

Dating

Love

Relationships

Flirting

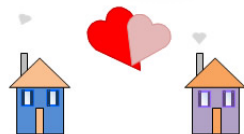
Profiles

Webcam

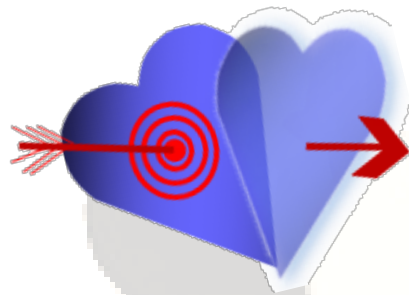
Chat

Passion

Romance



# On Target →

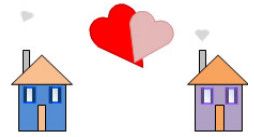


with

# Online Dating →

A Guide to Internet Socializing





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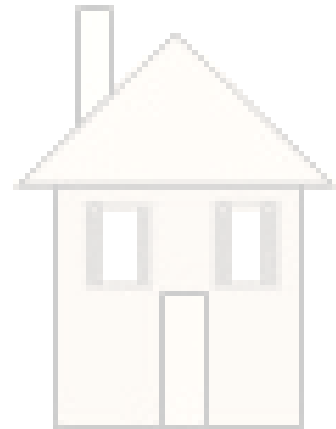
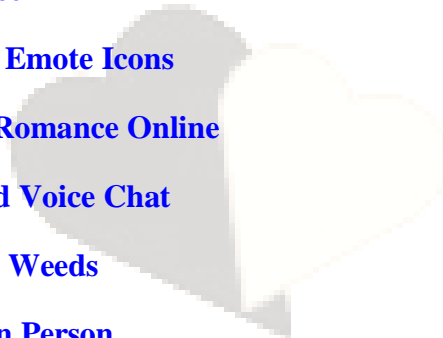
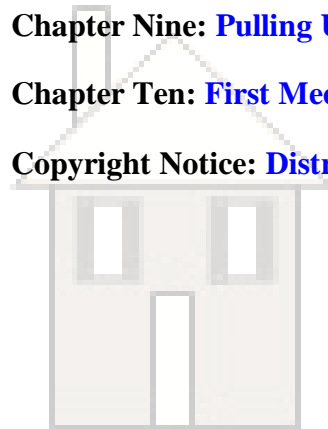
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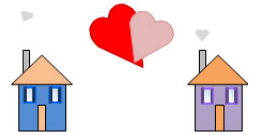
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## Introduction

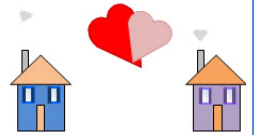
Millions of people all over the globe are making connections with others who they might never have met if it not for the vast population within the realm of [online dating](#). Over the last few years the amount of interest in internet dating has been increasing rapidly, as more and more people find the romance they're looking for online.

The first question most people have about online dating is: does it work? The simplest answer to this question is yes, but as with any kind of relationship it takes the right kind of matchmaking to make it happen.

Understanding all of the necessary components of online dating can greatly increase your chances for success. The ability to chat quickly and follow the online lingo, for example, will allow you to connect more efficiently and not miss out on any exciting prospects. Setting up the right kind of profile may also prove to be a key element to your finding the right relationship.

With a sufficient knowledge of how and why online dating has brought so many happy couples together, along with some excellent tips and common sense precautions, you too can enjoy the happiness of finding the kind of person and the ideal relationship you've been waiting for.

## Chapter One: Why Online Dating Yields Results



For hundreds of years the rituals of courtship have been a large part of any society and all over the globe we have seen these traditions change, grow or remain intact. It comes as no surprise that the digital age would add its' own version of courtship to the vast pool of methods.

There are many reasons why **dating online** has become the phenomenon it is today; some of those reasons, only a select portion of the population may appreciate and others which the majority can recognize as impressive.

Focusing on some of the larger ideas may help you to understand why, with such initial criticism, finding romance on the net has become a mainstream method.

- **Initial Meeting:** Unlike many, if not all, other methods of courtship internet dating offers individuals a completely different way of relating to others. Though traditionally when two people meet they begin to size each other up based on appearance, this method offers some measure of freedom from that assessment.

While some people do pride themselves on not judging those they meet by how they look, a vast majority of the population cannot help noticing their initial levels of physical attraction, or lack thereof.

It is this very idea that has some folks worried about the appearances of those that they will find online, assuming that they may not find anyone attractive enough to meet their standards. Though this a valid concern for certain cases, especially those in which profiles might be built to be deceptive, the majority of users are not what society might refer to as unattractive.

The very spirit of this method dictates that connecting with others begins first in the mind and advances to the body; a type of stimulation that many agree creates a deeper and more fulfilling type of attraction. The population within the online dating community is just as diverse and all encompassing as the one outside and those interested in the method should not allow this concern to prevent them from testing it out.

Though it may still take some time to put these kinds of old stereotypes to rest, often due to the old associations between computers and those who are not socially desirable, the perception has been greatly changed by the sheer success of the method.

- **Casting a Wider Net:** While most of the traditional methods of dating may allow any given person a chance at meeting a portion of their local population, dating online gives any individual the opportunity to meet literally, millions of other interesting people.

