

INTERNET DATING GUIDE

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Which Dating Site?

There are a large number of dating sites on the Internet, and it is difficult to decide which dating site or sites one must sign-up for to make the most of their online dating experience.

The most important consideration when selecting a dating site is its size: you want access to a large number of people. This ensures that you get the maximum value for your subscription fee, and the time and effort spent in learning to use the site-you can contact a lot of people quickly and efficiently.

Choosing a Dating Service

Number of Members

This is a major consideration. It's simple: the more users there are, the more selection you'll have! A large number of members also means that there is likely to be more users from your own home town. It's not uncommon for online dating services to have in excess of 1 million users. That's a lot of people! You may even discover that someone you know is using the same dating site. Think that's unlikely? Well, you'd be surprised!

Subscription Costs

Unfortunately there is no such thing as a good free dating service. Ignore anyone that tells you otherwise! There're two main reasons for this. Firstly, they're expensive to run. The companies that run them have to pay for, amongst other things, web hosting and administration costs which, as you could imagine when you have millions of users, can get a little expensive.

But wait, it's not all bad news! The subscription costs are normally extremely good value for money, particularly with sites that offer great features like voice and video interaction. In reality people don't have to pay the monthly cost for the course of a year anyway. Users will often form new relationships using the dating service and then continue communicating by other means such as email or even by phone if things are going really well! Having said that, people often enjoy using the services so much that they're willing to continue paying the small amount each month and indeed consider it money well spent!

What's also good news is that the subscription costs actually mean that the people using the service will most likely be genuine people with the genuine intention of forming new relationships. It also means that the users are likely to be more active, in order to get their money's worth! This is all good news for you.

Because the sites don't require you to sign up for a whole year, it's best to simply try it out for a month and then if you don't like it, you don't have to continue paying anyway! But almost all find they do enjoy the experience.

Free Trials

All the good dating sites will offer a free trial period. During this time, the site may not allow you to access all of their advance features. But it will allow you to have a look around and see if you like it. I can't stress enough how important this is. You should take advantage of all these free trials! After all, as you're not paying anything, you have nothing to lose.

Communication Features

The most basic of all these features is the simple email. This might not mean email gets sent straight to your normal email account, but rather that you will get your own dedicated "mail box" on the site you're using. When you want to contact another user, or another user wants to contact you, the messages will get sent to and from this mail box. All sites support this basic feature.

The second most common feature, and probably also the most popular, is the classic online chat rooms. These often form the main hub of a dating site's community. They're great for chilling out and getting to know people. Most of them also support private chat rooms where you can chat directly to someone without anyone else seeing.

Dating sites are increasingly making use of modern technology to make their services more interactive. These can be great fun to use! Even if you don't think you'll use these to start off with, you should seriously consider selecting a site that supports them.

The first of these features is voice communication. People participating will normally have a microphone plugged in to their computer. However, you can often listen in anyway even if you don't have one. It can be quite surprising to finally hear what someone really sounds like. To top things off, it's a lot cheaper than a phone call!

More and more people are buying web cams and websites are increasingly providing support them. Again, even if you don't have one, I would recommend looking for sites that support them. It also provides some re-assurance that the site owners are taking an interest in their users and constantly working to improve their user experiences. Besides that, they're also great fun!

Best Online Dating Services

We recommend that you open an account with a couple of these top online dating site - that way you are sure to cover a large pool of singles looking for partners. The money spent per month on a dating site subscription is less than the price of a fancy dinner; and if you can significantly increase the probability of meeting a partner online by signing up for a couple of dating sites, you should consider it a wise investment.

Great Expectations

With nearly 30 years of experience in helping people find true love, they have a distinct advantage over newcomers to the industry. There are over 50 Great Expectations centers across the country and more than 100,000 members nationwide.

As a member of Great Expectations, you will have access to a team of relationship professionals and thousands of member profiles. Also, you will receive invitations to Great Expectations parties and events exclusive to members. The people you will meet are single and live in your area. Their state-of-the-art matching system, will help put you in your desired relationship quickly. Plus, all members are screened via telephone calls by their Relationship Specialist to ensure members are educated, intelligent, financially capable men and women serious about meeting and dating quality singles.

[Click here to visit Great Expectations](#)

Yahoo! Personals

The largest Dating Service of the Internet Yahoo! Personals has well over 9 million members with profiles.

