

# **E-UNION**

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### **Online Dating**

Online dating is very popular today with the progress of technology and the increase of people who use computers. Online dating is a system for organizing a date and can be an excellent way to meet that special someone. Today, online dating is one of the most popular systems for meeting someone new to go on a date with.

There are many online dating websites you can visit and see people who are looking to meet someone new. You can post your picture and create a profile on one of them too. This will allow you to tell everything about yourself. This way, people can see if you enjoy the same types of activities that they do and you can see if certain people look to be like someone you might be interested in.

Online dating has proven to be a successful method for meeting people and setting up dates. Many people have continued their relationships and even been married through online dating methods. All relationships through online dating are not successful but you may meet a new friend if you are not compatible for dating.

When you consider online dating, it is important to remember you need to be safe. The Internet is not always what it seems and people are not always honest with everything about themselves. You should be sure when you go on your first online date you are somewhere you feel comfortable with and be sure to protect yourself at all times. You can have a fantastic experience and meet your perfect match but you do not want to be a statistic because you believed everything the other person said on the Internet.

## **Virtual Dating**

Virtual dating is a common method of dating with people who are wired in the technology realm. This method of dating is a system for finding possible dates or people who you might be interested in dating.

Virtual dating uses a combined method of playing video games and dating. People will create what is known as avatars that are virtual figures of themselves. They will spend time in a video game virtual world and meet other people over the computer. This virtual dating method allows people to talk to potential dates through conversation and interact with each other through a video game method. If they decide they want to have an actual relationship with the other person then they will move to the next step in actually meeting by exchanging phone numbers or setting up a location to meet.

Millions of people practice virtual dating today and it is a preferred method by many. These people who use these systems are usually into science fiction and they are very good with technology. The technology and the use of the virtual dating system show people using this system of dating that they have something in common. However, the method of playing through video games allows people to interact in a virtual way too. This can show someone's intellectual side, education, and more when they work through the virtual dating systems.

Virtual dating is a common method today used by people to meet new people and find potential candidates for pursuing a relationship with. It is a fun way to meet new people and allow them to get to know you without actually meeting them until you are comfortable.

# **Establishing Online Dating Relationships: Safety First**

Online dating can be fun. But do not neglect safety and common sense when you try to hook up with a mate. At least, take caution in the following areas.

### Protect Your Computer

Take care of your equipment and systems before you head out into the Internet realm. You need to have a firewall and anti-virus protection for your email and for when you search websites and interact online. At the bare minimum, you may want these two solutions that are offered at no charge to home computer users (i.e. not for commercial use):

- 1. Free Firewall Download: ZoneAlarm (www.zonelabs.com)
- 2. Free Anti-Virus Download: AVG Anti-Virus (www.grisoft.com)

### Protect Yourself

Take care of yourself, too, by choosing appropriate dating sites. Seek and choose a reputable online dating service.

How? Begin by asking around with friends, neighbors, co-workers and others you may know who have tried online dating, and see which places they recommend. In addition, search "online dating services" and keep a notebook of their URLs or website links, the fees, rules and regulations, complete contact information of each and any other useful information that spikes your interest. Then compare each place. Try only those places where you feel safe. Avoid the others.

So take care. Arm your computer - and yourself - with the correct tools and knowledge!

# **Growing Online Dating Relationships**

Just like regular real-world relationships, online relationships need tending, to grow over time. Here are some quick growing tips.

#### 1. Take time and make time.

Does your online date get in touch with you regularly? Do you do the same? Neglecting virtual meetings can be considered abuse or neglect, so treat each other's time with respect. If this is lacking, it might mean it is time to move on.

#### 2. Communication needs to "feel" right for both of you.

If one of you is too pushy about meeting, for instance, that can give off bad vibes. So do not rush. Take time to learn more about each other and develop trust.

#### 3. Respect each other's privacy.

Do not share personal email addresses or digital photos online, for example, if your online date sent you the information in confidence.