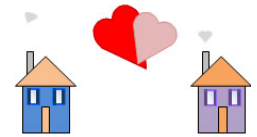
For those romantics who believe in finding soul mates online dating can be especially appealing because it has the ability to bring two people together from across the world. It has often been said that even fate needs a helping hand now and then and it is perhaps methods like online dating that lend that help to future couples.

Another excellent perk amongst the best online dating sites is the wealth of information members get about each person they make contact with. When on a date in person, asking too many questions can seem awkward; when connecting over the net it is not only acceptable, but expected that individuals list the many qualities that they wish to share with others. This allows members to quickly eliminate those who do not seem like a good fit from the start, a process that may take weeks or even months when using traditional methods.

- **Time and Convenience:** One of the largest problems people in this day and age struggle with is the absence of time to spend on leisure. Despite the many time saving devices that our society has seen, the time saved has yet to be discovered by many, leaving millions with little to spend on dating.

Unlike many other methods of dating, [matchmaking](#) online allows those who are interested in connecting with others an opportunity to jump on whenever they have the time to spare. Though the common goal is to eventually get to a point where couples can meet in person, this method creates a far more convenient atmosphere initially.

One only needs to peruse through some of the success stories that couples have shared through community forums and [online dating reviews](#) to understand just how simple, efficient and exciting online dating can be.



## Chapter Two: Getting What You Want From Online Dating

Many singles have valid [dating questions](#) and concerns about online dating, often because their own dating experiences have left them a little skeptical. To be wary of service that seems to require payment in exchange for a date is only natural, however this is not the purpose of the cost.

It is important to understand that when paying a fee for online dating the service being provided is not to find you a date, but to give you every possible tool available to make your search a more successful one. For this reason, many of the best online dating sites have enlisted the help of experts who specialize in social behavior, dating habits and romance, that can help guide you not just into a loving relationship, but a lasting one.

Getting the help of experts who can help with relationship or [dating advice](#) isn't the only reason to be enthusiastic about the right community. The highly efficient software that the best sites use can literally compare your profile and any other information you choose to share with millions of other members, thus finding you the most ideal candidates for romance.

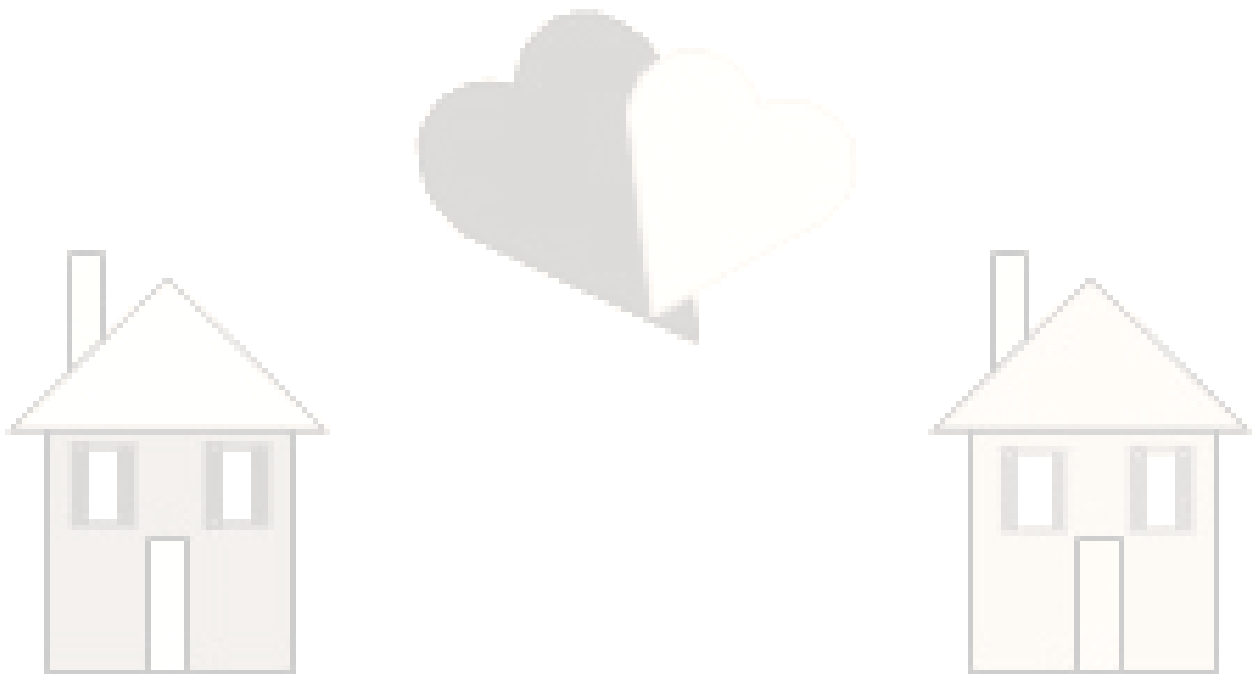
Though by this point you may feel excited about trying online dating it is critical that before you begin you take the time to figure out one extremely important detail: what kind of person are you looking for? Without some idea of the qualities and personality traits you hope to find or simply can't stand to live with, the method might not prove as useful.

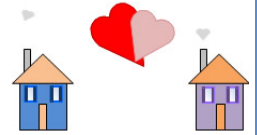
Many people endure unsatisfactory relationships simply because they don't necessarily know what they are looking for and essentially what they want. Taking the time to think about your ideal mate is the first and an extremely important step toward your finding the right person.