This web site has been designed with the idea of simplicity. There is not a large amount of information that needs to be entered for yourself so you can create your profile quickly and start searching for the perfect partner. Searching is setup in a pleasing way allowing you to hide the advance options you do not need. Saving of searches is also a big help for when you want to log into the site quickly, just to see if there is anyone new that has signed up that meets your criteria.

[Click here to visit Yahoo! Personals](#)

PerfectMatch

Sign-up now and see why they are the fastest growing relationship site. You've seen PerfectMatch.com on the Dr. Phil show, LIVE with Regis and Kelly and in the major motion picture Must Love Dogs starring Diane Lane and John Cusack. PerfectMatch.com 's Valentine's Day Dr. Phil appearance caused 50,000 woman to join. Experience the fun of making meaningful connections with singles online.

PerfectMatch.com centers around the Duet® Compatibility System and was designed to serve the needs of the relationship-oriented adult, not the casual dater. Duet is designed to uncover real compatibility between their members.

[Click here to visit PerfectMatch](#)

eharmony

one of the most in depth Dating Services on the Internet. eharmony.com is based upon a complex matching system developed through extensive testing of married individuals. One of the requirements for it to work successfully is for participants to take their time and fill in a in depth and rigorously defined profile. Every match is screened for compatibility with you, so you don't have to search through endless profiles. Definitely for people who are looking for a serious relationship.

[Click here eharmony](#)

Photo

Your Picture

Just as your profile is the first thing people will see when they find you on a dating site, your picture is the first aspect people will notice about your profile. A bad picture can in fact cause people to completely ignore your profile altogether. Some basic tips will help you get it right.

Whatever you do, if you can possibly avoid it, don't use a passport photo. As you're most likely aware, these pretty much always turn out looking terrible. Of course, if you do happen to strike it lucky and yours looks ok then there's no reason why you shouldn't use it.

Avoid the temptation to pull a stupid face to cover up any insecurities. Just be yourself, but of course pick your best side! Try not to take a photo of your face that's straight on. Instead, turn almost side on to the camera and then turn your face towards the camera. This will stop your face from looking like a big moon!

Now -- a word on lighting. The best lighting for your picture is not too harsh but not too dull. What this basically means is that direct sunlight is not very flattering. Ever wondered why photographers use those reflective umbrellas? They're used to spread and soften the light. Similarly, make sure there's enough light in the first place. If you can avoid it try not to take the photo in a situation where you have to use a flash. Small flashes on compact cameras often spoil what would have been a good photo in daylight. The light from a window can result in a good photo.

So what do you actually do with yourself whilst the photograph is being taken? Well, obviously, smiling helps. No - not a cheesy grin, a smile! Get someone that makes you laugh to take the photo.

Don't go over the top with the flirting. By all means, show some flesh and look sexy but keep it to a level you're comfortable with. Though, this "X-factor" obviously depends on what you want from the experience and the type of person you want to attract! However, if you're male - you'll have more luck if you don't mention sex at all in your profile!

I would suggest buying film and getting your friend to fill the whole thing with photos of you. One of the photos, if you follow the tips above, is bound to turn out pretty nice. Professional photographers will take

loads of photos of the same thing in varying situations with the hope that one of them will turn out just right. If it works for them, it can work for you. Maybe not on the same level, but you may get close! Oh and if you have a digital camera, then put it to good use.

Then again, if you can afford a professional photographer to take a few photographs of you, then this is probably the most reliable method of getting a photo that you (and other people!) will like. However, make sure the photographer understands that you want it to look "natural." Otherwise you run the risk of looking like a professional model and people will think you've just cut a picture out of a magazine or something!

If you don't have a digital camera, scanner or webcam then you might find it hard getting your photo on your computer ready for uploading. Worry not! Some dating services will scan your photo in for you. Just send it to them in the post. Be careful though, because not all sites will offer this service. If you think you will need something like this then be sure to find out first.

Alternatively, some photo-processing shops will now put your photographs onto a CDROM for you, which you can then obviously use to upload your chosen snap to the dating service.

It is surprising how many people are still shy about putting their photo online. They are scared that the guy they work with, or another acquaintance, will discover their profile and somehow that makes them uncomfortable. Well, guess what: those other people are the ones who are behind the curve. Online dating is here to stay, and you must be completely comfortable with putting a profile on the Net, with photos, to look for a partner. This WILL BE (it may already be) the most popular way to meet new people. By being upfront about putting your personal ad and your photo on a dating site, you are embracing the future.