#### 4. Share special online and offline fun times.

**Online** - send greeting cards, links to favorite places to upload digital photos of your favorite pet, download music and video clips, post on favorite forums of interest.

**Offline** - if you are exchanging addresses or post office boxes, send print greeting cards and postcards, small items from your area (like a key chain with your state bird).

Tend your online relationship. Water it with care and over time it can sprout and grow.

## **Popular Online Dating Activities**

All types of everyday activities are growing in popularity online these days like sharing photos and greeting cards. In fact, both of these even go hand in hand with online dating opportunities, one of the most popular online activities for singles today.

Before actually meeting in person, many dates get acquainted online first. Here is how.

#### Photos

As a wonderful keepsake of your budding romance, create an online photo album for your new cyber-mate. Include digital photos of favorite outdoor scenes, pets, flowers, cars, silly moments, your computer corner or laptop, etc. Then you will even have more to discuss during online dates via emails and chat rooms. Search for "photo albums" to find places that store your photos.

#### Greeting Cards

Regardless of where the person lives, you can mail a greeting card. If privacy and security is an issue, check into renting an inexpensive P.O. Box (check the Yellow Pages). You do not have to be an artist to make something homemade and special for the new friend in your life. Even making a special, personalized greeting card would be appreciated and show your date that you care enough to take the time needed to make something by hand. Search your favorite search engine for online greeting cards to send, too. They range from free to low cost and can be sent in a click.

So get online and get active! No need to risk meeting in person until you get more familiar with each other online first. So take the online plunge!

# A Man's Secrets to Successful Online Dating

People have taken to online dating like a duck takes to water...because it works...or, at least, it can work. Women are, in general, terrified of meeting a man that she has been chatting with online. All they have heard about are the scary things that can happen...and, I must say, they have a right to be careful to the extreme. That is not only wise but vital. So what is a nice guy to do? You are not a pervert, a sexual predator, or a weirdo. You are just a nice guy looking for "the" girl for you.

You must be patient. Do not press her for personal information like her real name or where she lives. Keep your conversations light and fun until she feels comfortable talking with you online. Do not try to rush her into meeting face-to-face. She will think you are desperate or a pervert. Patience! Patience! Patience!

Be absolutely honest about your physical appearance and job. A good relationship has never been, and will never be, built on lies and deceit. Eventually she will find out the truth anyway and there you are back at square one.

A picture really is worth a thousand words. Post many pictures of yourself doing your everyday activities and make them full body shots, not just head shots. If you were dating a girl in the real world she would not just see your head.

Once the discussion has been opened about meeting face-to-face for the first time, suggest that you meet in a very public place, during daylight hours and that she bring a friend with her. After all, you have nothing to hide. You have told her the truth about yourself and she has already seen a lot of pictures of you. The only thing left is to make her feel safe meeting you.

## **Online Dating Can Be Tough**

Here is a little secret that the fairer gender keeps from us guys: **Women, even very beautiful women,** like to be approached by a confident and interesting man.

Are you surprised? It is true...and confidence and fascination are much more important than looks to ladies of all ages. That is true for internet dating, as well as it is for dating in your brick and mortar world but we are talking about internet dating here...so back to the subject at hand.

Once you have joined an online dating service, you will find that there are more men than women and that the men are much more likely to browse profiles and make initial contacts than women. Yes, it is a woman's world...still. It is "traditional" for men to make the first move. It always has been and it always will be. Some things never change. That is why your profile and picture are so important.

Remember...confident and interesting....and that does not translate to cocky and self-centered. It is important that your profile lets people know that you have friends you care about and that you are passionately interested in a variety of things...not JUST sports. Another thing about that all-important profile....please do not start it with, "I'm the guy your mama warned you about". You will have just shot yourself in the foot with that line.