- **Casual Experience:** Despite some of the common perceptions about online dating, the method is not confined to those seeking relationships. Many wonderful sites that focus almost entirely on a more casual experience can offer an array of features that can help connect their members with like minded people.
- **Long Term Relationship:** Though many of the perks that online dating has to offer the relationship seeker have already mentioned, it is important to note that over the past few years many studies have shown that couples who meet online are often more likely to enjoy successful, lasting relationships.

- **Uncertain:** For those that feel uncertain about what type of relationship they are looking for, dating on the net can still have a decided advantage over traditional methods. The ability to define your own personality traits and list those you would hope to find in another person allows you the opportunity to select from a group of people that are far more likely to mesh well with your life than the random meetings you might experience at most other social functions.

The general idea of dating online is to connect you with others who will be compatible with the qualities you have listed. The more information you can give about yourself and your romantic interests the better your chances are for finding the right match.





## Chapter Three: Online Dating Safety Precautions

Before getting into setting up a profile or the steps that will take place as you continue your search for romance, it is important to review some of most highly recommended safety precautions that every person should take when socializing on the net. Following just a few simple, [online dating safety tips](#) can help prevent any unpleasant results and perhaps even a real disaster.

When setting up your profile you will be tempted to divulge personal information simply because you want to represent yourself honestly and accurately. While there is no harm in expressing your like and dislikes, it would be unwise to write down details of your life that might make it easy to track you down.

### Profile Safety Don'ts:

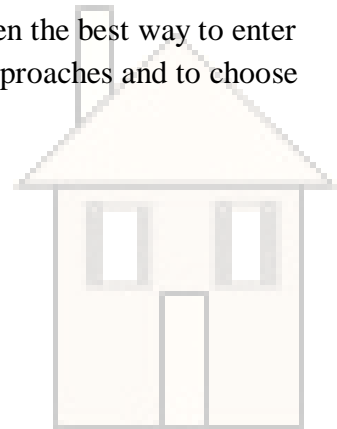
- **Phone Numbers:** Some online communities may allow you to display a phone number and you may or may not feel comfortable allowing others to have access to this. Be sure that your phone number is either restricted to your approval only, or left out of your profile altogether to avoid getting calls that are less than welcome. It is also important to remember that for a fairly small amount of money, many people can find your name and address just using your phone number, so use some caution when allowing others to have it.
- **Address:** Until you are ready to meet someone in person, sometimes not even then, it is often unwise to give out your address. Internet stalkers may use lines like "I want to send you a more personal letter," in order to obtain this info, don't fall for it. Your home address should only be given to a person whom you feel that you can trust and unfortunately in order to trust, you usually need to allow some time pass.
- **Community:** There are many free online dating sites that may have some great members, but offer little in the way of protection. One of the greatest features of the top internet communities is that they do background checks on their members, including checking marital status. This information can be extremely important when try to stay safe.

- **Photos:** Including a snap shot of yourself or images from your life is an excellent thing for a profile, but be careful about what personal items are lying around in the background. Any items that may give a hint about where you live might not be the best things to include in your picture. Be cautious about those who might use details from your picture in order to fake similar interests as well.

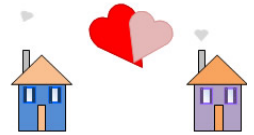
Many couples that find one another on the net are tempted to send racy or nude photos to each other; be very cautious about this as you can NEVER get them back once sent. It may sound like fun to exchange sexy pics, but it might not be much of a party if they get plastered all over the internet.

- **Time Frames:** However much you have come to enjoy the company of a person through online dating, never allow yourself to be pressured into anything that doesn't seem right. Whether you're considering meeting for the first time or doing some steamy web-cam interaction, it is important that you not allow yourself to be drawn into any actions that don't quite feel right.

Maintaining a balance between expressing yourself and caution is often the best way to enter into any online dating community. Remember to use common sense approaches and to choose the best website to fit your needs.



## Chapter Four: Setting Up Your Dating Profile



The very first contact you are likely to have with other members of your community will be your profile; therefore having a stunning one will make an excellent first impression. By simply following some very basic steps you too can create a profile that will not only be impressive, but will hopefully stand apart from the crowd.

To begin with you must keep in mind that creating a spectacular profile will take some thinking and effort on your part, but once accomplished you will only have to modify or update once in a while if you so choose. In order to prepare for your creation you may want to jot down some of your best qualities and those which you hope to find in another person. It is also very helpful to be able to describe what kind of relationship you're looking for so that others know when they have found their match.

- **Starting Out:** Many of the best sites offer their new members the opportunity to browse through community profiles and forums for free so that they can get an idea of what the experience will entail. Taking the time to browse through these free options and perhaps some dating reviews or advice guides can be very useful for first timers, or those looking to redo their profile. Enlisting the help of a friend that you trust can also be a valuable tool when trying to describe yourself and who knows; perhaps you can return the favor?
- **What You Write:** With so many grammar and spelling tools available, obvious errors often send the wrong message. When writing your profile it is important to be sure that your writing is clear, correct and easy to read.
- **About You:** The temptation to embellish your details in order to appear more attractive is a strong one when writing a profile. While there is no reason to list your flaws in excess, after all you are trying to look your best, it is important to be honest in your description. Those who resort to deceitful tactics when creating profiles don't often last long in the community and certainly have little hope of making a successful match.

