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## **Introduction**

Online dating has become the new standard for meeting and dating individuals. With millions of people from around the world creating online dating profiles, it has become easy to meet unique people that share the same interests, hobbies and lifestyles as you do.

Whether you have been participating in online dating for years, or brand new to the idea of meeting that special someone online, you will find the tips and techniques featured within the Date Mastery guide, exceptionally valuable in getting the most out of your online dating experience.

First and foremost, it is best to take time to quickly evaluate the primary reason why you are interested in online dating, and exactly what you are hoping to accomplish.

*Are you interested in a long-term commitment or a casual encounter?*

*Are you looking for a lover, or a friend, or both?*

If you know exactly what you are looking for going in, you are far more likely to be successful, so take a few minutes to think about

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what you are really interested in pursuing.

Far too many people blindly venture into online dating communities, not really knowing exactly what they are looking for, and believe it or not, it shows.

When you begin talking to potential partners, you will want to be clear about your intentions, instead of wasting your time (and theirs) in the event you are both looking for different things.

Remember that the overall success of online dating depends on this first step of knowing your purpose.

One last note: having a close friend or family member who knows you can be of incredible value in helping you create accurate and compelling profiles and bios within the dating communities.

Let a friend read it over and give you a fresh perspective on what you should change, and how it flows. It's often difficult to evaluate your own profile, so call a buddy and let them help!

## **Beginning Your Online Dating Adventure**

There are hundreds of possible online dating communities that you could participate in, but with limited time, how can you choose the best one, based on your personal preferences and lifestyle?

First, you need to determine what it is that you are looking for by analyzing who you are and who you would like to meet. While dating websites are usually structured in a similar way and offer comparable features, each one will also offer specialized options and depending on your interests and personal objectives, you will need to make sure that you focus on dating communities that carry a similar theme.

Long term relationships, or casual encounters? The choice is yours, and there are dating websites catering to all interests, lifestyle choices and preferences.

To begin, here are the top five dating websites currently online, catering to the general dating community.

<http://www.Match.com>

<http://www.PerfectMatch.com>

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<http://www.Chemistry.com>

<http://www.LavaLife.com>

<http://www.True.com>

You will also be able to explore themed dating websites that focus on specific lifestyles and interests including:

<http://www.AdultFriendFinder.com>

There are countless reviews for every dating site online, ranging from positive feedback to negative experiences from users who are unhappy with the service.

Do not let anyone's opinion be YOUR opinion! Decide for yourself by actively participating in the communities and figuring out which one works best for you and your lifestyle.

You'll discover that the majority of dating websites offer similar features, such as live chat, detailed profile structure, and photo galleries, while others offer instant messaging options as well as online games, blogs and forums that offer interaction between members.

With that being said, the dating websites mentioned above are the most recognized for quality, customization, and features.

One last and very important note about online dating sites: you can participate in as many online dating sites as you want and aren't restricted to only featuring your profile at one community. Just make sure they all match up!

A great feature included with most online dating communities is the option to take advantage of a trial membership option, so that you can evaluate the community and determine if it's of interest to you before ever paying for a subscription.

There are also dating communities that offer a 'quality insurance offer', which states that if you do not find a potential mate within a specific period of time, you are eligible to receive a full refund of your subscription fees.

Online dating services offer a convenient way to meet potential dating partners at your own pace and comfort level, and with so many options available, you're bound to find a community that suits your interests and lifestyle.

*Here are a few of the benefits to online:*

**Benefit #1: Move At Your Own Pace**

Online dating services offer you the chance to meet potential

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dating partners at your own pace and on your own schedule. Your initial contact will be over the internet, so you can fit this into your busy schedule without having to go out at certain times or places to meet people.

You have full control over how fast you want the relationship to develop and you can make your own decision when you are ready for a face-to-face meeting.

### **Benefit #2: Online Dating Simplifies The Process**

When you sign up for an online dating service you will be part of a group of like-minded people. You know you are in a group of people who are specifically looking to meet a potential life partner. When it comes to the "real life" dating scene, it's a lot harder to determine who might be truly interested in a relationship and who isn't.

Online dating puts everything out there, so that you can spend your time developing relationships with people who want the same things from life as you do. No time wasted.

### **Benefit #3: You have the ability to express yourself and showcase your qualities**

Online dating services provide you with the opportunity to create a personal profile. When you fill out your profile you have the ability to express who you are and showcase your qualities. This isn't as easy to do in person sometimes, so this is another great benefit of online dating.

Your initial correspondence with potential dating partners is also a great way to express your interests, goals and preferences before actually meeting them.

What better way can you market yourself than with online dating communities?

