

Before the date:

Ask for information

When planning how to dress for the date, it's ok to ask the matchmaker (or man directly if there's no matchmaker) if you should dress up or dress down, wear heels or comfortable shoes, etc.

Before you leave

If your date travels far to pick you up, offer him a drink or the restroom before leaving your home.

Be prepared

Bring your cell phone and some money. For your safety, make sure someone knows where and with whom you're going out.

During the date:

Start with "Thank you"

Start the date off by thanking him for picking you up, especially if he came a far distance.

Remain gracious

If the man opens the door or pulls out your chair, accept the gesture. "Thank you so much" and a smile is much warmer than "Oh, I can do that myself."

Limit your use of your phone

on a date, and turn your phone to silent mode.

Body language is important

Make eye contact. Leaning in to listen is better than sitting back with your arms crossed.

Treat your date well and

remain courteous even if he is not for you. You always want to be referred to as someone with stellar character traits.

Be the best you

Be real, but trend toward the positive when speaking about yourself and others. Positivity is most attractive. Smile a lot.

Compliment your date

about something they say or do. Everyone likes to receive compliments, even if it is something small like, "That's really impressive."



Money matters

- Do not order excessively or the most expensive item on the menu—not the cheapest either.
- If it is an expensive outing, sometimes offering to split the bill or leave a tip may be seen as thoughtful. In most cases he will reject your offer, but appreciate the thought. Don't push the offer, but be prepared with money in case he accepts.

Go out to have fun

It is important to build the relationship incrementally. First see if you enjoy being in each other's company. This is done through small talk. This is an important step; it is not a waste of time. The first 2-3 dates should be light. Later, more serious topics can be introduced to the discussions.

If something is bothering you about the location, say what it is. "I am sorry, but the music is too loud, and I cannot hear you well. Maybe we can find another seat."

Keep the conversation balanced

Expect to do half the talking. Listen to what your date is saying; don't just focus on keeping the conversation going. Try not to give "yes" or "no" answers. Elaborate where you can and make it conversational. Occasional silences are normal.

After the date:

End off on a nice note

Thank him for an enjoyable evening, for traveling, etc.

- If he has a long trip home, you may consider asking him to text you when he gets home. It shows you care.
- When your date comes from out of town, send him off with food or a small travel pack for the trip home.

Text or call the matchmaker

after the date. The matchmaker may not remember when you went out. If it's late at night, you can wait until the next morning. It is courteous to respond quickly and not keep the man waiting long.

Thank all involved regardless of the outcome of the date

the matchmaker, your friends, or parents who may have called the references on your behalf, helped you prepare for the date, etc.

If you are interested in going out again, and he is not, remember:

- It is not a personal attack. He simply feels that the compatibility required for marriage is not there for him. You may also have felt this way at one time about someone else.
- Stay positive. Dating is a journey.

If he's not for you, he might have a friend who is more compatible with you. Similarly, try to think of a friend who might be a suitable idea for him.