The primary photo is a very important part of your personal ad. This is the photo which shows in search results and when people are casually browsing online dating ads. If this is bad, people won't even bother to click and look at your profile! The ideal primary photo is a head shot, or about a quarter of your body height, so you can see the shoulders. It should be bright, your face clearly visible (brightness can be adjusted by software).

If the site allows you to put more than one photo, and you have good photos, go ahead and upload them all. For the secondary photos, photos with friends and family are a good idea because they give the impression that you are a normal social human being.

Avoid using sunglasses in photos. Do not be provocative or too revealing (most sites will not even accept such a photo).

Creating a profile

Your Opening Line

A lot of dating services will allow you to write your own "opening line" that is sometimes used as a link into your more detailed profile from a search results page. This, like your picture, could mean the difference between people clicking it to read more about you or, worst case, simply ignoring it.

Obviously we want to go for the more preferable "click" option! So it's important to write this so people simply can't resist wanting to know more about you. To help ensure this, try to write something that will catch someone's attention, but still has an air of mystique about it.

Your profile is your online persona as far as other users of an online dating service is concerned. You've heard of first impressions being important, right? Well, your profile will be the first impression that you create if someone finds you on a dating site.

We know one of the hardest part of creating your profile is describing yourself to others. Following are some time tested tips that can assist you in creating a compelling & attention grabbing profile.

The opening line of your profile is the first and perhaps most important part. You want to create a profile that captures your strong points and stands out from the crowd.

Grab Attention With Your Opening Line

A full profile can take up an entire page so most dating websites display just your opening line and photo on search results. Make sure your opening line makes them want to click on your ad! Refrain from cheesy overused opening lines, such as "hello ladies!"...or "girl next door".

If you can't think of something interesting here are some ideas to get you started.

Make sure that there are adjectives emphasizing your joy and vitality -- "love to laugh," "crazy about fishing." Here are some more examples:

LIVE WIRE SEEKS SPARKS

CUTE LADY WHO LOVES HOCKEY

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR GIGGLE TODAY?

ATTRACTIVE. ADVENTUROUS. ADORABLE.

You'll notice that good headlines are positive, interesting, and humorous. Keep things light.

Example: Hopelessly romantic, cuddly 40 yr old geekess seeks an affectionate geek for a match made in heaven

Does any of these words describe you?

bubbly

classy

country

creative

cuddly

curvy

down-to-earth

driven

hopelessly romantic

huggable

huggable bear
passionate
playful
romantic
sensitive
sizzling
spontaneous
sporty
thrill seeking
voluptuous
wild
witty

angel
bunny
chick
dude
dudette
geek
geekess
hero
hunk
prince
princess
sweetie
tiger
tigress

Sustain Interest With The Body Text.

Honesty is the Best Policy

As the saying goes, honesty is the best policy. Honesty is the single most important thing to remember when writing a great profile. It's much easier to write about yourself if you are honest about who you are. It prevents you from having to spin ways to best sell yourself or guess at what you think other people want to read.

A major part of being honest is not misleading people down the road. People will assume that what you write is true — and you don't want to set people up for a surprise later by stretching the truth in your profile. For example, if you hate mountain climbing, don't say you love it just to grab the eye of an outdoorsy type.

Give Some Thought Of What Sets You Apart.

How are you different? What gives you your unique character? If your friends were describing you, what would be the three things they would all say about you? These are good questions to ask yourself as you get ready to write your profile.

Put Your Negativity Aside

Often times, people start their ad off with, "I'm sick of ... !", "I'm tired of...!" or "I hate Brunette...!" etc. It's advisable not to include this as the first thing that you want to express in your profile ad. It just gives

the impression of too many unhealthy relationships in the past. Instead, try to be more positive & upbeat in your profile. Soon enough you will notice a leap in the response rate.

Stay Open & Be Conversational.

Leave formality at the door and write your profile like you are talking to a good friend. Of course, there are some things you might tell a good friend that you probably don't want to include in your profile. It's a good idea to avoid mentioning past relationships and exes, or discoursing on being lonely or desperate. Be optimistic!

Show How, Don't Tell.

