



Tips for Getting Started in Online Dating

Read What the Experts Have to Say

Online dating is an increasingly popular means of connecting with like-minded individuals who can share your interests and be a potential love match. Nearly anyone who has dated ever in their life knows that one of the toughest parts of the dating process is knowing when to commit to a relationship and when to let it go.

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Online Dating Chat Personals and Matchmaking Resources

No matter what your interests are, there is a site for you. Check these out to find the right one for you – [Adult FriendFinder](#), [ALT](#), [American Singles](#), [Amigos](#), [Asia FriendFinder](#), [Big Church](#), [Billboard Dating](#), [Cams](#), [Christian Cafe](#), [Cupid Junction](#), [Date](#), [Date CA](#), [Dating Direct](#), [eHarmony](#), [Filipino FriendFinder](#), [French FriendFinder](#), [FriendFinder](#), [Gay](#), [Gay Date](#), [Gay FriendFinder](#), [German FriendFinder](#), [Grad Finder](#), [GuanXi](#), [HIT Dating](#), [Indian FriendFinder](#), [Italian FriendFinder](#), [Jewish FriendFinder](#), [Korean FriendFinder](#), [Match](#), [Matchmaker](#), [MatchNet.co.uk](#), [Meetic DE](#), [Meetic ES](#), [Meetic France](#), [Meetic IT](#), [Meetic UK](#), [Metrodate](#), [Mingle Match](#), [Mingles](#), [OutPersonals](#), [Passion](#), [Perfect Match](#), [Planet Out](#), [Senior FriendFinder](#), [Slim](#), [Web Detective](#), [Yahoo! Personals](#) and [TRUE](#),

Many Web sites now offer free personality analysis that they claim will catalyze the matchmaking experience. Online dating is a fun way to be introduced to a plethora of available individuals that are interested in spending time with you.

Other Resources

If you need a fresh email account, then try [Breakthru](#) for free features made just for online dating. Or, if you want to send a new friend a free eCards then send them one with [Nice Cards](#).

Is Online Dating Really Cheating [\(top\)](#)

If someone merely chats with another online and never makes the effort to engage in any sort of physical relationship, can you really say that the individual is cheating? That question is truly a matter of debate. While most couples would agree that there is a sort of emotional infidelity that takes place when a partner engages in love-related conversation on a long-term basis with another, some couples hold their ground and say that as long as neither party acts upon an interest, then no cheating has taken place.

When it comes to committed relationships, there is a meeting of minds as well as a physical union. Those folks that believe that online cheating is not really cheating subscribe to the belief that cheating is necessarily physical. Therefore, any conversation or communication is merely a sort of fantasy that could even help to strengthen a relationship.

However, the other side of the debate is that when there is an emotional bond that is allowed to be developed online with an online suitor, the cheater detracts from his relationship with his significant other in an unhealthy way and is truly cheating. Not only has he or she diverged from the healthy relationship, but he jeopardizes losing a partner.

What do you do if you are tempted to cheat?

When it comes to finding love and partnership online, there are a number of places that you can turn to if you do not wish to cheat. You may be lonely and simply looking for some sort of friendship or companionship that you do not receive from your spouse. Or perhaps you have an interest in a certain hobby that your spouse does not share.

Instead of looking for a significant other with which to share life's pleasures, take time to look for a local interest group – either online or through a community organization. It is important to you establish individuality from your mate, no matter how much you love him or her. But while establishing that individuality, you must maintain your loyalty to the bond that you share.

Seek same-sex friends or friends that you will not get involved in any sort of romantic relationship with. Find hobbies that involve groups of people, rather than one-on-one events. It is also important that you keep your spouse in the loop so that he or she does not feel isolated from your life. After all, you have committed to sharing life together, and this includes and interest in the private side of each other's life.

The Top 3 Dangers of Online Dating [\(top\)](#)

Nearly everyone has heard online dating horror stories. Perhaps a friend has gotten involved with a married man she met online? Or perhaps a friend fell victim to serial online dating syndrome? Here is an overview of three of the most important dangers of online dating that you should be aware of.

1. Dating married men and women

Online dating provides a huge degree of anonymity that is alluring to many individuals that seek companionship and the thrill of dating. Many people have used the medium to find companionship in individuals that they can trust and that they grow to love. However, studies have showed that there is an overwhelming proportion of individuals that meet married men and women online, though they pose as single.

If you become interested in someone and he or she claims to be single, make sure that he or she truly is. Assess their behavior – are you invited to his or her house? Is he or she able to make last minute plans? Is he or she available for a chat just about any time of the day? Do you have his or her home phone number? Address? If you have most of these things after you have been seeing him or her for a while, then you can relax – the person you're dating is most likely honest with you.

However, if your significant other is not forthcoming with any or all of these needs, then you may want to proceed with caution in this relationship, as it does not appear to be fully open and honest.