#### **Benefit #4: Stay Within Your Comfort Zone**

Dating anxiety also means not wanting to leave your "comfort zone". Chalk one up again for Online dating –where you never have to leave the comfort of your own home to meet and chat with quality and interesting women, not to mention that you can do so unshaven, sitting on your couch in your underwear, drinking a cold one.

Traditional dating also causes anxiety because of time pressures. Can't make "Happy Hour"? or the time of that singles event conflicts with a project deadline or business meeting?

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No stress there either – Online dating means you can cruise profiles anytime you want. You’re in complete control of the schedule.

Finally Online dating virtually eliminates the dating dread that keeps so many men home alone on a Saturday night – The Fear of Rejection. Online dating can be practically “rejection free” once you learn the techniques.

That is one of the benefits that make Online dating so exciting. Now that is not to say you will not ever be “turned down” Online – but the anxiety that you feel, that makes it too difficult to approach that gorgeous gal in accounting in person, is not there in cyberspace.

### **Benefit #5: You Can Be As Specific As You Like**

Another great benefit to online dating is it gives you the opportunity to really specify the exact type of person you are looking for. You can include this information within your profile which is essentially designed to help attract people with whom you share common interests, goals and preferences.

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Not interested in dating smokers? Say so in your profile!

Not the club scene type? Express that you prefer people who are happy staying at home with a movie and pizza, the choice is yours.

Online dating services offer a lot of advantages to the busy person trying to get back into the dating scene with limited time.

You move at your own pace and enjoy the flexibility, convenience and control offered from within the online dating communities.

### **Benefit #6: Leveling The Playing Field**

Another huge benefit of Online dating is that the Internet is the ultimate leveler. With your properly designed profile up on a dozen sites, you no longer have to worry about the competition.

You don't have to dress a certain way, or stand out from the crowd in a bar or event – you are free to be you.

As we show you in later chapters how to write a targeted profile, you will build interactions with women that are interested in the same things you are.

It is far easier to be open and honest on the Internet, and dating experts agree women find honesty a turn on.

Remember the “comfort zone”?

That certain level of anonymity that the Internet provides lets people be a lot more open, conversation tends to get more intimate more rapidly Online.

Women especially once they have gained a certainly level of trust with you, which we will show you how to accomplish– certainly will reveal more about themselves quicker Online then they will in face-to-face encounters - which will allow you and her to know that much more quickly if you really have found a match.

Furthermore, online dating is the ultimate “Test Track. You can use Online dating to try over and over again, until you hone your skills and figure out what works for you.

In fact most men report that the successful interactions they have experienced though Online dating have boosted their confidence and self esteem to the point that they are now more outgoing and willing to take risks even in more traditional social settings.

## **Top Online Dating Communities**

### **True.com**

[True.com](http://www.True.com) as its name implies, is best known for its honesty.

It is the only Internet dating site that specifically screens its members for convicted felons and married people. As such it is extremely popular with women, especially those seeking a life partner.

True claims over 10 million members, and is the only Internet dating site that has been endorsed by Psychology Today.

Membership is free. To become a member one needs to read, understand and agree to the True Code of Ethics, take their Compatibility Test and post a profile with a photo, which will activate your account.

Besides its commitment to safety, the key to True's success is the Compatibility Test. True has developed a comprehensive compatibility test that uses a set of scientifically proven methods approved by the American Psychiatric Association to measure degrees of compatibility.

The test takes about a half hour to complete. Once you have

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become a member by completing the test and posting a profile, you can subscribe to the site for a fee, depending on the length of the subscription. Paid subscription is required to communicate with other members.

### **Yahoo Personals**

[Yahoo Personals](#) is one of the most popular Internet dating sites and actually breaks its memberships up into two distinct categories, those looking for companionship or casual dating and those looking for a more serious relationship.

[Yahoo Personals](#) and Yahoo Personals Premier. As with [True.com](#) and most of the other quality sites, membership is free, but detailed communication with members via e-mail or other communications tools requires a paid subscription.

In either category you can browse the available singles in your area for free, and you can "flirt" or send "ice-breaker messages" to those whose profiles catch your attention, however you must subscribe to send e-mails or have Online dates.

[Yahoo Personals](#) Premier, for those looking for more serious relationships employs a relationship test, not as sophisticated as True's, but one that will help you find what you are looking for, and hopefully those looking to find you. [Yahoo Personals](#) is great

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for its very large membership and relatively low cost, [Yahoo Personals](#) is only 24.95 a month, that's less than the cost of one "real date" – and Yahoo Premier is only 39.95 - a small price to pay to search for and maybe find your "Ms Right".

### **Match.com**

[match.com](#) continues to be one of the most popular Online dating sites in the world and boasts over a quarter of a million people who have found marriage or an otherwise lasting life partner through [www.match.com](#).

