damper on your dating.

One of these is if your date is trying to get personal information from you, using the guise of liking you so much that he or she just wants to know you more, but you are unable to get similar information from him or her. Danger signals should definitely go up in that situation if your date is very evasive. If you can't get an answer or you are always getting different answers about where he or she lives, then you have good reason to be concerned.

Your date may always be mentioning for example that he or she lives with a family member who is very private. In that situation, you haven't been able to establish a home address so there would have to be something that is very wrong.

Warnings should go up if your date's phone number keeps changing and if there are sudden absences of your date and there are no explanations. Or, if the dates you both have are frequent for a time and then falls off and there aren't anymore for quite a while. If your date has to be away, certainly he or she should be able to notify you. Again, you won't be able to put your trust in someone who is here one minute and then is gone the next minute.

If you find out a big negative factor about your date also, such as a criminal offense or that he or she keeps getting fired from their job or has committed a fraudulent action, that is also going to hinder the further development or even continuation of your dating experience.

The negative factors you find out about your date will make you think twice about whether or not you can continue to have fun with the person and if you would be able to confide in the person totally about any personal issues in your life. If you have big questions regarding confidentiality and trust, your dating is likely to suffer negatively also. That's because trust wouldn't exist and you can't build any bond, friendship or relationship without trust.

If there's a situation where the date seems to be going fine, however you may know that you don't want it to continue, at some point you will have to voice that

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feeling to your date and it likely will affect where your dating goes from there. It's important in such a situation to be open and honest and let your feelings known, because otherwise you risk leading your date on falsely and setting him or her up for a big disappointment, at a time when your date would have been looking forward to getting closer to you.

Even how you meet your date can play a role in hindering future dating appointments. If you met your date inadvertently, even though you may then go out a few times, the individual can keep putting off more frequent dates and keep you at bay. That's particularly easy to happen if the phone is your major means of communication. But regardless of what is the setback in your dating experience, you need to have patience and tenacity if you think you really like the individual and would like to see more of him or her. By being persistent and not giving up, that may indicate to your date that you have a strong character and resolve, which are wonderful attributes for any date to have.

46. Places and Ways to Meet Dates

What if you could have immense fun, or be in a stimulating learning environment and run into a stranger who you think would make a good date? Events such as seminars, industry conferences, trade shows and conventions provide fun and knowledge and have enthusiastic participants from various backgrounds who would likely make intriguing dates.

Seminars are presentations of specialized courses that occur over several hours or a day or two. They are usually very specialized and are meant for a particular audience. It's easy to meet someone at a seminar because the setting is usually intimate and gatherings for the individual presentations are usually smaller. It's not too hard

therefore to meet a potential date at a seminar. You both will have a shared interest in something and it wouldn't be too hard to strike up a conversation. The disadvantage in meeting a potential date at a seminar is that you may each come from different parts of the country and therefore live miles apart, making regular dating almost impossible.

Industry and religious conferences and conventions bring large gatherings of people in a single location for up to a week or more. Wherever a large number of people are gathered, it's always possible that you could inadvertently run into someone and find that you have an instant attraction to each other. Again, when this happens at gatherings like conventions and trade shows, you and your potential date would have cleared at least one hurdle – knowing that you both have something in common that you like.

When you meet a potential date at an industry or religious convention or conference, it can also become special by both of you deciding to attend the event together in coming years to sort of rekindle that first attraction and the first time that you both met. Conventions and conferences may take place in different cities but they usually occur every year at about the same time, making it easy for you and your date to plan to attend them.

And of course, there is always the club where you can meet a potential date. Meeting a date at a club also means it's likely you can immediately know that your potential date has an interest that is similar to yours. Clubs develop a particular or unique quality and style primarily the music they play. Meeting a date at a club means therefore that the individual will share a similar taste in music to yours. That can also serve as a starting point for a conversation to find out more about the person.

It's also attractive to find a date at singles clubs because individuals are likely to be more mature in their conduct, behavior and attitude. Again, because everyone has the same agenda and purpose there will essentially be the same prevailing attitude among everyone.

The chance to have a conversation with a potential date at a club can also serve the advantage of quickly enabling you to assess whether you really want to start a dating relationship with the individual. And this decision can be made while you are seemingly having a good time. You can, for example, be on the dance floor with an individual you meet at a club and decide you don't want the person as a date because he or she isn't a good dancer. Or, maybe you noticed a quality such as that the person wasn't focused on you but was distractedly looking around.

Regardless of where you meet your date, the focus will be on starting to date and making sure that those dating affairs are fun and provide an opportunity for you both to learn more about each other.

47. General Dating Observations

When you begin dating, you and your date are both trying to find out more about each other and you both also are cautious about how much you reveal about yourself. But as the dating game continues, you will begin to be more open and to begin probing more. Consequently, that can give rise to some actions that are not conducive to having a good dating experience.