2. Dating criminals

Sadly, there is an overwhelming number of criminals, including child molesters and sex offenders, who seek love online. The best advice when pursuing any sort of relationship with a new person, whether you meet him or her in a bar or online, is to proceed slowly and with caution.

If you have children that use the Internet, it is important that you monitor their use and talk to them about the dangers of getting involved with online relationships. Let them know that if they are ever approached for sex or for a relationship online, they need to alert you at once. Consider setting up a monitoring system or some sort of blocking software to prevent your child from falling victim to an online predator.

3. Becoming a serial online dater

While somewhat less serious than falling victim to an online predator or a married person, serial online dating is a symptom that you may have a dangerous psychological resistance to form lasting relationships. Therefore, it is important that if you feel that your relationships have become imbalanced, with the bulk of your focus on online dating, you seek alternative relationships. Take a date out for dinner or spend more time with friends. It is important that you avoid becoming a closed – off individual that relies on the anonymity of the Internet to form relationships. Real life is always better when it comes to long–term satisfaction.

The Truth About Online Photos [\(top\)](#)

Just about everyone involved in online dating or telephone dating can relate to the theme of the acclaimed film *The Truth About Cats and Dogs* in which the attractive friend of the less attractive radio host meets a call–in love interest of the less attractive friend in person so that the less attractive person does not have to deal with the immediate rejection of being tossed away because of her appearance. Sound complicated? Well, attempting to baffle a potential love interest always tends to be.

When you look for love online, it can be intimidating to post your photo alongside a sea of attractive faces. You start to wonder if you will be out–rightly rejected on the grounds of your less–than–adequate appearance. You wonder if someone you know will recognize you and you wonder if you can truly attract the partner of your dreams with only your winning personality.

However, it is important that you begin any sort of relationship from a place of complete honesty, which includes putting yourself out there online for all of your potential loves to gawk at. By running the risk of humiliation, you prove that you, like your potential partner, are willing to play by the rules of the online dating game.

If you think that an online love interest might not really be the person represented by the photo, there's no harm in asking. Your potential date might even be flattered, if you phrase the question in such a way that gives them an

immediate boost of confidence, such as, "Wow! Is that really you in the photo? Or did you just pick a hot friend to pose?"

When trying to find the truth behind an online photo, it is important that you avoid questions that would make your potential date defensive, such as, "You told me you had brown hair. The person in your picture has blond hair." Instead, you can phrase the statement more gently, such as, "I like the photo – is that your natural hair color or does it turn blond in the sun?" Remember, even though the Internet allows us to be almost completely anonymous, it is not a good excuse for allowing us to be jerks to people. Be gentle, as if you were truly meeting your future spouse for the first time.

Remember, when selecting an online photo of yourself, it is important that you choose a picture that is both attractive and tasteful. Refrain from posting nude or suggestive photos of yourself, unless you wish to convey a very certain image of your general behavior. Now get out there and scour through photos until you find the few that work best for you!

Starting a Conversation with Your New Partner [\(top\)](#)

Many people turn to online dating to escape the awkwardness of beginning a new relationship in person. Online dating is a medium in which the pressure of rejection and performance are relatively low; you have hours or days to compose a response to an email and if you feel that the relationship will not work out, you can simply press "delete".

However, if you are going to elevate your online relationship to a new level by meeting with your online dater in person, then it is important that you have something to say. If you find that general communication is a challenge, then read through these tips to ensure that you have something to rely on. These tips are also good for individuals that just want to brush up on their social skills.

1. Relax. As hard as it may seem in the beginning, it is vital that you relax into the conversation when you first meet in person. If you are uptight, fidgety and openly nervous, you will not only make your date feel awkward, but you will have a harder time enjoying the date. Remember to take deep breaths. Relax the muscles in your back and neck. Smile and focus your energy and attention on your date.

2. Smile. The quickest and easiest way to break the ice is to smile. When you smile, don't make it a nervous or forced smile, but rather, make it a full-toothed, genuine grin. Smiling not only releases endorphins in your bloodstream that will make you happy, but it also lets your partner know that you're interested in him or her.

3. Ask questions about their interests. The easiest way to start any sort of conversation is to ask leading questions about another person's interests. It is important that these questions are open ended questions that lead into a multi-sentence response, such as "what do you enjoy doing on the weekends." Avoid asking single answer yes/no questions, such as, "do you like to do things on the weekends." Open-ended questions will encourage your date to respond freely with whatever information pops into his or her head as he or she talks.

4. Talk about yourself. So often, people are so interested in making a good impression with politeness that they refrain from talking about you. However, you must keep in mind that you are both checking each other out to see if you're compatible. It is fine and acceptable to talk about yourself, but don't overdo it!