When describing yourself it is helpful to include traits about yourself that make you unique. The very habits you are well known, perhaps even sometimes teased for, are the same personality traits that another person might find charming.

- **Now and Then:** Keeping your profile up to date is also extremely important. Include career changes or big events that might change your life so that others know the current you. Whether it's political, spiritual or personal opinion it is important that those you meet know your current view of the world, so if changes occur, don't forget to include them.

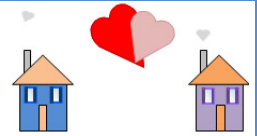
- **Honesty:** As difficult as it might be, honesty is the only way to find the right person to fit in your life. Taking a good look at who you are isn't always the easiest thing in the world and you may find some things you do not especially like about yourself. If this is the case, don't shy away from such an opportunity, simply make the changes you believe would improve your life and you will improve the way you look on paper.
- **Eccentricities:** If you should happen to have unusual hobbies or interests, don't be afraid to include them in your profile. If you're looking to meet your match it is important that you meet someone who accepts you for who you are. Another reason to include your interests is that if left out, your new love interest may feel as though you were attempting to hide parts of your life, which can lead to some very tricky situations.
- **Photos:** Taking a good photo is one of the key elements in creating a stunning profile and you don't need to be a supermodel to do it. Pictures that look too done up are often looked at with suspicion so you won't need an elaborate set up. In most cases, having a friend take some pictures of you, in the right setting, can be a wonderful way to get a good shot.

Most good photos are about color contrasts and lighting; be sure to wear colors that you have been told look well with your tones and set up the right kind of lighting to make yourself look good.

A happy blend of effort and reality will often get the best result for your profile picture and will show that you are trying to be honest about your looks, but that you are willing to put effort into finding the love of your life.

- **Humor:** Trying to be funny in a profile can be a bit tricky simply because certain elements are missing like tone of voice or facial expression. Though humor is highly recommended in any good profile, you may want to have a friend review your comments to make certain that they are clearly funny and appropriate.

The very best dating and friend finding sites often have some form of an essay or written form that will ask for some information that allows the site to better find appropriate matches for you. Though it may seem a little strange, these programs are often excellent at sifting through millions of profiles to find those that seem to align well. Don't be afraid to be completely honest when filling any of these forms out, as the more you give the better the chance that you will get a lot in return.



## Chapter Five: Breaking the Ice

Once you have chosen the right community, signed up, filled out all of the right forms, perhaps dabbled in a little introspection and set up your amazing profile, you are ready to start interacting with other members. It may sound like a lot to do, but considering the amount of people you would have to meet and get to know before you found out that you weren't really compatible, this method can save you lifetimes of hassle.

Now that you are ready to start receiving responses to your emails you may want to prepare for an exciting phase in your online dating experience. Depending upon how many people your profile matched up with you may receive any number of messages.

Your first interaction with your exciting new romantic interests may be email only at first, though naturally at some point you will probably graduate to live date chat, using web cameras, phone and finally meeting in person.

For those who are new to this method of dating, responding to that first email may seem a bit nerve racking as you hope to continue the spark that has been created. Remember that if a person made the effort to contact you it is likely that they did so because they enjoyed your profile, liked your picture or found you interesting. This should help you to relax a little; knowing that your self expression roused the interest of another person is not only exciting, but very flattering.

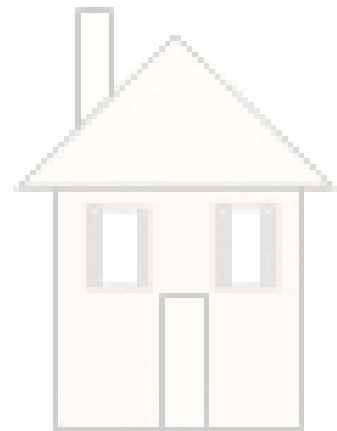
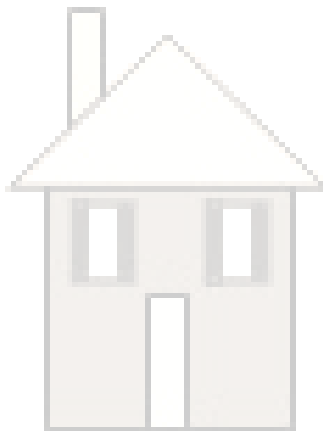
When responding to an email you will have many choices. Some may want to take it very slow, keeping the flirting or romantic talk to a minimum, others may be in a hurry to get physical; whatever the case may be, remember that you and the person on the receiving end of your writing are probably looking for the same things, so don't be too shy. On the other hand it is important not to drone on and on with material that might prove interesting in person, but do not translate well into a written conversation.

### **First Responses:**

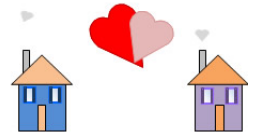
- **Light and Funny:** Telling another person about yourself with a little humor can be an excellent way to charm them. Though not every moment of your life may fit into a category that can be molded into this lighter conversation type, it is important to start out on a positive note.
- **Show Interest:** Though your new friend will want to learn a great deal about you, it is also important that you remark on the things that they have shared in their emails. Those who ignore the comments of others, whether or not it's intentional, can come across as selfish or poor at listening.

