

## 25 Practical Tips for Dating

### 1. THE 5 DEAL BREAKERS

Reduce your list of requirements to 5 deal breakers. Before and after each date check the list using it as a point of reference. Share this list with the Matchmaker and family/friends informing them exactly of your needs. In the future when small nuisances play out in your relationship, recall these 5 Core values which attracted you to them in the first place to help put things back into perspective.

### 2. PROFILE AND REFERENCES

Your profile should look professional, as if you are applying for a job. Select your references carefully, choose people that know you personally. To many potential matches fall through due to poor references, and even from references working against them.

### 3. 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, your passion, job, and the values you seek in a spouse. Successful engagements have been made because of a one-minute clip. I have seen singles change their minds after rejecting a profile and go on to get engaged.

### 4. SHADCHAN / MATCHMAKER

Always keep the Matchmaker in the loop. Many potential matches unfortunately 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. The matchmaker mediates, helping prevent miscommunications.

### 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A fellow 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 Shadchan often works long unpaid hours as many suggestions don't always work out. A box of chocolates/thank you card goes a very long way.

### 6. LISTEN

Parents pay serious attention and listen to what your child is telling you and what they really want in a spouse. Do not decide based on what is good for you. Make no judgements while having this conversation. If the child is mature enough to get married, he/she is old enough to choose what they want for their future spouse!

### 7. GENTLE REMINDERS:

Every month send out a message to only close friends and family that really care about you and your child. Ask them to stop and think of a suitable match. I have seen successful engagements come from this idea. Attach the resume and photo.

### 8. BE OPEN MINDED

Think outside the box. Allow yourself to be surprised to reconsider dating someone previously suggested or dated. I know of many successful matches that resulted from revisiting a previous suggestion that was once dismissed.

#### **9. 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 (such as a match), Hashem will answer their prayers.

#### **10. 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.

#### **11. BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT**

When you hear a negative report about your potential candidate for dating, don't believe everything you hear. Give them the benefit of the doubt and find out the truth. Go directly to the actual person involved and ask them questions.

#### **12. 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. It is also very important you are rested.

#### **13. 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 stand by what you say. You are reliable, trustworthy and stand by your word.

#### **14. WALK TO THE DOOR**

When picking her up, walk all the way up to her doorstep. Do not send her a text saying "Here" or "Outside" when picking her up. (Only when appropriate). Go out of the car and go up to the door. It is a courteous gesture that says a lot.

#### **15. CLEAN CAR**

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

#### **16. DATING**

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.

#### **17. WHEN TO END THE DATE**

3-4 hours into the date ask her if she is tired, wants to continue, or would like to go home. Even if the date is going well, still give her the choice to go home.

#### **18. DAY DATE**

Guys like to feel nurtured. What greater way than you bringing food prepared nicely for the day out? It can be sandwiches, snacks etc. The more thought you put into the preparing and presentation, the more appreciated it will be.

#### **19. 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.

#### **20. 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.

#### **21. LISTEN**

Listen more than you talk. Hear her out completely and show a real interest in Her. Do not interrupt her with your opinions. Repeat back in your own words what you understood. It will make her feel acknowledged, and respected.

#### **22. SAFETY**

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.

#### **23. 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.

#### **24. TEXTING**

Too many potential matches fall apart because of misinterpreting texts. Avoid any texting at all, especially during dating and engagement. Discuss this rule right from the start. The Matchmaker will deliver your urgent messages - that is their job.

#### **25. DEBRIEFING**

It is recommended to not compare notes or discuss with friends' details of your date. It is honourable to treat the dates with privacy and respect.