The best profiles show, don't tell, who you are at your best. If you are known for being funny, try explaining how or why you are funny - such as, "I've been known to show up to a party in a wig", instead of "I have a good sense of humor." Paint a picture in their minds of the kind of person you are.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

The importance of this point can't be emphasized more. Your smile, the background that you're photographed in, what you're wearing; they all paint a picture of what you're truly like. And including a recent photo will get you 800% the attention.

Updating Your Profile Often.

Keep your profile fresh. Every now and then, go back to your profile and update it to let people know you're still out there.

Go Through Your Spelling & Grammar.

Check your profile for typos and spelling mistakes before you submit it. Show that you spent time thinking about them while writing your profile. Always proofread your ad & run it through a word processor, such as Microsoft Word so that you can have your spelling & grammar checked.

Dating Profile Example

Effective rewrites that get results.

Rewrite your profile in a way that really lets your personality shine through — which will immediately set you apart from the crowd!

Profile Example Before

Does This Really Work?

Hi, thanks for looking. I am independent, honest, open-minded, giving and caring. I like going out with my friends, dancing, movies, golf, concerts, weekend getaways ... i love discovering new things and enjoying simple pleasures. I like a man who knows what he wants out of life. No couch potatoes allowed. He should be financially set with no strings attached. Someone who is funny and can make me laugh, happy and exciting to be around, respectful of others, supportive and intelligent. Please include a picture or I will not respond, after all you seen one of me. If that sounds like and you would like to know more about me, send me an email and let's talk! ...LOL

Profile Example After

Biz-Suiting by Day, Boot-Scooting by Night

Take one hefty scoop of salsa, blend with the sugar of what my friends call a sweet disposition, shake vigorously for one hour on a dance floor ... and you've got me. Not only do I love salsa as well as country-western dancing, I'm crazy about my job of twelve years.

Other things I get a "kick" out of: Listening to and then meeting local bands; traveling (especially down to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico). I love learning about new cultures and given my love of gardening, checking out new landscaping. As far as keeping active, my passions are tennis, softball and rollerblading. Currently, I'd like to learn how to play golf — maybe attempt 9 holes with some wonderful new man I meet on this dating site?

I don't take the little things for granted, from snuggling under a blanket in the rain as I enjoy my garden to sharing belly laughs and some mean Tex-Mex with my dearest friends in the world. (Think "Sex in the City Goes South for Salsa!") I believe life is just too short to not embrace it wholeheartedly. Or, to quote James Brown, " Any problem in the world can be solved by dancing."

I see you as someone whose energy level matches mine, is comfortable giving and receiving affection. Someone I can laugh with, be silly as well as be serious. Financially stable, a person who will treat me well and embrace me for who I am, as I will do with him. Someone who I would be proud to call my friend. If this resonates with you: Consider this your invitation to the dance!

Internet Dating

Dating has become easier for everyone due to the emergence and success of online dating websites. You can choose the site that suits you best, look for people who have the features you desire along with common interests and contact them immediately. Some dating sites are featuring their own instant messaging for members to instantly communicate with each other. This is a great way to make contact and get excited about a new 'date'. But when you start chatting back and forth, the other person is typing recognizable words along with small clusters of letters here and there. What are they saying? These are considered to be 'Net Lingo' and are commonly used Internet acronyms. 411 - Information

AFK - Away from keyboard

AISI - As I see it

AMBW - All my best wishes

ATST - At the same time

B4 - Before

B4N - Bye for now

BBIAF - Be back in a few

BBL - Be back later

BBN - Bye-bye now

BS - Big Smile

BTW - By the way

CID - Consider it done

CSL - Can't stop laughing

CWYL - Chat with you later

DGT - Don't go there

DHYB - Don't hold your breath

DKDC - Don't know, don't care
EG - Evil Grin
EOM - End of message
FOAF - Friend of a friend
FTTB - For the time being
FWIW - For what it's worth
FYI - For your information
GAL - Get a life
GL - Good Luck
GR8 - Great
GTG - Got to go
GTSY - Glad to see ya
HAGO - Have a good one
HAK - Hugs and Kisses
HB - Hurry Back
HHOK - Ha, ha only kidding
HTH - Hope this helps
IAE - In any event
IDKY - I don't know you
ILY - I love you
IMO - In my opinion
IRL - In real life
IYSS - If you say so
J/W - Just wondering
KIT - Keep in touch
KWIM - Know what I mean
LD - Long distance
LMK - Let me know

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