- **Getting Out There:** While it is always important to use caution, don't be too reserved with your responses or your emails. This will do little to charm those who are interested in the information you've shared. Those who experience difficulty with writing may find it strange trying to get their personality into any email and this may cause those who found your profile intriguing to be left wanting more. If all else fails you might try writing the email as if you were simply speaking to another person about yourself, which is essentially the entire point of connecting with others.
- **Past and Future:** Without revealing too much personal info, a dating safety no-no, you can learn a lot about a person by asking about their past and plans for the future. This can really help open up some ground in the conversation for similar interests and life goals.

Just as a first date can cause some nervousness, your first few experiences interacting with a person who has an interest in you can be a little overwhelming. Remember to keep your cool and not to let yourself become too insecure about the outcome. If your emails are confident and clear this will often help send out the message that you are worth putting in the effort for and this gives you that little something extra that will keep your admirers coming back for more.



## Chapter Six: Chat Lingo and Emote Icons



Unlike swapping emails, chat will require a faster paced, clipped version of speech that may be difficult to follow for those new on the scene. Don't worry about getting all of the abbreviations down as there are some that are seldom used in online dating and others that are almost never used at all.

The importance of shortening statements by using acronyms, or numbers to shorten words, is simply to speed up the chat into an active conversation. You may want to practice a little if you haven't had much experience, but even those who have never been in chat room before often find that during their first session they have little difficulty getting up to speed.

Emoticons, or emotional icons, are another item that factors hugely into chat communication. Rather than having to explain the emotion or mood behind your statement, you choose from a selection of images that helps the person on the other end understand what you're feeling. Familiarizing yourself with some of these images prior to entering into chat is probably wise if you feel nervous, but for the most part they are fairly self explanatory.

Don't let yourself hesitate to use the emoticons available to you when chatting just because they might seem silly, they are a widely accepted and depended upon feature in chat of all kinds.

- **Clarity:** Even those individuals who have had a great deal of experience with chat can at times misinterpret a statement due to a lack of clear meaning. Read your messages before you send them if there is any possibility of your sending one out that might not be clear, you don't want to give the person on the other end the wrong impression.
- **Speed:** Though you don't have to be the world's fastest typist, it helps to have a little oomph behind your chat so that the person on the other end doesn't get bored waiting for your response. If you find that your typing skills aren't exactly lightning fast, just remember to let the person on the other end know what you're up to. Using quick phrase like: 1sec or 1min can make it clear that you are working on a message on the other end, rather than giving the impression that your focus is elsewhere.

- **Spelling and Grammar:** In emails, in profiles or in any format where you have time to review it is a good idea to check your written skills (or at least let spell-check do it for you,) however when it comes to chat these rules aren't nearly as strict. Many people commonly misspell the same word constantly because of the way they type, or mix up two letters when hurrying their messages. This is quite common and may improve over time if you're active in the chat rooms. Remember that at anytime if you want to correct yourself, the universal sign is to repeat the word with an asterisk in front of it: Example: *I am hvaing a lot of fun with you.* Your next line could be: *\*having.* This will help clarify any statements you believe might not be legible, or if you simply want to let the other person know that you did recognize the mistake.

Knowing your chat lingo will be of great use when on forums or live chats and though you certainly don't need to memorize everything, knowing some of the most commonly used abbreviations and acronyms will serve you well.

### Chat Lingo Definitions:

#### Humor:

- lol = laughing out loud
- rofl = rolling on the floor laughing
- lmao = laughing my a\*\* off
- 2fne = too funny
- j/k = joking

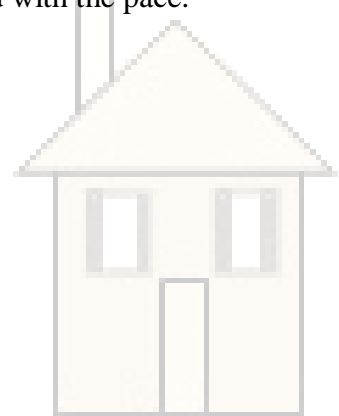
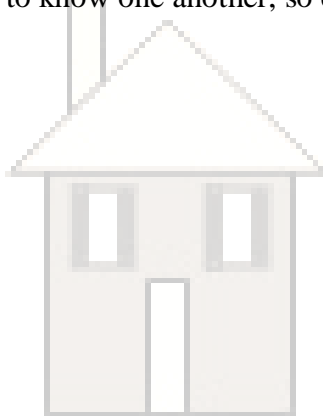
#### Expressive:

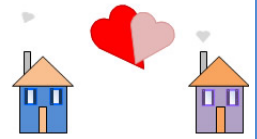
- omg = oh my God
- zomg = oh my God with more expression
- wtf = what the f\*\*k
- wth = what the h\*\*l
- orly or orle = oh really
- imho = in my humble/honest opinion
- imo = in my opinion
- a/s/l = age sex location
- gmta = great minds think alike
- ty = thank you
- plz = please

**Informative:**

- afk = away from keyboard
- brb = be right back
- bbl = be back later
- fyi = for your information
- gtg = got to go
- im = instant message
- pm = private message
- rl = real life
- gf = girlfriend
- bf = boyfriend
- bff best friends forever
- d8 = date

Every crowd might develop their own terms for different things and it may take a little time before you learn acronyms or abbreviations for a particular group or community. Remember to take it one step at a time and that the entire point of chat is simply to allow people a chance to get to know one another, so don't allow yourself to become too intimidated with the pace.





## Chapter Seven: Flirting and Romance Online

The tricks and tips for [flirting online](#) do mimic some of the same strategies that are used when dating face to face, however there are some special things to keep in mind that make internet flirtation a little different.

