

FOOLPROOF FIRST DATE

TAKE YOUR DATING TO THE NEXT STEP WITH THESE TIPS FROM THE PROS



PATTI STANGER
Bravo's *The Millionaire Matchmaker*, CEO of The Millionaire's Club

1. OBJECTIVE OF A FIRST DATE

"A first date is a fun chemistry, getting-to-know-you session. Most people are very impatient in dating and feel a first date is where they ride off into the movie-wedding sunset. Ridiculous."

2. CONVERSATION TOPICS TO AVOID

"Don't talk about the ex or your horror dating war stories. This tends to neutralize the sex and put you into the friend-zone. Very not sexy!"

3. ONLINE COMMUNICATION

"For women, once is enough. Tell the guy: 'I'm not a great typist. Here's my number. If you're interested, feel free to call.' Men love to toy with women online, so it's best not to waste time. For men, it's carpe diem; get her number if you like her and send a personal note. No online-form letters, which men tend to do. Sexy spamming will turn off any normal hot girl, so no pictures of your lower body parts. It's so not cool. Men: How about a call, which will separate you from the pack and present you as a gentleman? Women fall in love by their ears, so to hook us we have to hear you. Busy women: Give men a chance, put love first and call him back."

4. FIRST DATE: SHOULD YOU MENTION MARRIAGE?

"Men need to say: 'I'm so sick of dating and want to find a great girl and call it a day.' Women need to say: 'I'm ready to fall in love with a great guy and grow old with him.' This is marriage speak without saying the 'M-word,' which often scares daters off. However, you want to know if he or she is in it to win it now rather than later."

5. GOOD FIRST DATE IDEAS

"Avoid the movies, as you can't talk. Anything noisy such as clubs, bowling alleys, or sporting events, et cetera. It's best to go to romantic, quiet places where you can hear each other talk and not be distracted by the crowd. The reason for this is if she/he becomes your spouse, you want an everlasting romantic memory forever."



MATTHEW HUSSEY
Author of *Get the Guy*, Life Coach, Dating and Relationship Guru

1. LANDING A FIRST DATE

"Strike up a conversation. This may seem redundant to women who have been told it is not their job to do the approaching, but this advice has always ignored the truth: Many men who find a woman attractive do not in fact approach her, but sit on the sidelines and wonder what it would have been like to approach her. One of the easiest ways to have more opportunities with men than the next woman is to start speaking with them. When in conversation, mention places you wish to go, things you'd like to do, places you'd like to eat. It not only gives the impression that you are interested in doing things, but also gives them ideas about what to do with you on a date. Repeat these steps enough each week and you'll have dates."

2. FIRST DATE TIPS

"Put some effort into what you wear. Hug them when you get there. It may seem familiar, but you are on a date after all. If you want to appear feminine and warm, touch is one of the easiest ways to do it while building comfort at the same time. Don't sit opposite each other over dinner. In fact, do your best to avoid the tedium of dinner altogether. Whatever you do, aim to sit side by side park-bench style or at a right angle. It'll allow you to maintain an air of casualness to counteract the formalities of a typical date."

3. PICKING UP THE TAB

"Offer, but don't force it. If a man doesn't automatically feel it is the right thing to do to take care of the tab (especially on a first date), he wasn't taught right. If a lady doesn't reach for her purse knowing that when it comes to it she would happily pay her share, she wasn't taught right. When he insists he must pay, let him, and take it as a good sign of his male character. If he lets you pay, the choice is yours whether to see him again."

4. FIRST CONTACT AFTER THE DATE

"Ideally, him. But that doesn't mean you should get angry or frustrated if he doesn't. Simply take it as an indicator of his level of investment. There's nothing wrong with texting him to say you had a great time, even if you do make first contact. However, don't be oblivious to the level of investment after the date. It's not about him texting you 20 times the next night. The goal is, of course, to see him again. As a general rule, if he doesn't make this goal easy, you should quickly get bored and move on anyway."



DR. TERRI ORBUCH
Relationship Expert and Author of *Finding Love Again: 6 Simple Steps to a New and Happy Relationship*

1. FIRST DATE MINDSET

"First dates are all about getting to know the other person. You want to see if you and this other person are compatible. A first date should also be fun and not too heavy or serious. In addition, it is important to recognize that, like it or not, your date will be judging you from the moment he or she meets you. What happens on the first date influences the success of the date itself, and it forms your date's impression of you going forward. So, plan ahead and put your best face forward."

2. FIRST DATE MISTAKES

"A) Many people make the mistake of 'putting it all out there' on the first date – disclosing too much, too soon. People think they are being honest and open, but they are viewed by the listener as not trustworthy because they tell all without knowing the other person. B) Spending the entire first date talking about themselves. Instead, ask the other person questions and listen well. C) Thinking first dates have to be long. First dates should be short and sweet, keep it under two hours. If it seems too brief, or you really like him or her after this first meeting, make another date."

3. PLACE FOR A FIRST DATE

"Since first dates are for getting to know each other, movies and concerts aren't the best first dates. Instead, plan an activity where there is a situation you can actually ask some questions. Meal/drink dates (dinner, lunch, brunch, drink, coffee) are all very good first dates."

4. TIPS FOR ONLINE DATING

"Online dating is a very successful and positive way to meet someone who is compatible. Specific tips: 1) Find the right site for you. There are many different dating sites for every person, age, religion, ethnicity, or interest. 2) Upload appropriate photos. Put in the effort right from the start. 3) Be honest and specific when you describe yourself in your profile. You don't want to start a relationship off with a lie. 4) Don't take rejections personally. 5) Send plenty of emails/messages. 6) Take time getting to know someone. Studies show that relationships develop faster online. 7) Use safety rules while online and when meeting others in person."

5. MOTTO FOR LOVE

"My feelings are: Finding love is 100 percent possible. In order to have the ability to love someone else, you first need to love yourself. Focus on the positive, and try to stay upbeat. Know who you are and what you need in a love partner."  — Deanna Lites