[match.com](#) uses sophisticated psychological tools, and designs tests that will reveal things about you, your beliefs, and your true likes and dislikes. You will probably find out things you never even knew about yourself after going through this process, which is always a great first step on the path to a lasting relationship.

At [match.com](#) you can become a member and create a profile for free and then subscribe to use the full features of the program.

You can sign up for a full subscription for 1, 3 or 6 months.

[match.com](#) are so confident in their proven ability to bring people together that they offer a guarantee with a 6-Month subscription

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- if you do not connect with someone special, you will get another 6-months Free.

The site is also very user friendly and you can sign up with a few simple clicks of your mouse and begin sampling the site right away.

### **eHarmony.com**

[eHarmony](#) is the Grandfather of the "Compatibility Scale" and "Compatibility Tests" now employed by [match.com](#), True and other Online dating sites.

As such they are still one of the best at it and boast one of the highest success rates of marriages on the Internet. If you are really tired of all other methods to meet someone that have failed, and are really looking to settle down and get married then [eHarmony](#) is highly recommended.

Founded by one of Americas best known relationship experts Dr. Neil Clark Warren, [eHarmony](#) was the first relationship service on the Web to use a scientific approach to match highly compatible singles and the only one to actually receive a patent on its Compatibility Matching System.

In fact [eHarmony](#) not only is able to lay claim to have made

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1000's of successful matches that have resulted in marriage, a recent study done by the American Psychological Association found that married couples who met on [eHarmony](#) are actually happier than married couples together for the same length of time who met through other means.

Like the other sites we have been talking about at no cost you can complete the Questionnaire, get your Compatibility Profile, receive matches based on eHarmony's 29 Points of Compatibility and have access to Dr. Warren's extensive library of articles and tips.

Subscriptions of 1, 3, 6, or 12 months are available for as little as \$20.95 a month for the one-year subscription.

### **PerfectMatch.com**

If there is a direct competitor for [eHarmony](#)'s crown, it's [www.PerfectMatch.com](http://www.PerfectMatch.com). In fact on PerfectMatch's site you can see a direct head-to-head comparison between its features and benefits and [eHarmony](#)'s and they offer special incentives for [eHarmony](#) members to switch to [PerfectMatch](#).

Like all things in Online dating and for that matter in all relationships, it really comes down to personal preferences.

Both sites use proven techniques of compatibility testing, both sites are backed by well-known and credentialed professionals in the field of relationships - in this case Dr. Pepper Schwartz.

Both sites have been major players in Online dating since its early days.

The main difference between [PerfectMatch](#) and [eHarmony](#) has to do with lifestyle and values, with [PerfectMatch](#) being a little more "liberal" - it's membership is opened to divorced people and gays, where the community largely based on Christian values at [eHarmony](#) is not.

Bottom line - both sites are highly recommended for using proven techniques that get results, try the one that works best for you and your lifestyle.

### **Sexsearch.com & adultfriendfinder.com**

At the other end of the spectrum from sites like [eHarmony](#) and [match.com](#) that promise you to find your "soul mate" are [sexsearch.com](#) and [adultfriendfinder.com](#) that promise you a pairing of a different kind.

Believe it or not there are quite a few women that enjoy sex as much as men, and in the less inhibited world of cyberspace,

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many of them are willing to let their hair down and actively seek out partners for casual encounters or short term relationships.

Like more traditional dating sites on both of these sites you can sign up for free and cruise the postings, create a profile and then become a subscription member to connect with singles and couples of similar interests.

As you might imagine on the more adult sites safety and security are of primary concern, and both of these sites take many steps to keep interactions between members as safe, secure and private as possible.

## **Not Just For Geeks**

The use of online dating websites is no longer just for those considered desperate for a date, or lacking the self-confidence to explore the dating scene in the “real world”.

With the global outreach and incredible popularity of online dating websites, everyone from the executive professional to celebrities have been known to use them as a way of meeting new people and making new friends.

However, there are still some rules that apply if you want to make sure that you have a positive experience as a member of the online dating world.

*Here are a few things to keep in mind:*

### **Tip #1 Be Honest**

One of the most important things you can do to be successful with online dating is write an honest and interesting profile.

Don't lie about yourself to try and impress women. If you ever decide to meet, your lies will come out. If you are open, honest and confident in your profile you will attract interesting women.

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Include a recent picture of yourself as well.

Take this seriously! If you want to be successful at online dating and find compatible dating partners, it is very important to be honest about yourself and what you are looking for in dating partners.

Your profile should include enough detail about yourself to show why someone would be interested in dating you, but don't over exaggerate or hide things about yourself. Be sure to include a recent photograph of yourself as well.

Your goal should be to find dating partners you will be compatible with, and if you stretch the truth it will only come out in the end and will not lead to a successful relationship.