Top 5 Lines to Avoid When Looking for Love Online [\(top\)](#)

When introducing yourself to a potential date online, it can sometimes be tempting to say very honest confessions that you may not regularly offer in real life. Similarly, there are certain details that might as well be left out when establishing an online relationship for the first time. If you find yourself having a hard time weeding through the oceans of potential online suitors, use these top 5 lines to avoid as a place to begin the selection process.

5. My wife doesn't treat me right. Will you? This line not only implies that this individual may not be entirely good at interpersonal relationships, but it also should be a huge red flag to you that the individual is actually married. It is important that you stick to available partners when searching for love online, after all, you deserve someone who will give you the attention and love that you deserve.

4. I don't really have hobbies; I work. While having a strong work ethic is an attractive feature in any individual, it is important that you have someone in your life with whom you can share life experiences. Avoid the temptation to try to change a work-aholic, and avoid a situation where you might be forced to eventually issue an ultimatum.

3. My friend made me put up this profile. This line could be truthful, but proceed with caution. More likely than not, the individual that posts this comment lacks the self-confidence to admit that he is actually curious about the results that online dating could yield. Likewise, he or she runs the risk of not being too sure of a relationship with you. Select someone that is able to commit and not make excuses for himself/herself.

2. I'm a momma's boy. Ladies, we all know the blessings and curses of dating a "momma's boy." In high school, it was endearing if the boyfriend respected his mother. His mother is his idol and will, perhaps, hold you in the same regard as her. In reality, if a grown man still identifies himself as a momma's boy, there is a very defined problem. It is essential that any potential love material has a fully severed umbilical cord. While a strong relationship with his mother should be encouraged, the relationship should be healthy and allow for plenty of independence. After all, if he's a momma's boy, can't possibly be your boy too!

1. Wanna come over tonight? If you haven't figured it out by now, this individual is after one thing: the attainment of a quick hook-up. Chances are high that a relationship that is not built upon a solid foundation of friendship and conversation will most likely crumble within hours. Therefore, unless you are also looking for some fast loving, it would be in your best interest to avoid online hook-ups and one-night-stands.

What to do if He/She is Not the Right One for You [\(top\)](#)

Using the Internet to find love is relatively painless. It's a quick and easy way to establish a bond with an individual that is also out looking for the same thing you are from a relationship. You know this because in the Internet dating world, you are allowed and even expected to screen your dates before they happen in person.

Getting to the point where you actually meet your online date in real person can be tough. It takes commitment and you have to prepare yourself for a rejection that might follow. Chances are good that you have nervously anticipated the day of the final meeting for a long time. When it finally arrives, you don't want to disappoint and you certainly don't want to be disappointed.

However, you need to recognize that not every date is going to work out. They call it dating because it is the process that you undertake in order to learn whether you and another person are compatible for each other. Not every date is meant to last a lifetime, but when you finally find the one that is, you will be glad that you said good-bye to all of your previous dates.

Getting to the point where you and the person you have just started dating need to break things off cleanly can be tough – especially if you think that he or she has more of an attraction to you than you do to him or her. Rather than lead him or her on, like many people tend to do when they don't know how to break hearts, it is better for the both of you that the relationship comes to a quick and complete end. Drawing it out just to see how things might turn out rarely leads to a happy ending.

When you get to that point when you realize that the relationship does not work for you, the best thing to do is to be honest with your partner. Chances are that you are attracted to each other on some level, be it physical, emotional or intellectual. However, in order for the relationship to last, it is essential that all of these components and more need to be present.

Therefore, the best cut is to affirm that there are reasons that the two of you are attracted to each other. Highlight the good things about the person and admit that there are areas where you are not completely compatible. He or she will respect your honesty and will most likely feel the same way. Short and sweet ensures that any inkling of suffering will not last long.

25 Questions to Ask Him or Her [\(top\)](#)

One of the greatest things about beginning a new relationship is that you have the freedom to ask any sort of question that you desire – and they can be as eccentric as you wish. If you are genuine with your curiosity, then your partner will be grateful that you have questions about him or her, and the more fun they are, the more fun the conversation can be!

The whole point of dating is that you are getting to know a potential long-term partner. You want to find out about their relationships with friends and family, their spiritual or philosophical beliefs, their hobbies, and what they enjoy most in life. It is important to ask these questions, but to pose them in a way that is both fun to ask and fun to answer.

Here are some fun questions to throw into the mix.

1. What's your favorite thing to do on Saturday morning?
2. What's the best thing about Wednesday nights?
3. What's your ideal second date?
4. What do you like best about thunderstorms?
5. What do you look for in a vacation?
6. What magazines do you read in the supermarket checkout line?
7. If you could choose an alternative career path, what would it be?
8. If you were going to teach any subject, what would you teach?
9. If you were going to learn any subject in school, what would it be?
10. Where is the best place for a month-long vacation?
11. Where is the best place for a one-week vacation?
12. If you were going to take six months off from work, what would you do?