First and foremost, you should try not to rush the relationship with your date or be too pushy. If you begin to force certain issues, such as to go on a weekend getaway or having sleepovers, you could cause your date to withdraw or put up a defensive wall because he or she is just not ready for those experiences.

You need to trust your instincts and your head, especially early in the dating experience and not let the emotions of your heart rule your actions. You need to step back to see if the situation feels right for both you and your date. And if it's not what your date wants, then you need to respect that decision.

When one person wants the dating to make a big move in a positive direction, a decision also has to be made if it's the right thing to do for both of you. Your dating will only work if all actions and decisions are in the best interest of you and your date.

So you both will need to be open and honest to talk truthfully about how you feel, even if you think it's not what the other person wants to hear. Being honest at the onset will prevent a lot of pain, hurt, disappointment and hard feelings later on.

An issue that you can decide on alone, however, regarding dating is whether you will date one person or have multiple dates, say up to about three people who you may go out with from time to time.

In general, if you are someone who likes uncomplicated situations, then that's a reason you should have just one person whom you are dating. Having more than one date simultaneously, even just an additional one more, can cause complications, although such complications may be minor. For example, the first task in dating of arranging a time to meet, becomes more difficult when you have to carve out time fourfold – twice for yourself and one time each for the two dates.

Given the time demands and scarcity to have or make time to do things for yourself personally, it likely will prove challenging to be able to schedule adequate time frequently to meet more than one date. While it can be done, the point is it will be a bit demanding and will present complications. So since you like a life that is free of demands and complications as much as possible, you shouldn't try to have multiple dating experiences.

Maybe the most overwhelming reason not to have multiple dates simultaneously and to stick to a single dating partner, is if there is strong attraction for the person. In such a case, there clearly would be the potential for a relationship to be established. There would therefore be no reason for wanting to date others.

If there's a strong attraction between you and your date, and the same exists on the part of the date, then your dating relationship would be successful, or would be on

the way to being successful in meeting the objective of the dating game – finding a person with whom you want to spend the rest of your life, or with whom you want to share life with exclusively.

48. Effect of Work, Time and Distance on Dating

Time is so important that there is a saying that ‘time is money.’ If that’s the case then your dates had better be worth the time spent to arrange and plan them. Because time is so important, consideration therefore has to be given to how frequent your dates will be. And if your date is located far away, you also will have to be careful about the effect of that distance on your ability to date and on the quality of relationship that you develop.

A primary factor that will affect your dates – the time you can spend and the frequency with which they occur, is the work hours of you and your date and also how demanding your job is.

Just about everyone’s life revolves around their work. For most people who work for someone else, they have to show up at a particular time, get the job done, and then leave. That means that you and your date’s day may be filled with a large volume of things to get done, stress and worry on those days when things don’t go right.

After leaving work, while it’s good to have ways to relieve the stress, if you or your date is tired, it’s hardly likely that you will feel like arranging a date, or have the energy to go out.

Those are factors that must be considered when either you or your date wants to push to increase the frequency of your dating. Both of you may have different workloads and stress level and so may not feel equally tired at the end of the day.

Along with the commitment of work, there may also be other obligations that you or your date, or both of you have, outside of work. This could be volunteer activity, it could be a second job, an evening class or time with family and friends.

A second job will add to you or your date's fatigue level and even further decrease opportunities for more dates. But a volunteer activity could help to reduce stress and leave you or your date feeling more energized and therefore willing to consider seeing you, if only briefly.

What you have to realize is that each of those activities are important and it isn't easy, or there isn't an option, to curtail the hours of any of them to accommodate more frequent dating.

Given the detriment of distance in long distance dating, you may wonder how then can an effort to develop a closer bond occur. The telephone used to be the primary way of maintaining contact. But the explosion of technology has brought on an astounding array of communication mechanisms and gadgets.

The telephone still plays a big role however, because next in importance to being with someone is being able to hear their voice. The telephone can now also enhance contact in long distance dating by sending picture and video. And text messaging using the telephone is another way of communicating with someone in real-time.

Communicating with your date who is far away, by using other means except the telephone is another benefit that modern technology has brought. Using the computer, real-time communication can be done by instant messaging. And although email isn't the same as instant messaging or text messaging, it's also another communication option that has enhanced long distance dating. In addition, pictures and video can also be sent via the computer.

The disadvantage of dating with each individual being far apart is clearly that the limitations in seeing each other, as they aren't physically able to be together. It doesn't mean however that romance can't develop. Long distance dating for a couple who are

really fond of each other could actually be very beneficial by making them cherish more the few times when they can be together.

49. Identifying Love While Dating

It's easy for intense emotions to develop during dating and for all of those emotions to be thought of as love. But where there is obsession and affection that feels stifling, then it may be lust that is on display and not love.