### **Tip #2 Be Patient**

Women are very concerned about their safety when it comes to meeting men online, and for good reason. We've all heard horror stories about predators on the Internet. You need to keep this in mind when approaching women online.

Be very courteous and patient. Do not pry women for their personal information or be too pushy and aggressive in your

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correspondence. Let the woman decide when she is comfortable meeting. Pushing for a date too early on is a big mistake.

### **Tip #3 Avoid sexual and overly suggestive language**

Unless you are at an online dating site that is specifically about sexual encounters, keep your sexual banter and suggestive language to a minimum. Focus on getting to know a woman and compliment her without getting overly sexual or you may very well turn a nice woman off.

### **Tip #4 Don't send out form emails**

Don't send the same email out to large numbers of women. Be specific and show genuine interest in a woman for who she is.

This isn't a numbers game.

### **Tip #5 Let the woman set the pace**

Remember, a woman needs to feel comfortable and safe. Let her set the tone for how fast she wants things to develop. Never push for a date too soon.

This doesn't mean sacrificing your own needs, but you do need to

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understand how important a woman's safety and comfort level is when it comes to meeting men online.

**Tip #6: Protect Yourself**

Online dating is a great way to initially connect with many potential dating partners you wouldn't have a chance to meet otherwise. It can be a very positive, enjoyable experience. However, you do need to practice safety first.

There are people online who are dishonest or dangerous, and you need to be cautious and practice commonsense. Never give out your personal information like your phone number or address right away. Get to know a person slowly and watch for red flags or inconsistencies in their behavior.

An initial date should be in a public place. Take your time in getting to know someone, use common sense and practice safety first.

**Tip #7: Treat people with respect and courtesy**

Online dating can be a lot of fun, full of flirting and playful banter. Just make sure you treat others with respect and courtesy. Men should not be overly aggressive or derogatory to

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women. If someone contacts you that you are not interested in, thank them for their note and politely let them know you don't think it is a good match. Just follow the golden rule and treat others the way you would like to be treated.

If you follow these simple online dating tips while engaging and interacting within online dating communities, it will really help you be successful in meeting honest, straightforward women who share your interests.

Be confident in yourself and be open to getting to know people you meet online. If you practice safety first and use some common sense you'll have a great time getting acquainted with people through online dating.

Since there are thousands of online dating sites, there is also a lot of variety when it comes to the choices offered in terms of ethnicity, country of origin, hobbies and career-based matches.

## Creating An Attractive Profile

Online dating profiles are the equivalent of meeting someone in person in terms of representing yourself and what it is that you are interested in.

The sites we have mentioned all make creating a profile fairly easy, with prompts and questions. They also show examples of effective profiles.

Experts agree that keeping it simple and being honest are two of the most important factors in creating a profile. But creating a power profile takes more than that, David DeAngelo, author of the program [Meeting Women Online](#) says that your profile is like a "vending machine, put in the right location where there are hungry people going by, and it can make you money 24/7."

Your Online dating profile acts in the same way, and David's program offers years of experience and proven techniques on creating profiles that get constant attention, as well as other winning strategies for dramatically improving your Online dating response rate.

Remember what your folks taught you about first impressions? It

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still matters Online. We will be covering more of David's strategies in later chapters but a simple tip he mentions that guys often overlook when writing a profile is to use Spell-check.

You do not have to be Earnest Hemmingway when writing a profile, but obvious spelling errors make you look lazy - a definite turn-off to women.

You really want to make sure that you can present yourself in the best possible light, while maintaining the honesty and sincerity of who you are. There is no sense in creating a false image of yourself if you are serious about eventually making the transition from online dating to offline meetings.

### 1.) **Create a Positive Self Image**

Avoid using negative wording, such as hate, not, never, etc.

As obvious as this may seem, many online profiles are filled with negative statements that are naturally overlooked by potential partners who aren't interested in getting involved with someone who has a negative outlook on life.

By focusing on positive reflections and phrasing, you will be able to create an appealing profile that attracts a large number of

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possible mates, as well as ensuring that the people who contact you are equally as positive.

**Example of positive versus negative phrasing:**

Positive: 'I prefer women who love the outdoors'.

Negative: 'I hate women who never like to go outside.'

**2.) Describing Yourself**

When it comes to summarizing your likes, dislikes, and essentially who you are, you want to describe yourself in the most appealing way possible, while once again, being honest.

Balance this out by showcasing your interests, and describing why you'd make a great partner, while avoiding coming across as someone who is egotistical or self involved.

Confidence is exceptionally attractive but you need to make sure that you are approachable, and that those reviewing your profile will feel that they could be comfortable with you.