There are pluses and minuses to flirting on a computer and knowing which to turn to your advantage and which to maneuver around is very important for an enjoyable flirting experience.

Some of the disadvantages of flirting online are obvious; if chatting, you have no sight or sound and in other formats you are unable to touch. Though these restrictions may seem like drawbacks they can quickly develop into benefits if you understand some of the basics of human attraction. Considering that feelings like longing to touch someone can fuel the flames of passion, a little forced separation may actually boost your more sensual feelings overall.

### Working the Method:

- Allow the distance between you and the object of your desire to intensify your feelings rather than detracting from the experience. When you finally do get to meet in person the results might just be more amazing than any other physical experience you've ever had.
- Share your fantasies and desires with your flirting buddy and ask them about theirs so that you can better know what may lie in store for you in the future.
- Let yourself enjoy the fantasy that can build when dating online. You may never even get to the stage where meeting face-to-face is desirable, but that doesn't mean you can't have a wonderful time playing the virtual field.
- The protection that being on the net offers can serve you well when it comes to flirting; many people feel less inhibited and are able to express their feelings of [love and lust](#) more openly.

Words can be very powerful tools when trying to stir up desire. Using the right key phrases and words can actually have more of an effect on a person's sexual feelings than a visual image, under the right circumstances.

Taking your first steps towards flirting with someone online often come more easily than you might think. Though you may lack the ability to smile and hold eye contact, you can still be direct and attentive. If you feel uncertain about getting your intentions across you might just allow the conversation to flow naturally toward steamier subject matter rather than try to instigate it.

Just as there are different types of online communities, with members who seek different kinds of relationships, there are many styles of flirting which can send certain types of messages. Again the idea of knowing what you're after comes into play as you choose a community and pick out, or respond to, messages sent by other members. Making the right choice to fit your needs shouldn't prove too difficult as many of the best sites offer a detailed explanation of what kind of relationships they specialize in.

### **Flirting to Flirt:**

If your hope in flirting online is just to have a good time, then you are free to tailor your style to any given person that you meet. Keep in mind that if you aren't looking for something serious you may want to make that clear right away, otherwise you may not only end up mixing signals, but not getting exactly what you wanted out of the experience.

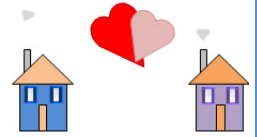
### **Hot and Heavy Flirtation:**

There are many dating sites dedicated to those who simply want passion with no strings. If this idea excites you, it may be useful to brush up on your descriptive skills so that you can paint the right picture when you meet someone interesting. Some of these types of sites play host to members hoping to meet someone quickly and get physical without much chatter, in this case you may only need a few good opening lines handy to win over the interest of other members.

### **Flirting for Romance:**

Those who are seeking a long-term relationship may want to approach flirting from different angle. Though the only way to accomplish any flirtation at first is through words, which may seem harmless enough, using lingo that is too personal too quickly may not convey the right message. Easing into the spicy talk is usually a good way to go when seeking love online as it allows for the development of the relationship through other types of connections as well.

Whether you're looking for fun, thrills, laughs or romance you will need to develop your own style of flirting to fit the type of relationships you seek. Many people find that flirting online is actually a great deal easier than in person and may find that this method is useful for boosting confidence. Allowing yourself the opportunity to test your online flirting skills may just lead you to a method of dating that increases your chances for successful encounters of any kind.



## Chapter Eight: Web Cam and Voice Chat

Using a web camera or talking over the net/phone will take your online dating experience to an entirely different level. If you have spent a great deal of time getting to know a person through typed words alone, this adjustment can be quite a shock. The sound of a voice you have never heard, or the moving image of a person you have seen only in photos, can almost make it seem as though the person is a complete stranger.

Many people experience a backwards step when making this transition and find themselves feeling shy or awkward, this is perfectly normal. After one or two conversations it likely that you will come to recognize this new voice or face as the same person you have come to know, perhaps even care for.

If you do not feel ready for this change, don't rush it. Though if you have found the right person you may certainly be anxious to move forward in your relationship, the memories of how you got together and those first special, awkward moments will be priceless later on.

### A New Voice:

When making plans to speak for the first time with your sweetheart you may want to make just a few preparations:

- **Privacy:** The last thing you'll want to worry about when chatting with your virtual lover is being overheard. Set up a time to chat, at least for the first time, when you'll have access to a private, comfortable place to talk.
- **Bad Habits:** Try not to eat or chew gum when talking on the phone for the first time. Many people make a habit out of combining conversation with practical needs; however the sounds on the other end are anything but romantic.
- **Conversation:** If you're really nervous about your chat it may be difficult to get past that initial, blushing "hello." For your first conversation, if you feel that you may have difficulty in coming up with things to say, you may want to review some of your emails (the ones in the special folder with the heart on it,) to brush up on some of things you may have always wanted a chance to discuss without typing.

## A New Face:

Preparing for a web camera session may take a bit more prep work than a phone chat simply because you're adding the visual in and will want everything to look especially good the first time you talk.