13. What is the last thing you do before you go to bed?
14. What is the best thing about this town?
15. What are things about this town that are your secrets?
16. If you were going to live permanently anywhere else, what are your top 3 choices?
17. Who do you look up to when you need advice about life?
18. What things had made you change your mind about anything?
19. What philosophy do you subscribe to, if any at all?
20. What are fun weekend getaways in this state?
21. What is the most embarrassing thing that you have done in the last few weeks?
22. How does your mother describe you?
23. How does your best friend describe you?
24. How do you want me to describe you?
25. Would you like another date?

Can you Really Find Your Match Online [\(top\)](#)

Many people who have never experienced online dating question whether or not it is truly possible to find a compatible love match online. They see the Internet suspiciously, often times, and wonder if it is possible to meet a normal, well-adjusted individual through a medium that also offers a breeding ground for crime, mismatches and socially mal-adjusted individuals.

Yet, in actuality, it is possible and proven that you can find love online. Countless dating web sites will attest to the capabilities of their interfaces to match you up with your perfect mate. Others will offer thousands of personality profiles for you to look through. The fact of the matter is, if you spend enough time online and commit enough of your energy towards finding the right person and making that right person as happy as possible, then you too can fall into a committed relationship that was born online.

Here are some strategies to help you narrow the search options:

1. Read the full profile. Often, small details will reveal large amounts of information about a person. For example, if you're an atheist, then you may want to know that the gorgeous woman's picture you have been drooling over for the last hour actually belongs to a devout fundamentalist Christian (ie – might not be totally compatible from a religious perspective). You will also get to know about how your potential date views himself or herself. If you like everything she or he has to say, go for it. However, many times, you will find some red flags from the personality profile that you should know about before you commit to beginning any sort of relationship.
2. Don't go by the picture alone. Just because someone looks fabulous and fun in their picture doesn't mean that they will be everything you desire once you meet in person. Photos only reveal one side of the story, and often, it's the side that people are most capable of showing. By reading the profile and beginning and actually discourse with someone online, you will start to learn whether or not the two of you truly have love potential.
3. Look for people in your region. Most online dating services will help you find people in your region by narrowing your searches down to within a certain radius from your home or work. If you are looking for long-term sustainable love, it is important that you can see your potential date on a somewhat frequent basis, at least during the beginning stages.

Take this advice and use it to help you develop a relationship that will be long lasting and truly fulfilling. You'll be glad that you made the effort to look for love online as soon as you find that one person that you want to date over and over for the rest of your life.

Common Signs that You're Enamored by your Online Crush [\(top\)](#)

Perhaps you've met someone special in an online chat room? Or maybe you've spent weeks reading the same profile over and over again, but haven't quite summoned the courage to contact him or her? Online crushes are common in the Internet environment, which is quick to exchange information (and often just as quick to help you exchange dating partners).

The easy part is developing a crush. The hard part is taking that crush on someone to a level where you actually contact them via email or phone. Because the Internet is a rather anonymous means of communication, many people find it rather easy to send an email or instant message without fear of rejection. But what if you still aren't sure that your message will get through?

Here are some tips for not only identifying a true online crush, but also helping your knowledge of him or her help you take your relationship to the next level:

1. You can't wait to turn on your computer each day because you know that you can see that person's email or profile. If this is a symptom of the online crush that you are experiencing, then it is important that you make a goal for yourself to contact the crush in X amount of time. For example, establish that if you look at his profile every morning for a week, then you will send him an email at the end of the week.
2. When he says something in an online chat room, you actually read the entire message (with everyone else, you either scan or skip). If you are actually taking the time to read every word that he writes, then it might be a sign that you're quite interested in what he has to say (duh!) Why not take the conversation to another level by inviting him out of the chat room for a private chat. Tell him that you like his point of view and want to learn more about it.
3. You've printed his photo and have it framed in your home. Sometimes there is an element of the obsessive that can be developed from your online crushes. If you have reached the point where you have actually printed his photo, bio or other files and refer to them frequently, you may have reached the point where your behavior is actually self-destructive. It's time to use that energy in an actual relationship. Call him or email him for a chat.

Online dating can be a tricky scene, especially if you develop a deep-seeded crush on someone that you meet online. It's tough to know when is a good time to take that relationship up a notch. The best advice is to be humble, yet sure of yourself. Taking the first step can be the hardest, but it's often the most rewarding.

He's a Keeper If [\(top\)](#)

Ways to Sift Through Until You Find the Right Person

Dating is one of those things that you have to do a lot of until you get it right. Sometimes it doesn't matter if you date a lot of people or if you date the right person a lot of times, but in order to perfect it, you need to commit to the process of getting to know and blend your life with someone else.