**3.) Be Memorable**

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When it comes to online dating, there are literally thousands, if not millions of profiles available online. You need to make sure yours stands out in a positive way.

The more information you can provide about yourself and you're your lifestyle, the better.

Instead of summarizing your interests, take the time to provide a thorough, detailed overview of what you are all about. Use creative wording and detailed phrasing so that you can give people a real, solid idea of who you are.

Example: Rather than simply stating that you like music, describe the exact type of music you like, as well as specific artists or genres.

The same goes for sports, hobbies or other interests.

The more detailed you are, the more likely you're your profile will receive a lot of exposure and attention from potential mates who would rather contact someone who isn't afraid to provide a lot of information about themselves, versus those with very short profiles that fail to offer useful information.

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#### **4.) Keep Your Profile Updated**

Once you create your profile, you will want to make sure that should your situation change, you update your information accordingly.

Since many online dating sites will display the date of the last log in as well as the last time the profile was modified, keeping it fresh and updated will show that you are still actively involved in the dating community, and are still looking for potential partners.

#### **5.) Keep it Simple.**

Keeping your profile on target and focused is extremely important. While you want to provide as much information about yourself as you feel comfortable with, you also want to avoid running off with long paragraphs or repetitive phrasing.

Since people tend to skim over profiles that are too lengthy, you need to balance out providing enough information to attract interest with ensuring that it doesn't take the reader a lot of time to digest the information you're offering.

## 6.) **Take Your Time With Your Profile**

If you are serious about finding potential mates online, you need to take time when creating your profile. The most successful online dating members have spent hours tweaking their profiles over the course of their time participating within the communities.

Remember, your profile is the single most important element in regards to your online dating account, as it is the digital representation of who you are.

This is where people find you, decide to contact you, or skip you over simply because someone else has taken the time to craft a more detailed, entertaining and useful profile page.

Consistently update your profile as you find time. Add in new photos of yourself, and do your best to keep it interesting, light and of course, informative.

If you struggle creating your profile, spend some time browsing through the community and looking over other profiles to help you become familiar with the profile layout, as well as be able to generate fresh ideas on what you should include and perhaps, what should be left out.

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A well through out, carefully planned profile shows, and will maximize your chances of finding that perfect partner.

## **7.) Photos Are Very Important**

Looks may not be everything, but the fact of the matter is Profiles without pictures just do not get the kind of traffic that those with pictures do, according to [match.com](http://match.com) women are 8.5 times more likely to look at your profile if it has your snapshot.

And members in general with photos get up to 15 times more overall attention than those without one. But your picture doesn't have to be formal.

Remember this is not a job interview; we are out here to have FUN. Don't be afraid to be a little whimsical and show your humorous side, but don't be too silly or goofy as that can turn some women off.

The number one rule when it comes to posting a picture on your profile is to just be sure to use one that is an honest representative of your real looks so there are "no surprises" in real life.

Most Online experts agree not to choose a photo that is overtly sexual or provocative, (unless of course that is what you are looking for, on one of the adult sites we talked about).

It is better to err on the side of being conservative, you can always post something a little sexier later if you desire, but it's hard to take back something that may have made the wrong initial impression.

Since all of the recommended sites offer some type of Free Trial membership that allows you to test the waters a bit, take the time to play a little until you find the one that is right for you, before you make the commitment of a paid subscription.

## **Maximizing Your Chances Of Success**

Many of the things that hold men back when it comes to dating in the real world, can hold them back in Online dating too, if they do not remember to leave those things behind when in cyberspace.

The biggest mistake men make in letting the right woman get away is not taking advantage of all opportunities when they are right in front of them - this is as true Online as in reality. The men who are the most successful at Online dating make use of every tool that the site they are using offers them.

You probably signed up for a given site because you liked their particular features – use them. Yes it is true that your profile can work to bring women to you, but if you really want to increase the odds you have to stack the deck a bit.

### **E-mails**

E-mails are one of the primary methods of contact when using Online dating services.

Again do not carry that awkwardness or the reservations you may have about approaching women in the real world Online –

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you have the opportunity here to correspond with so many potential partners that you really have nothing to lose.

Do not fret over that great "opening line". Ask a simple question that will have to elicit a response, don't try so hard to be "original". Relationship expert David Deangelo, author of [Meeting Women Online](#), says attempts at originality in e-mails are just the opposite – what you think is an original line has been used by dozens of previous senders.

Believe it or not a simple "where are you from" – if that is not in their profile can be a great conversation starter for an Online date.

Do not be overtly flirty or sexual in e-mails (again not unless you are on an adult site, but even here there can be rules governing obscenity and offensiveness).

Be brief – do not ramble and "go on" about yourself. Remember especially if you are really interested in somebody, with some of the barriers down that exist in real meeting situations, there can be a tendency to come on too strong Online.