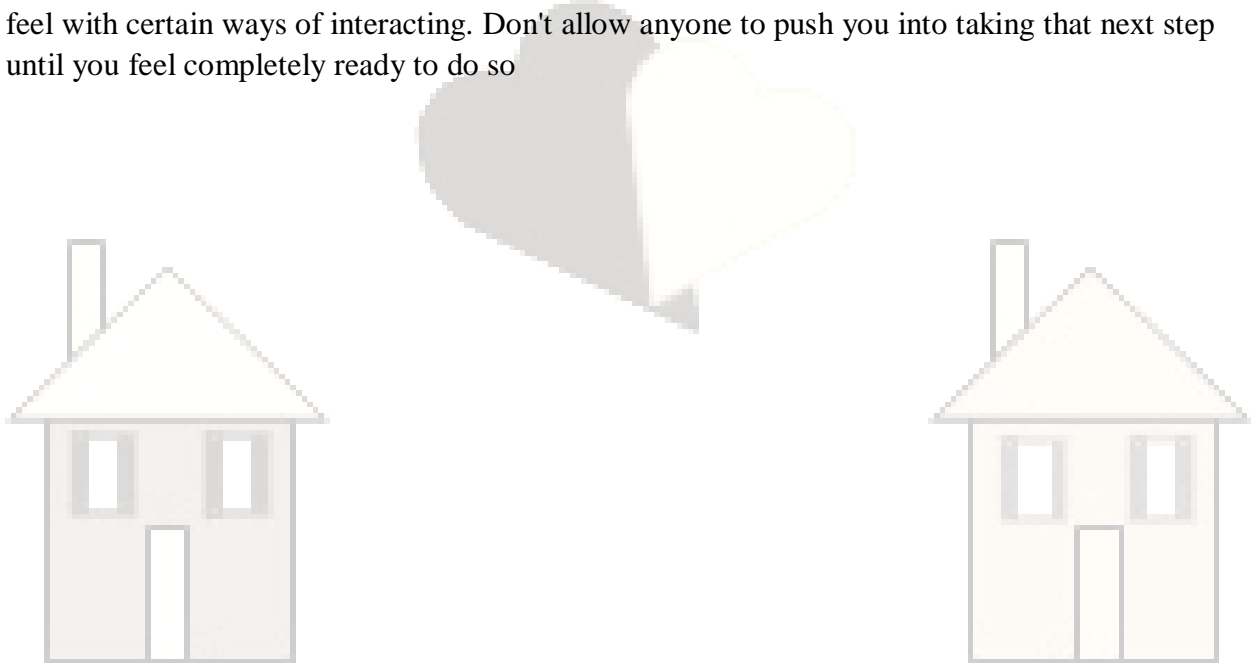
There are several things you can take care of before you begin your romantic or sexy session, some of which are simply for your own safety:

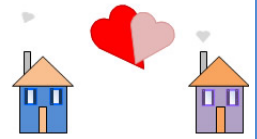
- **Lighting:** Nothing ruins a bright smile faster than bad lighting. Most webcams have a mode that will allow you to view yourself and test out what types of lighting make you look your best. Before you have any romantic interaction on your camera, test out your lighting concepts so that you look dreamy, not dreadful.
- **Equipment Tests:** We're talking actual, technical equipment here; your physical prep is up to you. Before you get into a steamy session with your love interest take the time to familiarize yourself with any equipment or software that you might be using to connect. The last problem you want to be facing if all is going well is a bad connection or blundering through mystery wires.
- **Sound Tests:** If you can enlist the aid of a friend, double check that your microphone is working properly before your virtual date. Not being heard or not being able to hear the person on the other end is one of the most common issues with internet cameras and microphones and can quickly ruin your experience.
- **Background:** Along with some of the most standard online dating safety precautions you can take, like not revealing your address, it is important to take a look at what will be showing up in the background of your camera. Many people forget to check on what is surrounding them before they get on camera and if your date should happen to be, though there's a slim chance of it, an internet stalker it may prove very handy keeping your personal items hidden. For those simply wanting to take precautions this action also proves useful as you have control over what your date sees or doesn't see.

- **Taking it Off:** When using a webcam with your honey you may want to get a little frisky and you certainly wouldn't be the first. Using your webcam to heat things up can be an excellent way to have fun with your date, but the use some common sense should be allowed to come into play.

Unfortunately, anything that your camera witnesses can be recorded and for this reason you should never do anything that would make you uncomfortable unless you either completely trust the other person; or have no problem with your image being spread all over the internet. Be certain of your feelings about this before you take any action as you can never, ever undo what your webcam caught you doing if it gets recorded.

Taking your relationship to the next level is exciting and at times a little scary. Remember that only you know for certain when and if you're ready to move forward and how comfortable you feel with certain ways of interacting. Don't allow anyone to push you into taking that next step until you feel completely ready to do so





## Chapter Nine: Pulling Up the Weeds

Much like dating through more traditional methods, online dating may not help you find the right person immediately and it may take some time and effort before you find the romance you've been waiting for.

For some members the problem isn't that they can't find anyone interesting, it is that they receive so many responses that it can be difficult to know which ones to pursue and which to leave alone. This process can be very tricky as most people are nervous about accidentally passing up their match, just because they missed some detail or had too many profiles to sift through.

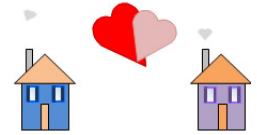
When using the method of online dating you expand your search for romance by quite a bit more than many of the other methods available. In turn you may have more people to sift through, but don't panic this process doesn't have to be a difficult one.