Another one to never use is, "I could be the man of your dreams". The lady HOPES you are, but she will be the judge of that...so do not insult her intelligence. Remember....exude confidence and interesting and you will find that lady you have been looking for...or she will find you.

Would it not be nice to have the ladies contacting you instead of you having to do everything? If you write a great profile that stands out in the crowd, that will happen.

## **Online Dating For Single Men**

No matter what your age, height, weight or physical appearance, there are thousands of women out there eager to meet you and eager for your company...whether short-term or long-term relationships are what you want. If you have found yourself suddenly "on-the-market" again after a relationship has dissolved or are just too busy with your work to spend a lot of time looking for a lady to keep you company, online dating can open the door to the dating scene for you.

The good news is that all you need is a computer and an internet connection to get started. The first thing to do is find an online dating site that fits your needs. There are the large sites that offer many extras like live video chat and even match you up with ladies using your profile and, also, a lot of sites that cater to special interests like religious preferences, outdoor enthusiasts, gays, etc. You need to choose one or two that will meet your needs. I do not recommend the free sites. The paid sites have a money back guarantee if you are not satisfied and the investment is small. A whole month costs less than one dinner and movie date.

The next thing you need to do is write a killer, but honest, profile and upload a recent but flattering picture of yourself. Now you are all set. Start contacting ladies whose profiles sound interesting to you and answer any lady who contacts you...and do so promptly. You do not want to appear that desperate. Do not give up after a month and think you will never find the right lady for you. New people join online dating services daily and at least half of them are ladies who might want to meet you.

## **Online Dating is Not a Contest**

Online dating is not a competition between competing males for the attention of a female. Grow up. Change your mindset from "winning" to "searching". This is not high school. You are all grown up and have been for quite some time, now. Your attitude is the most important asset you have. You should like yourself and not concentrate on all of the things that are not YOUR idea of the perfect guy...the one all women want.

What is it that women want, you ask? That is the age old question. I can tell you a few things women want and do not want.

Women want a man to be confident...NOT an arrogant jerk. There is a big difference. You need to like yourself and not be self depreciating but you do not need to come across like you believe that you are a gift to them from God and have just fallen from the sky. They do not want you to think that they just fell from heaven and are some kind of perfect being, either. They cannot live up to that expectation.

Women want a communicator. The "strong silent type" really is not appealing at all. They think you probably do not have an original thought in your head and you probably have not heard a word they said, or that you just do not care about what they said or did not even hear what they said. They want you to be interesting enough to want to know more about you and they want you to think that they are interesting enough to ask intelligent questions about what is important to them, too.

Women do **NOT** want to be a prize to be won. They do not want to be a trophy. They want to be the ONE woman that you want to be with.

## **Online Dating Safety For Men**

Almost everything you read about online dating safety is directed at women but men need to be concerned as well. Perverts, sexual predators and weirdoes come in both sexes, all sizes, and all ages...as do, liars and cheaters. So men need to stay on guard, too.

It is common knowledge not to readily give out personal information to strangers. The reason for not doing so is as large as the number of strangers who want that information. If you come across a person who is giving out personal information and asking others to do the same, do not do it. You do not know what they want to use it for....and you had better believed they want to use it for something. That "something" will not be for your benefit. Men, also, need to guard their real names, addresses, phone numbers, and place of employment. Do not give that information to anyone online until you are confident that they are who they say they are.

Men, be wary of women who seem too financially needy. If they ask for money, in any of a dozen ways women can ask for money, cut the relationship off immediately. They are not looking for love or even friendship....they are looking for financial help.

If a woman gives you a contact number but you cannot ever reach her at that number, beware. If you always have to page them or text them and have them call you back, this could be a sign that what they are telling you is not the complete truth.

A need to get married and insecurity are other signs men should be very wary of. If the woman is pushing too hard for a commitment you are not ready to make, it might be a good time to head for the nearest exit.