Here are a few ways to know if the guy you are dating is a keeper:

1. He hasn't forgotten his manners, even after several months together. Many relationships turn complacent after several months of dating. Your man is high quality and worth the commitment if he still has his manners after several months of dating. When he still opens the car door and extends his energy to make sure that you feel special, you know that he is worth the commitment. Furthermore, you know that he has committed to making you happy – which is worth investing in.
2. He plans fun dates. When your guy plans a fun date, you know that he is interested in surprising you and seeing you happy. Creative guys are the best guys because they show that they have a spark of originality and talent. If your guy doesn't plan dates, it doesn't mean that you should break up with him right away, but make sure you tell him the importance of sharing new and fun experiences with him. Experiment by taking him on fun dates that you plan and execute. It will give him an idea of what you're looking for from a night out on the town.
3. He listens. The number one thing that is important to a solid, long-lasting relationship is having good communication. The key to good communication is listening. It is not in the nature of the male to listen, as men are problem solvers and doers. However, it is essential that your man listen to you if you are going to build a relationship that lasts.
4. He's patient. Women around the world value a patient man. Men that are patient show care, respect and love that transcend arguments and even small disagreements. Women need to feel cherished, and like they are worth any wait that the man has to endure. Therefore, if your man understands this essential need, he will help you establish a long-lasting bond together.

How to Avoid Becoming a Serial Online Dater [\(top\)](#)

Everyone who has tried to find love online knows that the virtual medium of online dating is very alluring. With a click of your mouse, you are able to see dozens of profiles of men and women that could match your love criteria. It is important that, in order to avoid becoming a serial online dater, you are realistic about your goals and needs. Then, you need to practice what you desire in a relationship in order for the relationship to form that way.

Dating is tough, but here are some tips to help you find that one relationship that will work for you.

1. Know what you're looking for. Everyone knows that when it comes to dating, it can be tough to know exactly what you're looking for. After all, every one has heard the adage that opposites attract. However, you cannot deny the fact that there are certain personality attributes that are important in your potential mate. You know, for example, that someone who does drugs is not the best fit for you. Or that someone who lives on the other side of the world might not be the most practical fit for a long-term relationship. Of course, there are exceptions, but if you go online to look for love, you might as well give yourself every advantage.
2. He or she is just as nervous as you. Many couples that begin their relationship online have a hard time bridging the gap between an online relationship and an in-person relationship. However, if your relationship is going to succeed in

any form, it is vital that you work together to make the union a smooth one. Smiling and showing interest in the other person from the get-go is the easiest way to make your new partner comfortable in your vicinity. Don't be disappointed if he or she is not all that you expect from the beginning – relationships take time to bloom.

3. Commitment is a good thing. It's tough to commit to one person when you know that there is an entire database of other smiling faces online ready to date you at any moment. However, the grass is not always greener on the other side and sometimes your garden needs a little attention if it is going to grow into a strong and healthy masterpiece. Focus all of your efforts and attention on one relationship at a time. Be the perfect date in every way possible and do your best to determine whether or not the two of you make a solid fit. If it does not work out after a second date, then it might be a sign that you do not have a lasting bond, but at least you tried.

The whole point of online dating is that it is an easy way to meet that special person with whom you can share a life and all of life's pleasures. Don't rob yourself of the opportunity for that joy by refusing to settle on any one person. It may take a while, but you will eventually find that perfect person. Stick with it and don't be afraid to move forward with him or her.

How to Avoid Serial Online Daters [\(top\)](#)

Online dating has become a fast fad for many people – both young and old. There is something of a thrill that can be attained from browsing profiles and daydreaming about the perfect match that you will find. Online dating is fun. It's anonymous. And it's often addictive.

One of the major dangers of online dating is that users tend to create a sort of virtual world for themselves in which they feel free to do and express themselves in a way that may not be always possible for them to do in person. Therefore, the medium can become a haven for individuals that not only lack self-confidence and social skills, but also for people with addictive or compulsive personalities. Online dating offers a rush and the immediate gratification that accompanies winning a jackpot.

When you are beginning a relationship with someone who you found online, one of the most important questions you can ask is whether or not they have had past luck using the medium. This is a tricky question because if they admit that they have not, then it is easy to imagine that they have simply not found the right person (could you be that right person?)

However, if the person you are potentially dating appears to have been on a multitude of in-person dates, but has always found something wrong with the date, then it is possible that he or she is a serial online dater. This means that he or she feels uncomfortable dating in person, so they continue to resort back to their most comfortable dating platform.

Chances are very high that individuals that find love once online will return for more when a previous relationship ends. The key here is that the individual was able to establish a relationship at some point. A serial online dater will not establish a relationship, but will, instead, meet the date once and then hide back online.