### Weeding Out Your Dating Options:

- **List Your Needs:** When trying to get through a mass of responses it can be helpful to know which details you insist on your future partner having. Making a list of these details and comparing them with your group of hopefuls can be an efficient way to narrow down your prospects.
- **Time Crunch:** One of the perks of online dating is not wasting time with people who do not suit your needs or you theirs; for this reason you do not need to worry about making certain that you give each and every person an opportunity to get to know you. If after reviewing your email responses you find some profiles that do not seem to have much in common with your own, simply check them off of your list.
- **Letting People Down:** Many people find that rejecting someone, especially a someone who is hoping for a chance to romance them, to be very difficult. Don't allow yourself to dwell on those members who simply don't seem interesting to you. Writing a straight forward, polite message that explains why you are not interested may actually prove useful to that person if you feel up to it. If you are considerate and polite when you let someone know that you aren't interested you have done all that you can in the situation and have no reason to burden yourself with guilt.

- **Be Selective:** There is absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to be a little picky about a person you're going to invest time into. While some people might argue that everyone deserves a chance, one might also want to keep in mind that you only have so much time to waste on people who will never end up being the right person to spend your life with. Crossing people off of your list because they do not seem to fit your expectations may trim down your selection, but if it's true love you're after this is often a necessary step towards finding it.
- **Trust Your Instincts:** Unless you have a good reason not to, eliminate anyone from your list of hopefuls who makes you feel even slightly uncomfortable. Though your initial interaction will be over the internet, you may still get a funny feeling about certain people. If this happens, don't be afraid to let someone down and move on.
- **Be Confidant:** Those who have difficulty forming relationships may feel obligated to give people a shot that are not at all suitable for them simply because they lack the confidence to shoot them down. Keep in mind that the service of online dating is supposed to provide you with the help and access to find that special someone. You are not under any obligation to connect with any person who doesn't seem like the right one. Have or gain the confidence to know and go after what you want and your chances for making a successful match increase greatly.

Through online dating you will have the ability to sort through matches that aren't quite right for you at a faster pace than any other method of dating. Make good use of this internet socializing perk by spending time with those you feel could truly be the right one and not wasting time on those who are obviously not.



## Chapter Ten: First Meeting in Person

There are millions of couples who are forming relationships online at this very moment and almost every one of them hopes eventually to have that first wonderful date, where they will see their special someone in person at last.

When the time is right and you're ready to take that next step of a face-to-face date, it often means that you have found someone truly special. Some couples move to this stage very quickly, while others may take months, even years to decide that it is time. Whenever you feel ready to make this move, there are some safety precautions and tips that can help to prepare you for the event.

- **Where to Meet:** Though you may feel as though your date is extremely trustworthy, it is still highly recommended that you meet in a public place on your first date. While you may enjoy a less crowded atmosphere, your safety must come first in this situation. Any location where you can enjoy some measure of privacy, while still being close enough to other people that you are not out of reach should you need help, is an excellent choice.
- **What to Wear:** If the activity you have planned calls for specific clothing (e.g. hiking, boating, swimming,) your clothing choices are obvious. However if you should be meeting for an occasion which leaves a you a little uncertain about clothing options you may want to think over your choices more carefully. Your clothes will send an immediate message, despite your previous interaction and you will want to make sure that the message is one you intend your date to receive.

Wearing clothing that is too revealing may result in your date assuming that you're physical relationship is certain; while dressing too modestly may send the message that you have no plans to pursue that kind of relationship at all. Sloppy dressers can often expect to find their dates thinking them indifferent or lazy, while overdressing can simply seem too formal. Choose the right style to suit you and try to balance out the messages that can so easily begin your date on a note of excellence.

- **Conversation:** As mentioned earlier, you may find it difficult to talk despite the hours you may have already spent chatting, simply because you feel nervous about this new stage in your relationship. While you may find that the stress of your first meeting melts away rather quickly, if you are very concerned about feeling too shy to proceed you may want to brush up on a few current events, what you know of your date through emails, or any other conversation topics you feel might prevent you from feeling uncomfortable.

Taking the time to set up a few safety precautions before heading out to meet your date is always a good idea, even if they turn out to be completely unnecessary. Though you should be no less cautious about meeting a person in a bar or club, online dating presents some special risk factors simply because of the anonymity that can be used for sinister purposes.

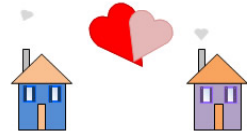
Smart [Dating Safety Tips](#):

- Use your own method of transportation to meet your date so that you can leave at any time.
- Meet in a public place that is familiar to you, on your first date especially.
- Let a friend or family member know where you're going, how you can be reached and approximately when you expect to be home. At the very least, establish a check in time with someone you trust.
- Have an exit strategy in place just in case you need an excuse to leave, but do not want to upset your date.
- Do not agree to go anywhere private with your date unless you feel 100% comfortable and trust your own feelings to guide you.

Your first in person date with someone who you have come to know, perhaps even have fallen in love with online, is a very special experience. Remember to use caution and common sense, even if your heart is telling you that it isn't necessary.

With a little preparation, a few safety precautions and a confident attitude your first date can be every bit as romantic and even magical as anyone might hope for. At last, all of your searching will have come to an end as you begin the next chapter of your life.

Finding the right person may require a great deal of strength and patience on your part, but few things bring such happiness as finding a person to share your life with. Begin your journey towards finding love, happiness, excitement and adventure by choosing the perhaps most effective and efficient method of matchmaking available today, online dating.



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