## Online Flirting - A New Art Form

Many of the same things that work for online flirting, work also for "brick and mortar" flirting and all relationships begin with successful flirting. Flirting is an art that requires oozing confidence without being OTT. If you go too far, she will label you "slimy". If you do not go far enough, she will label you "wimpy". So how do you achieve that point half way between slimy and wimpy and do it online without using eye contact or body language? All you have is a computer an internet connection and membership in an online dating site, right?

- 1. Have fun! Be light-hearted, funny and entertaining. Make her eager to talk to you again. Flirting is playful.
- 2. Ooze confidence. Successful flirts have a positive outlook on life. You need to transmit the "feel good" factor. An optimistic attitude attracts females like honey attracts flies.
- 3. Compliment her...and do it often and sincerely. Nothing opens doors like making her feel good about herself. She will want to spend more time with you and if she pays you a compliment say "thank you", do **Not** be self depreciating.
- 4. Listen...listen...listen. Pay attention to what she says and ask appropriate questions. Get her to open up and talk about herself. Make her feel like she is interesting and that you are interested in her. Works wonders!
- 5. Do not be rude. Flirting does not include being sexually explicit nor taking offence if the lady is not responding to you. If she is not interested, take the hint and move on to the next prospect. If you get a lot of rejections, you should probably consider a different approach.
- 6. Send an email after you chat. This ranks right up there with sending a thank you note or a gift and it is vital to successful flirting.

Do not try to go too fast. Flirting is the first step to a successful relationship.

### Online Dating For the Single 30 Something Woman

Life is not fair. Men get all the breaks. You have devoted all of your 20's to getting your career off the ground. Not that you have not been dating...you have, but not seriously. Now here you are...30 something and there is no long term relationship in sight. You can actually hear your biological clock ticking. You have a precious few years to find a man to fall in love with, make him fall in love with you, get married, and have a baby or it is lights out. You already know all of the men in your social circle. Not that they are not nice guys...some of them...but none of them is your soul mate. What is a girl to do?

Consider online dating. You have the opportunity to read hundreds of profiles and look at hundreds of pictures in search of that "someone" that will be right for you. Maybe he will live in the same city you do...maybe he will live across the country or even in another country altogether. You are not limited to only those men that you come in contact with personally. The possibilities are almost endless.

"Is online dating safe?" you ask. "Aren't the online dating sites made up entirely of perverts, sexual predators and weirdoes in assorted shapes and sizes?" the answer is: no they are not. Not anymore anyway. That was true when online dating first came on the scene but now it is mainstream. It is safe when using common sense and sound judgment. Use the same caution that you would when meeting any stranger. Do not give your real name, address or phone numbers until you feel safe doing so. Do not rush into a face-to-face meeting until you are confident and then make the first meeting in a public place and during daylight hours. Give it a try...Mr. Right might be a few mouse clicks away.

## **Online Dating Safety for Women**

Online dating can be a fun and certainly a rewarding experience for women of all ages. Maintaining your safety while dating online is simply a combination of using common sense and exercising good judgment. Online safety rules are the same as real world safety rules.

You would not give your name, address and phone numbers to a strange man that you met in a bar or on the street so you should never do that online also. Play it safe. Get to know this man who could turn out to be Prince Charming before you give out any information that could make it possible for him or others to trace you. Do not tell a stranger exactly where you work. Say that you are a legal secretary (if that is what you are) for a mid-sized law firm....not that you work for Brown, Smith and Jones Attorneys-at-law. It is safe to tell him what city you live in but you should wait to be any more specific than that until you have been chatting and exchanging emails for awhile.

Use only the tools provided by the dating service you belong to. Most offer chat and private email on their site. Do not give out your ISP email address. If you must give out an email address, make it a free one such as Hotmail or Yahoo. Your ISP address is traceable for anyone who wants to go to the trouble.

When the time comes for you to have your first face-to-face, make that first meeting in a public place and during day light hours. Take a friend with you or arrange for one to call you on your cell soon after the arranged meeting.