If you think that you have become somewhat involved with a serial online dater, then take the relationship slowly. It is important that you establish a high level of friendship and trust prior to meeting him or her. When and if you do finally meet, it is important that you make every effort to show a deep interest (if indeed you are interested.) this way, the person will feel comfortable with you and the chances that he or she will flee to their online comfort zone will be

minimal.

Online dating is fun and helpful, but it is important that you are aware of what can happen if you become too reliant on the forum for all of your social encounters. As in anything, balance in online dating is the key.

How to Avoid Repeat Callers [\(top\)](#)

One of the most annoying (and yet flattering) aspects of online dating is that sometimes you will feel a certain way about someone who does not feel the same way about you. In other words, you could find yourself attracted to someone who is not attracted to you or, someone could be attracted to you when you are not attracted to them.

If you find yourself wrapped up in a situation like this, it can be tough to break the cord. If someone repeatedly call or emails you, how do you gently tell them that you're not interested. On the contrary, if someone won't return your calls, how do you know that they're not interested if you can't even talk to them? Here are some tips to help you make the break a clean one so that you do not hurt any feelings (and do not get a restraining order imposed against you!)

1. Communicate positive things clearly. When making the break, it is important that you reinforce the positive things about a person. Maybe he or she is a great conversationalist or has a wonderful set of stories. It is important not to upset someone when you tell them that you do not want to speak with them again, for this will harbor ill will. Instead, highlight the positive things about them and then thank them for their interest in you. Tell them that you are simply looking for something different from a relationship, but that you wish them luck.
2. Stop answering your phone. Many people answer their phones and have a simple conversation with potential suitors, even when they are not interested in pursuing the relationship. If you are not interested in someone, then simply don't answer the phone when they call. After awhile, most people will take this as a sign that you are either very rude, busy or simply not interested. If they do not and they continue to call, then it is acceptable to either have the number blocked, or to answer and tell them that you are no longer looking for a relationship. Due to the fast nature of Internet relationships, it is expected that things will happen quickly.
3. Don't be a repeat caller yourself. If someone does not call you back after three attempts, then chances are good that they are not interested. Don't be a repeat caller. Instead, simply accept that they are not available.

How to Keep your Children Safe from Online Dating Scams [\(top\)](#)

Every parent has heard of the dangers of the Internet and predators. When it comes to protecting their children from the risks of the Internet, most parents would do anything in the name of their child's safety. If you are concerned about what your child might be exposed to on the Internet, then take a moment to read through the following tips that can help you be aware of what is available online.

1. Where predators find your children. There are several mediums through which a predator might attempt to contact your child. These mediums include online communities, such as Facebook and MySpace, chat rooms, instant

messaging forums and dating sights (believe it or not, curious children may visit dating sites too.)

As a parent, it is your responsibility to monitor your children's movements online. You should know at all times what your child is doing, what sites she or he visits and who she interacts with. Have an open dialogue with your child about the dangers of online dating and be sure to let them know that if anything should happen that makes them uncomfortable while browsing the internet, they should speak with you.

2. How they reach your children. Predators may pose as other young people in order to establish contact with your child. They may then learn the address of your home and offer to visit the child or to meet the child elsewhere. The potential of obtaining a new friend is alluring to any child, but as a parent, you should know that the people that your child meets online might be misrepresenting themselves.

If your child is going to meet someone that he or she meets online, it is important that you are present. Let your child know that you will drive him or her to a location or offer to take the two of them out. This way, you will be able to assure that the new friend is actually an appropriate friend.

3. Create open communication. The best way to assure that your child stays safe online is to maintain open communication between the two of you. If your child feels comfortable coming to you if he or she has a need or concern, then he is most likely to keep you in tune with his life. Likewise, if he knows that he can trust you, then the chances of him respecting your opinion and trying to understand your reasoning is far greater than if he felt that you were simply being restrictive.

There are many dangers associated with allowing young children to have free reign on the Internet. However, it is also important for your child to demonstrate responsibility and learn to make good choices. Coaching your children through the awareness process will establish a mutual respect and grounds for communication.

How to Know if Your Significant Other is Involved with Someone Online [\(top\)](#)

Just about everyone has heard the horror stories that accompany online affairs. An online affair occurs when a spouse begins "dating" someone online. While sometimes an online affair remains entirely virtual, many times the affair is played out physically as well.

If you suspect that your spouse could be cheating on you with an online significant other, then you should investigate the matter more in depth. Sometimes people are wrong about their loved one's fidelity. But often times, they are right when they suspect that their mate is cheating. Here is some advice to help you solve the problem.

1. Has his behavior changed lately? Often, when a spouse is cheating, he or she will become more reclusive than usual. For example, your husband might retreat to the computer for hours each night, refusing to communicate or spend time with you. He may get online first thing in the morning or even turn to the computer in the middle of the night if he is cheating.