Relax and take your time to build mutual interest. Don't be overly gushing or complimentary, after all you hardly know this

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person – yet.

[David DeAngelo](#) says one of the keys to Online communicating and to doubling or tripling the number of women you meet on line is to be “Cocky and Funny.” It is part of the classic “take away strategy” of sales pros.

Using it you can approach any woman Online in such a way that you playfully, but humorously poke fun at them and make them feel that they should be honored to be communicating with you, not the other way around.

Then once you have their interest you back away in just the right way – that leaves them dying to hear from you again.

David understands that women are “wired” different than men and says this style of communication actual triggers attraction in women on a subconscious and primal level.

We will discuss more on “Cocky and Funny” and other sure-fire Online communications techniques in our next chapter.

### **Make it Part of Your Routine**

Another big mistake a lot of men make, is signing up for an Online dating site and then not taking the time to use it. That is

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like paying for a Gym membership and then never going.

Men today have very busy lives - that is part of what makes it difficult to meet women in the first place, but success with Online dating takes a certain amount of discipline to use the tools at your disposal.

The best way to do that is to build your Online dating time into your daily routine. That means a specific half-hour a day set aside in the morning before work, after work, or during your lunch hour (be careful not to be cruising dating sites while at work).

Log on and look at profiles, write or respond to e-mails, or update your own profile. Like in any game the best way to increase your odds of winning is to play more often.

All of the sites we mentioned always have updates and tips and relevant articles about Online dating, you never know when spending some time reading those will result in gaining that little piece of info that helps you get that next date.

### **What The Pros Have to Say**

Liz H. Kelly dating coach, and Author of The Fast Track Dating Guide for finding Mr. or Ms Right offers several tips for Online

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“flirting” with e-mails.

First and foremost she says to have fun, and be humorous, it may sound like an old cliché started by desperate male stand up comics but studies show that women really do love a man with a sense of humor.

Liz also suggests that you look carefully at a woman’s photo and ask a specific question about a detail in the picture – “Like what were the winters like going to school in Boston” if she happens to be wearing a “B.U.” sweatshirt – it shows you care about details and notice things, a quality woman like.

Same thing goes for asking a specific question about something in their profile – like how “long have you been playing guitar” or if she says she likes “red wine and fireplaces” ask what her favorite Cabernet is.

Here’s another helpful tip the pros recommend – change with the seasons. Update your profile with seasonal references like special holiday memories or specific winter/summer activities you enjoy – this may not only help you click with that special someone, it also shows women on the site that you are active and not sticking with a stagnant profile.

Laurie Puhn, communications specialist and author of Instant Persuasion says, "By inserting a seasonal reference in there, you give people a reason to get in touch..." She adds however "Don't forget to change your holiday specific headline or holiday references back as soon as the festivities are over" or you will end up looking like a slacker.

What does this mean? Have clear goals and be honest about yourself! It is truly simple, yet essential.

Your initial contact should be brief, to the point, and courteous. If you are interested in someone send a brief email or message stating who you are and include a short explanation of why you are interested in communicating.

Don't spend a lot of time bragging about yourself or trying to impress someone you don't know. Just be straightforward and honest and wait to see if they are interested in communicating with you.

If someone sends you an initial email or message, be sure to send a reply back whether you are interested or not. It is common courtesy to do so. If you are not interested in further communication, write back and thank them for their message.

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Politely let them know that you don't think it's a good match. If you are interested in communication, thank them and begin an initial conversation.

Keep initial messages brief and don't give out personal information too soon. Ask questions and be willing to be open and honest about yourself and what you are looking for in dating partners and a potential relationship.

Take your time in getting to know someone before you agree to meet for an in-person date. Be sure to ask questions to help you determine whether the two of you are compatible and if you feel comfortable with the person. Ask about interests, hobbies, goals, and anything else of importance to you.

If you find there is inconsistency or breakdown in communication, this may be a sign of incompatibility.

Online dating does take good communication skills to be successful. Don't worry about writing the perfect emails or messages. Just be willing to be open, honest and direct. Don't be afraid to ask questions and show a genuine interest in the person you are trying to get to know. Online email is a great way to get to know someone before going on a date. Take your time and enjoy yourself.

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## **Before First Contact: Must Read**

By now, you have already acquainted yourself with the whole online dating process, specifically setting up your account and profile, as well as how to look at other online dating profiles.

Before you actually contact dating members, it is best to hone your communication skills. Working on communicating effectively is not just something done in a business setting, as if you cannot convey your thoughts and personal feelings is something necessary for establishing any kind of relationship.