Compared with lust, love is also about having a strong liking for someone and displaying passionate affection for the person. But love involves being considerate, thoughtful, reasonable and understanding. That means love involves positive emotion and makes the individual feel good about him or herself, and also about the person who is displaying the affection.

Love has entered your dating relationship if you are able to confide in and trust your date. It means that you feel comfortable and secure around your date and you want that person to share more of your world. In dating therefore, love is evident not only by warm fuzzy feelings, but also by the extent to which you can relax, be open and be yourself in the presence of your date.

When you both have divulged personal information to each other and told each other of your long- and short-term plans for example, then you both are definitely getting serious because you are sharing things that have a big impact on your life. By sharing such plans, it's also an indirect way to see if you totally connect and if a life together could work for both of you. If the dating wasn't getting serious, there would be no such concern about how your different plans could affect each other.

When you deliberately seek the opinions of your date, it means that you value their opinions and want to act on them. If you are ready and willing to get advice from

your date and to act on it, then it also means that your date is more to you than the stranger you started dating.

When you are at a stage in dating where you no longer feel very aware of your date, and you don't feel the need to be careful about all your behavior and mannerisms, then it could be a sign that you both have developed a good understanding of each other and both love what you see.

In that scenario, it would mean that you both think that you are compatible, and where true compatibility exists, it also means that love would have blossomed from your dating experience. Compatibility means that your personalities compliment each other, that you both share the same values, morals and some common interests but that you also have differences that you accept and respect in each other.

That's another indicator that your dating experience resulted in love, because from getting to know each other while dating, you both liked the differences you saw and embraced them.

It means that the more time you spent together, the more you got to know each other and the closer you became. A closer bond means a deepening friendship and relationship and one in which love is a key element.

More than likely, you both also have felt some passion and magic when you are together, or, warm, fuzzy emotions. Coupled with all the other qualities, it is important that there is strong passion on the part of both you and your date, and also that there is the intangible but very present sense of magic when you are in each other's company.

If your dating has grown to the stage where there is trust, confidentiality, compatibility, ease in each other's presence, passion and magic, then it indicates that your dating experience occurred with the right person and you both have fallen in love with each other.

50. Having Memorable Dating Experiences

Whether your dating is going to progress to being serious or not, whether love will blossom from it or whether you are even dating more than one person, there is always the desire for all dates to be memorable. That can happen by the location of the date, the activity and the mood that you and your date are in.

When romantic sparks fly on a dinner date, it likely can lead to a simple connection such as holding hands. That contact between you and your date is often a signal of romance about to flare on a date. Romance can happen through a glance and even a slight touch. But when there is touch or other longer physical connection the heat and warmth that you and your date feel can then pass between you and become shared, giving life to the chemistry or connection and magic that exists when you are in each other's presence.

A dinner date is one of the common dating activities that often create memorable dating experiences. Part of the reason for that is because you and your date can have a say in going to a restaurant with wonderful décor and lighting, good food and good service. All those factors must be present for the mood to be right and for the environment to feel magically romantic for you and your date.

With subdued lighting and a pleasant ambience, it will seem as if even the food tastes better. The combination of all those factors, along with the right background music will put you and your date at ease and if you both are in the right frame of mind, you will feel that magic of romance.

A connection and the resulting romantic feeling from holding hands on a date can also occur while you are watching a movie and even during a non-activity such as watching a beautiful sunset.

In a movie, the subject matter, scenes and dialog of the movie can be powerful in evoking the reality of romance between two movie-goers. What happens then is that

more than just being entertaining, the movie actually makes the dating couple feel as if they are transplanted into the scene and whatever is being experienced on the screen is also happening to them, or, could actually occur.

Going on a walk together for a date can also cause romantic sparks. Maybe it's the relaxing nature of the walk, or again, maybe it could be the always beautiful aspect of nature and being surrounded by it, that enhances the presence of romance on such a date. And if the walk involves a beautiful sunset, that also will evoke a very strong feeling of romance.

Any of these dating experiences can also be made more memorable if you and your date share a first, such as have a first kiss. You could also share a first experience such as telling each other something very special, or confiding in each other by revealing some very personal information.

Those first actions will mark a milestone in your dating and will be moments that you will remember always with fondness and will also cherish. Whenever firsts are done during dating, they represent small steps in the growth and development of the relationship. So they are also small triumphs to celebrate the fact that your dating experience is progressing on a positive path and that you and your date are having a good time.

While you and your date can hope for and will even plan a romantic date, it often happens coincidentally and sometimes when you least expect it. That's why it's important that when you are together, you maintain a positive and upbeat mood so that if the magic or romance should be in the air, you both will be ready and receptive to it, and will have a memorable dating experience.

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