2. Does he or she conceal his or her computer activity from you? If your spouse attempts to conceal the monitor when you walk into the room, or if he or she leaves the computer when you are around, chances are good that he or she could be doing something of a furtive nature online. He may be reading emails from his online date or he could be

browsing through a classifieds site. If you mate simply closes the computer screen because he or she wants to direct attention to you when you're in the room, then you're probably okay. Try not to get too suspicious at the onset.

3. Has he or she stored more photos on the computer than usual lately? If he or she has taken an interest in storing and uploading photos online, he may be sharing them with an online date. Ask him why he's taken such a keen interest in photos. It could be that he's simply found a new hobby.

4. Have you found URLs that suggest infidelity? Many Web browsers keep a cache of links that have been recently accessed. If you suspect infidelity, then you may want to run a search on recently accessed Web sites.

5. Ask him or her. The easiest way to find an answer to any question is to ask your mate for the truth. Note that he or she may not be entirely honest with you and could be upset that you would suggest infidelity. However, if you feel strongly that they are cheating, then you need to know.

How to Know When it's Time to Meet in Person [\(top\)](#)

When a relationship starts through an online forum or interface, no matter how often you talk or email, there is an element of anonymity that naturally resides between the two of you. One of the hardest and most frightening next steps in an online–spudded relationship is taking the relationship to the next level by meeting in person.

There is a natural degree of nervousness that ensues as soon as a date is set. No matter how many times you have reviewed each other's photos and emails for signs of assured attraction, you will still wonder if the relationship is as magical in person as it seems to be online.

Here are some tips for making the first meeting a successful one:

1. Dress nicely. There is nothing more disappointing than having an image of the perfect person built up in your head. She's smart, attractive, witty and full of life in her emails. Heck, you even like her voice. But if she shows up in unkempt clothes and has not bathed for days, you have to admit that you will be understandably taken aback. The way that a person holds him or herself is very important, for it determines and admits lifestyle, personal image and confidence. Show your potential suitor that your life is pulled together, as is your outfit. You don't necessarily have to be the most fashionable, but it is essential that you have good hygiene and wear your clothes comfortably (ie – no oversized or undersized clothing should be permitted.)

2. Smile. Even if it's not your thing, a confident smile will convey to your new special friend that you are interested in what he or she has to say. It says that you're glad to be there with him or her and helps him to relax into the conversation. Don't worry if your new partner is not smiling, he or she may just be nervous. Also, remember that smiling too much may convey a sense of discomfort and could be perceived as an overcompensation for some aspect that you feel you are lacking on a personal level. Practice having a smile–sensitive conversation with a friend if you have any question about your smiling tendency.

3. Bring a gift. Both men and women enjoy receiving gifts as tokens of affection. For the first time that you meet your online friend in person, it is important that you break the ice by offering a gift. Men love things like books and magazines. Women love the classic gifts of candy and flowers.

By following these few guidelines, you should begin to feel more comfortable about beginning a new phase of your relationship. Remember to be natural and show interest in your partner. Being genuine is the best way to win someone over. Most of all, have fun!

How to Use Online Dating Sites [\(top\)](#)

Online dating sites are a convenient way to sift through mounds of eligible individuals until you find the one (or several at different times) that work for you. The major benefits of online dating include: 1. Relative anonymity and ease of possible rejection, 2. Ability to acquaint yourself with an individual prior to making any sort of commitment and 3. Availability of a broad range of people that are interested and willing to date.

When you use online dating sites, it is important that you keep a few unwritten rules in mind so that you maximize your chances of making a successful first impression. Here are some simple tips to help you stand out from the group.

1. Select a winning photo. No matter what you look like in real life, it is important that you choose a photo that is not only attractive, but that also shows off your personality. If you're goofy, then select a funny picture of you. If you're happy, then select a photo of you smiling. If you're a bookworm, then you may want to consider sharing a photo of yourself in front of a stack of books.
2. Send a welcoming message. The message that you display is very important because it is the first insight that your potential future love will have into your personality and intelligence. Make sure that your public address is friendly, somewhat casual and yet serious so that your suitor takes you seriously and is interested enough in you to continue the correspondence.
3. Respond promptly to all emails. The best thing that you can do to ensure a healthy beginning to your relationship is to promptly respond to all emails when someone contacts you. Your response should be friendly and convey interest in the person that has contacted you. If someone contacts you and you are not available, be sure to let that person know so that he or she does not wonder what has happened to you.
4. Update your profile. Whether you are still single or not, it is important that you maintain a current online dating profile so that potential suitors will be able to access the most current information about you. When you begin dating someone, it is important that you promptly notify others and that you proceed accordingly. Also, remember that if you change cities, you will need to change your profile to reflect your new place of residence.

How to Use the Internet to Enhance Your Online Dating Experience

[\(top\)](#)

The Internet not only provides a powerful communication medium when you are involved in an online dating relationship. It can also help to enhance the entertainment that you and your online beau can experience together. Using some fun games and high-speed tools, you can not only use the Internet to send emails, but you can use it for a large variety of other purposes as well.

