

30 Practical Tips for Successful Dating

By Toby Lieder – Veteran Shadchan & Dating Coach

1. THE 5 DEAL BREAKERS

Reduce your list of requirements for your future spouse to 5 deal breakers. Before and after each date, check the list and use it as a point of reference. You should share this list with your Matchmaker, family, and friends to let them know what you need. Whenever small nuisances play out in your relationship, remember the 5 Core values that attracted you to them in the first place.

2. PROFILE AND REFERENCES

Your profile should look professional, like you are applying for a job. Select your references carefully, choose people that know you personally. Too many potential matches fall through due to poor references and in some cases, from references working against them.

3. CYBER CLEANSE

Clean your social media accounts, ensuring they portray you in the best light. Your social media is often the first point of reference when being vetted by a potential candidate.

4. TALKING PROFILE

Consider the idea of a talking profile. It enables people to see you in a different light. The talking profile captures your body language and expressions. Talk into a video sharing your name, passion, job, and the values you seek in a spouse. Successful engagements have been made because of this one-minute clip. I have seen singles change their minds after rejecting a profile and go on to get engaged.

5. MATCHMAKER

Always keep the Matchmaker in the loop. Many potential matches fall apart because the Matchmaker was let go. The more involved the Matchmaker is, the greater the benefits are, allowing the dating process to flow more smoothly and diplomatically.

6. AKNOWLEDGMENT

A man once asked for my PayPal after arranging a date for him, depositing \$100 to acknowledge the hard work I put into helping him get a date. This was greatly appreciated. The Matchmaker often works long unpaid hours as many suggestions don't always work out. A box of chocolates or a simple thank you goes a long way.

7. FEE

Its important to understand and agree on the Matchmaker's fee prior to starting the process so there's no misunderstandings down the line.

8. LET YOUR CHILDREN DECIDE

Parents must pay serious attention to what their child is telling them about what they want in a spouse. They should not decide based on what is good for them or their own experiences. If the child is mature enough to get married, they are old enough to choose what they want for their future spouse.

9. GENTLE REMINDERS

Every month, send out a message to close friends and family that really care about you and your child asking them to think of a suitable match.

10. BE OPEN MINDED

Think outside the box. Allow yourself to reconsider dating someone who was previously suggested or perhaps you previously dated. I know of many successful matches that resulted from revisiting a previous suggestion that was once dismissed or redating someone at a different time.

11. BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

If you hear a negative report about a potential candidate, give them the benefit of the doubt. Go directly to the actual person involved and ask them the questions.

12. RESEARCH

Just like purchasing a new cell phone, car, house, or laptop, we don't just buy without extensive research to ensure that it meets all our requirements. How much more so with the person we will live with for the rest of our life.

13. TZEDOKAH AND PRAYER

Give extra Tzedakah, having in mind that this is in the merit of finding your match. Hashem is running the world precisely the way it is meant to be and will reveal his plan at right time. It says, if one prays for another person that which he himself needs, Hashem will answer their prayers.

14. MINDSET

It is important to approach your date with the right mindset and without preconceived ideas or expectations.

15. PRIORITISE

Consider taking time off work to be rested for your upcoming date. This is one of the most significant decision-making times in your life. Be rested, calm and relaxed. Do not base your dates around personal commitments.

16. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Take time to look polished, clean, and presentable. Dress in your finest clothes.

17. BE PUNCTUAL

If you are picking her up at 7:00, be there at 7:00. It's not just a matter of being on time, it's a matter of showing her early on that you are reliable, trustworthy and stand by your word.

18. WALK TO THE DOOR

When picking her up, walk all the way up to her doorstep and open the car door for her, if appropriate. It is a courteous gesture that says a lot more than sending a text saying "Here" or "Outside".

19. CLEAN CAR

Make sure your car is clean and smells fresh. A messy or dirty car is a big turn-off. A girl wants to be assured that an effort was put in for this date.

20. STRUCTURING YOUR DATE

It is recommended to start a date earlier rather than later. Keep dates to a maximum of 3-4 hours. This helps prevent burn-out and dating-fatigue. Ideally dating shouldn't be done on consecutive nights to allow time to reflect and anticipate. It is also recommended to mix things up and go for a day date for the third date.

21. CHECK IN

2-3 hours into the date ask her if she is ok or would like to go home. If the date is going well, ask what sort of activities she may enjoy for a future date.

22. FOOD

People like to feel nurtured and preparing food or snacks is a great way to show the other person that you care. For girls, this could mean preparing sandwiches for a day out, for guys this can mean having snacks prepared for each date.

23. SILENT MODE

It can seem disrespectful to go on your cell phone during a date. Put it on silent to ensure you aren't disturbed and can be fully present.

24. GOOD MANNERS

Remember to open the door for the girl when entering a venue. The way you interact and speak to the doorman, waiter, Uber driver or bartender, will be closely monitored by your date. Remember to say please and thank you. Thank them for travelling in and don't ask if they would like to date again, just thank them for a nice time.

25. ACTIVE LISTENING

Listen more than you talk. Hear the other person out completely and show a real interest in them. Do not interrupt them with your opinions. Repeat back in your own words what you understood, it will make her feel acknowledged and respected. Don't interrogate, focus on making them feel comfortable.

26. RAPPORT

There are many strategies to help build rapport with your partner early on. These include, saying their name, showing genuine interest and complimenting them. Some great topics to get started with are work, travel, hobbies, and their love languages.

27. SAFETY

If it's getting late remind her to check back at home that she's ok. When dropping the girl back home, always wait for her to go into her house before leaving. This will give her a sense of safety and security. Never drive away until she is inside.

28. THE SECOND DATE

Most people are nervous on the first date and find it hard to be confident and natural. Unless the first date was totally off-putting, it is highly recommended to go on a second date, particularly if one person travelled for the date.

29. TEXTING

Too many potential matches fall apart because of misinterpreting texts. Avoid texting at all, especially during dating and engagement. Discuss this rule right from the start. The Matchmaker will deliver urgent messages - that is their job. If you have something important to convey, pick up the phone and call them.

30. LOSHON HORA

Too many potential dates are ruined because people spoke ill of their dating experience. What you say may prevent someone meeting their match, choose your words carefully. It is recommended to not compare notes or details of your date with friends. It is honourable to treat the dates with privacy and respect.