Remember...you ARE in control so do not let anyone pressure you into revealing more personal information than you are comfortable with revealing.

# The Advantages of Online Dating for Women

In the past, i.e. the 1990's, online dating was a brand new idea. Unlike today, most people did not own PC's or even have access to the internet. Times have changed. Online dating is not only IN the mainstream, it IS the mainstream.

There are many reasons for the phenomenal growth of online dating sites and the number of people, men and women of all ages, races and religions who use them as their primary source for meeting people and looking for "the one".

If you don't believe me, just ask your friends in the "real" world. If they are honest, most of them will tell you they have or are using an online dating service.

Here are three good reasons why thousands of people sign up for dating services everyday:

- (1) You can be anonymous. You will never be required to give your real name, address, email address, phone number or place of employment to another online user. You, of course, may do so but only at your own discretion and only when you feel completely safe. You are not required to post a picture of yourself. Posting a picture, however, will get more responses to your profile. So you can surf through the other members on the dating site you have joined with complete anonymity.
- (2) You have so many more choices online than you do in your brick and mortar world. Before the world of online dating came of age, the choice of friends and even of lifetime partners was limited to those we came in contact with through college or work. No more...the world is your oyster. You can go through hundreds...even thousands of profiles to find the right partner for you.
- (3) The "safety factor" is the biggest reason of all. An online dating service will never reveal your personal information. You get to choose who has that information and when they have it.

## **Online Dating Tips For Men**

So you have just joined an online dating community. Do not be discouraged when your prospect dates have not yet responded to your queries. Women members of online dating portals receive an average of 50 to 200 queries from other members of the opposite sex. This means she is just taking time going through all the queries she has received. You need to be a bit more patient. Have a proactive approach when it comes to online dating. Focusing on one woman would reduce your chances of landing a response. Try sending messages to different women in order to bolster the probabilities of getting a good response.

Carefully choosing your would-be dates is a good thing to do since this would help you land the dates who have the same interests as you. However, do not be too selective. You have to try creating a unique profile when sending messages. Make it stand out because there will be a lot of messages for one woman from other members of the online dating community.

Starting out with an interesting username is favorable. In addition, read through the profiles of your intended partners in order to incorporate a few things they like on your own profile, but keep in mind to include just the things you are actually interested in. By doing so, your prospective partners will read through your profile after receiving a query from you and end up remembering you because of the stuff on your profile. She may even feel that you took the time to read through her profile and subsequently establish a connection with her.

Be truthful about the things you put on your profile. Lying about stuff will just ruin your entire reputation in the online dating community. In addition, it will be harder to correct lies whenever you and your dates have known each other better. It would also prevent you from enjoying while you are on a date with the other members of the online dating community because you will be too careful to cover up all the lies you have told your dates before you got to go out on a date with them.

# **Online Dating Tips For Women**

Women in search for a knight in shining armor in real life dating should not lower their standards while searching online. They should keep their dreams of having a prince charming to the rescue. But having big dreams does not mean being too selective.

Women should be selective but they should not limit their options exactly to their ideal men. Limiting your options will decrease the possibility of having a good catch. Create an interesting profile. This is one way to attract your prince charming. The content of your profile should be honest and true if you are looking for someone who will be your partner for a long and intimate relationship. Thus, put something on your profile that can make a good first impression. This impression should also last a lifetime. Keep in mind to upload a photo with your most attractive smile. Avoid overly sexual photos - upload sexy photos, but limit it to PG13 viewing.

Let us include your safety. Make sure your common sense is working well. Do not give your personal home address to your online date. If you plan to meet up somewhere, have someone to accompany you or know about your plans. If uneasiness is felt while being with your date, you have the right to stop and cut all contact off between you. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Online dating is a rapidly growing activity. Better hurry and carry on these tips to start your wonderful search for your partner.