Here are a few ideas for helping you maximize your Internet connection so that you can truly connect with your loved one.

1. **Photos** Of course, the most obvious way to use the Internet when you are involved in a relationship is to send photos back and forth to one another. Photos not only help to connect the two of you, but they also help to break the ice. If you're capable of using photo editing software, then dress your loved one's photos up with fun colors or images. The change will make the two of you laugh and shows a bit of affection.
2. **Games** There are a plethora of fun games available on the Internet. These games can often be played by two or more people, making them the ideal way to challenge each other to think differently and capitalize off of the online forum. you can find fun Internet games either on game specialty Web sites or through instant messaging services such as Yahoo!
3. **Video** With a small investment into a Web cam, you can observed your loved on via video camera. You can talk as if you are talking face to face either by connecting via the phone or attaching a microphone to your computer. Remember to look at the camera while you are speaking. While it is somewhat awkward to stare directly at a camera while talking, you will find that it will appear as if you are looking directly at your loved one.
4. **Movies** There are many Web sites that offer movies and music that you can stream into your system. If the two of you watch the move simultaneously, you will find that it is almost the same experience as going out to a movie together...almost. You can chat via phone or Internet telephone about what is going on in the movie and even recommend certain movies to one another.

Is Your Online Boyfriend Actually Married [\(top\)](#)

Strategies for Finding out the Truth

There are an overwhelming number of individuals online that post profiles in online dating forums. Many times, those individuals are not actually single, but are looking for some action on the side. Studies have shown that a striking number of people that are on online forums are actually married!

If you suspect that your new online boyfriend may be married, there are some steps that you need to take in order to protect yourself and uncover the truth. Read on for some advice pertaining to this phenomenon.

1. Does your boyfriend tell you that you cannot call him during certain times of the day? You're your new boyfriend is restricting the amount of phone time that you can spend with him, then chances are very good that he is concealing something or someone from you. Ask him why he is so tied up during certain hours. If you are truly suspicious, then call him during the off-limits hours. Who picks up? What is his attitude when he answers the phone? Does he whisper into the phone? Does he answer? A solid relationship is built on mutual respect and complete openness – he needs to communicate with you if you are going to sustain any sort of long-term commitment.
2. Has your boyfriend kept you from visiting him at home? It is unusual to date someone for a significant amount of time without being invited back to his house. If your boyfriend has not invited you home, then ask yourself what he could be hiding. Likewise, if you have offered to come to his house and he has resisted, you should proceed with caution.

3. Does your boyfriend refrain from showing affection while in public? Does your boyfriend treat you like more of a buddy in public? If he does show affection, is it in a town where the chances of running into someone you know are minimal. Ask yourself why he shows resistance with showing affection. The answer could reside in the fact that he is afraid of being recognized by a friend or colleague.

4. Is there a tan line around his wedding finger? One of the most obvious signs that you man is married is a well-defined tan line around his ring finger, indicating that he has recently worn a wedding ring – or at least has worn it enough to develop a tan line.

My Online Dating Success Story [\(top\)](#)

I met my husband Tony three years ago on a popular online dating service. We had both been in long-term relationships prior to finding each other and had also dating several people that we had met online through this dating service. Thus, we had a strong belief in the ability of an online dating medium to connect us with an individual that we could build a life with.

We initially started talking because we lived in the same neighborhood but had never met. Our neighborhood is right next to a river and is very popular amongst college kids and individuals that enjoy sunbathing because there is an area filled with rocks that they can lay out on. We both decided that it was highly likely that we had seen each other a million times and just never knew it.

We talked via email for about a week. He'd ask questions about what I did on the weekends and we started a nice banter. At the end of the week, there was a show that was playing at an outdoor amphetheater next to our neighborhood. Typically, neighbors will walk over in droves to get a spot and have a nice picnic dinner while enjoying the free concerts. Tony asked me if I was planning on going and I said I would if he did.

Thus, our first date was very casual – a sort of meeting of friends rather than an official date. I brought the dinner and he brought a bottle of wine, picnic blanket and bug spray. The concert was phenomenal and we decided to grab some ice cream from the neighborhood ice cream store once it was all done.

I guess you could say that the rest of our story is one for the ages. It turns out that we not only loved in the same neighborhood, but our offices were only blocks apart downtown. We started meeting regularly for lunch at first and then we began carpooling, all the while finding a wealth of healthy conversation.

The first time we attended a friend's event as an official couple was so much fun. When we told people that we had met online, not a person in the entire party believed us because we were so obviously in love.

While online dating doesn't really work for everyone, I can say with absolute confidence that it worked for us. Now, we're expecting our first child and look forward to continuing to grow a happy life together. I'm so glad I signed up in the first place!

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