So, to follow will be a breakdown of what types of communication Medias are offered in online dating websites:

### **Writing:**

Most common form of all online dating communication. Writing on an online dating website is usually done so via chat rooms, email, and private messaging.

All of the specific forms of writing are typically done in an informal fashion (just as you would if you were talking to a friend in person).

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For any type of writing, just practice by your everyday use of email, chatting, and messaging with friends and family. Specifically, practice on making full sentences, avoiding the use of confusing jargon or technical lingo.

As well, avoid using abbreviations, such as 'ttyl' 'gtg' 'bbiab', for this shows that you are quickly writing to that person, which ultimately gives them the impression that you have better things to attend to.

Show that you really care and are interested in the conversation with full sentences, using sincere words. If writing are not you strength, relax!

Do not get the impression that you have to write a formal, college essay. Just maintain a balance between a formal writing, and use personality to create a fun, sincere conversation.

**Audio and video:**

Online dating websites have become synonymous with online video chatting. Since the advent and rise of the online technologies, it has become very easy to get yourself set-up with this particular method of communication.

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Many people prefer audio and video, for you actually get to talk to the person, see who they truly are.

Even more, audio and video allows you to pick up personalities, which is very hard to notice with writing methods (this is most evident with sarcastic and humorous personalities).

However, the most appealing aspect to video and audio is that it allows you to pick up on body and facial impressions, a much more effective way of receiving feedback from the other person.

**Dating and conversations go together hand-in-hand.**

Conversations are by far the most challenging aspect for dating. This is how you and your date decide whether or not there is potential for a relationship.

Conversations come natural for some people, while for others it is the most frightening thing ever. No matter how comfortable you are with this, there are tips that anyone can learn easily:

- 1) Always allow your date to speak first. It not only shows your polite, but this will help you direct the conversation into whatever direction you want it to go.

- 2) Take control of the situation, **INDERECTLY**. This means, talk about whatever you are most comfortable with. However, do not make it obvious that you are the one pushing the conversation, as this will turn off any woman.
- 3) Use questions seldom. No one likes to be interrogated, so do not have conversations asking '21 questions'. Simply use questions when you feel it is right.
- 4) Physically show interest in the conversation. This is the most important, and most challenging. You want to lean towards your date, but not too much. Leaning away from the conversation will make you seem uninterested.
- 5) Plan some ideas of topics you think you both will enjoy talking about. Check your date's online profile for interests, and just take a few ideas for inspiration.
- 6) **MEN** – always be a good listener. How so? By **ACTUALLY LISTENING!** This means, anytime your date talks, actually consciously take in everything that they are saying. Women love knowing if you are paying attention, so if you can continue the conversation by using some keywords that they said, then you will definitely win some praise!

Overall, conversations should be enjoyable at all times.

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Granted we are not communication majors and professional public speakers, but just be yourself and show genuine interest when talking.

**At the same time, don't push.**

There is sometimes a fine line between asking questions to get to know someone and getting too personal or intrusive early on.

When asking someone questions initially be sure to check in to make sure your questions aren't making them uncomfortable.

Avoid being overly suggestive or pushy. There needs to be some give and take and mutual sharing of information.

This is what fosters good communication and allows you to get to know each other in a comfortable, relaxed manner.

All you have to remember is to plan the conversation out a bit beforehand, and you will be good to go!

If your initial rapport and chemistry is good, keep building on that before asking for a face-to-face date. Meeting online initially gives you the opportunity to really get to know someone.

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Ask questions and be willing to share things about yourself such as your interests, life goals, and what you are looking for in potential dating partners or a mate.

Make sure the comfort level is there for both of you before you decide to meet. If one person is uncomfortable the date is most likely to be awkward and unsuccessful.

Take your time in getting to know someone before meeting face-to-face for your first date. Look for someone whose interests and goals are a good match for you and just enjoy the process of getting to know them.

## **Avoiding Online Dating Scams**

Online dating can be a great way to meet new people and potential dating partners. You may have heard of some people being taken advantage of or hurt through online dating scams, and this may make you reluctant.

Here are a few tips to help you avoid online dating scams to help make online dating enjoyable and safe for you.

### **Tip #1 Be aware that there are online scam artists**

It is true that some people use the internet to attempt to take advantage or even harm other people. There are scam artists who try to get people to send them money or do favors for them. There are dangerous people as well.

However, also be aware that there are many other honest people such as yourself who genuinely want to meet other people and date. Don't let a few bad apples spoil your opportunity. Just be aware that you do need to be cautious and practice safety first.

### **Tip #2 Never give out personal information upfront**

When you first come into contact with someone through an online dating site, do not give out personal information such as

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your phone number or address. Take advantage of the communication systems at the dating sites and set up a separate email account for your online dating correspondence.

If someone is pressing you for your personal information too soon, this is a red flag and you should end your communication with them.

### **Tip #3 Watch for red flags**

A red flag is anything that may cause you to feel uncomfortable or unsure about the person. If their behavior is erratic or overbearing this is a potential red flag.

Inconsistent or evasive communication is another bad sign. Pay attention to red flags and if you feel uncomfortable with the person, end your communication.

### **Tip #4 Don't ever send money or do favors for people online**

If someone asks for money or wants you to get involved in their problems, this is another sign that they may be trying to take advantage of you.

We all get down on our luck at one time or another, but asking for help from someone online is inappropriate and not the type of person you want to try to date.

**Tip #5 Meet in public on your first date**

When you meet for your first face-to-face date it should be in a public place where plenty of people are around. Don't agree to be picked up at your home or meet at a private place.

**Tip #6: Trust Your Instincts**

If something doesn't seem or feel quite right do not continue contact or pursue anything further with the person. Remember, there are plenty of people looking to date, and if something doesn't feel quite right, chances are your instincts are trying to tell you something.

**Tip #7: Trust Your Instincts**

If something doesn't seem or feel quite right do not continue contact or pursue anything further with the person. Remember, there are plenty of people looking to date, and if something doesn't feel quite right, chances are your instincts are trying to tell you something.

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## **Planning Your First Date**

When it comes to planning out your first offline date, you should both choose a location and setting that you're comfortable with. Don't stress over the small stuff, first dates can take place anywhere you like, from restaurants to crowded bars or quiet drives out to the country or a walk along the beach.

Depending on your mutual interests and personalities, you will want to choose a place that will be fun and adventurous to the both of you. This is a great way to determine just how compatible you are as well, so make sure to plan out the date together, taking each other's thoughts and ideas into consideration.

You want your first date to be memorable and to leave a good first impression, and to help you do that; here are a few tips to keep in mind:

### **Choose a location that allows for communication:**

The last thing you want to do is choose a location that is noisy, bustling with activity or crowded. You need to spend time getting to know each other, especially within the early stages of your relationship, so try to choose a location that will give you both

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the chance to talk and get to know each other.

*Some good first date locations:*

**Restaurant** – Great for conversation, and allows you to interact with your date while enjoying a good meal. Plus, if you find it difficult to keep conversation going, it provides a bit of a distraction and can help relieve the initial anxiety and awkwardness from your first encounter.

**Coffee Shop** – This is a prime spot if you are planning a short date, or one that could possibly be extended but isn't obligated or expected to be. Coffee shops provide the opportunity to talk, while also giving you an exit, should you need it.

**Sporting event** – Make sure that you both enjoy the particular sporting event that you choose, and that you plan it out so that you arrive early, and can get situated and spend time chatting before the event begins.

**Dancing** – There's no better way of getting closer and having a great time with your first date than by finding a local club that plays the type of music you both enjoy.

I strongly recommend keeping the first date simple and not over-

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doing it. After all, even though you might share chemistry with the person online, meeting offline is a complete different thing, and you want to just focus on spending time enjoying each other and figuring out whether you truly connect.

Too many preparations or elaborate planning can cause tension in terms of expectations. You don't have to spend an exuberant amount of money on your first date in order to have fun, so keep it simple and have a blast!

Of course, with wherever you both decide to go on your first date, you want to make sure that you look your best. Take extra care with your appearance and spend time grooming, after all, you want to make a good impression.

Make sure to be yourself. Dress as you normally do when you go out, and don't over-do it. You want the person to get to know you, as you really are, not some over-dressed persona that you'd never be able to keep up with, should you two continue to explore your relationship.

Walk into your first date with no expectations but to have a great night getting to know a potential friend. Keep an open mind and be ready for anything. Have fun!

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## **Conclusion**

Online dating is a great way to connect with other single people for friendship, dating and quite possibly long term relationships.

Many single people have even met their future spouses at online dating websites, and by following the strategies featured within this guide and in doing your best to represent yourself in a positive and honest way, there is no reason why you can't be successful with finding that perfect partner or new friend.

Just thrive on the exhilaration and excitement that comes with online dating, and don't bog yourself down with anxiety over wondering if you're good enough, or if you're doing things right.

Online dating is meant to be fun and exciting and opens up the doors to incredible possibilities, so just relax and be yourself.

Ultimately, that is what will separate you from those who struggle to be taken seriously.

Don't rush into things, and remember above all else, there has never been an easier way to find someone designed to compliment your life as there is now, so the chances of finding

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the perfect partner are stacked in your favor.

With hundreds of thousands of potential partners out there, long-term happiness may be just a click away.

Don't give up in your pursuit of happiness, after all, you deserve it.

To love and life,

Your Name

<http://www.Your-URL.com>