

DATING AND LOVE

Grace Hsu

DATING

The purpose of dating is to allow men and women to become acquainted, to help them choose marriage partners, and then to tie the knot. The three common types of dating are (1) the single date on which a couple goes out alone, (2) the double date on which two pairs go out together, and (3) the blind date on which a third person arranges for a couple to meet and go out on either single or double date.

In the past, men were expected to invite women and foot the bill. But nowadays, it has become more and more usual for women to take the initiative to call men, ask them out, and share dating expenses.

Another change is that there exists no romantic love, and as a result, no dating relationship. On campuses and in offices, men and women are beginning to meet, talk and become friends, developing a relationship similar to that of brothers and sisters. When they are asked to describe the ties of friendship, they usually say "We are not dating. We're just common friends."

However, for the single nobles on the go or too shy to pick up the opposite sex, they may join "The Matchmaker," "Lonely Heart Club," or computer and video dating services to find their Miss Right or Mr. Wonderful, i.e. Snow White or Prince Charming. Only through these ways can they settle down.

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Everyone has got an idea of who their ideal mate is. The dream boat, unfortunately, isn't usually found around the corner, waiting to please us. Nor is the soul mate going to knock at our door and hold us close in the arms. Thus, if we are starving for love, we just have to get out of the shell and take action.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Those who believe in love at first sight consider love magic, feeling and chemistry.

Also, they think that it probably happens only once in a lifetime or never. On the other hand, practical people regard love at first sight as mere passion, which exists only in the movies or romance novels but not in real life. For them, falling in love takes time. Although the first impression is important, it is not enough for true love.

LOVE AND MATURE LOVE

By contrast with infatuation, which is marked by feeling of insecurity, love is friendship that has caught fire. It takes root and grows one day at a time. No one can deny that love can make one a better person than one was before. In addition to refilling one with strength, love enables one to overcome the sense of isolation. However, love is not based on sex. The couple must be friends before being lovers.

As for mature love, it permits one to preserve individuality and to be oneself. In mature love, two beings can become one and yet remain two. To put it another way, love is both slavery and freedom. For sure, miles do not separate the couple because love means trust. Near or far, one knows he or she is one's and one can wait. In short, mature love is the quiet understanding and mutual acceptance of imperfection. What it needs is not contract but commitment.

Annotations of Words and Expressions

1. allow v. to permit 允許
Smoking is not allowed in public.
2. acquainted adj. having met socially 認(結)識
We are acquainted with each other.
3. partner n. people married to each other 伙伴; 配偶 (妻或夫)
He is lucky to have a lifelong partner.
4. tie the knot n. phr. pomp to get married 結為連理
5. couple n. man and woman; husband and wife 情侶; 夫婦
They are a perfect couple.
6. arrange v. to plan in advance 安排; 籌劃
In Chinese society, most marriages are arranged by parents.
7. foot the bill phr. (infml) to pay (a bill) 付帳

8. take the initiative phr. to start the first act or movement 率先主動
9. expense n. (常為 pl.) the money used for a purpose 費用
Her company sent her to Paris and paid all her expenses.
10. be similar to phr. to be like; of the same kind 類似的; 與...相似
Your opinion is similar to mine.
11. relationship n. relation; connection (血緣) 關係
My ex-boyfriend's relationship with me only lasted one year.
12. campus n. the ground of a university, college or school 校園(區)
Do you live on campus or off campus?
13. develop v. to grow or become larger 發展
Reading helps to develop one's mind.
14. share v. to take part in 共用; 均攤(分)
May I share the book with you?
15. describe v. to give a picture in words 描述
Can you describe the accident in detail?
16. exist v. to live or be real 存在
Do ghosts and vampires exist?
17. single nobles phr. unmarried well-to-do people 單身貴族
18. on the go phr. (not fml) working all the time 忙碌; 活躍
19. the opposite sex n. phr. different genders 異性
20. The Matchmaker n. a TV show on TTV (台視)我愛紅娘
21. Snow White or Prince Charming
phr. a dream girl or a dream guy 白雪公主或白馬王子

22. settle down v. phr. to establish a home 安定下來
I hate to be alone; I want to get married and settle down.
23. ideal adj. perfect 理想的; 美滿的
An ideal marriage is made in heaven.
24. starve for
phr. long for 渴望
She is lonely and starving for companionship.
25. shell n. a hard covering of an animal 殼; (無實質)外表
I used to spend hours collecting shells on the beach.
26. love at first sight
phr. to fall in love at the first time of seeing 一見鐘情
27. chemistry n. the feeling between two persons 來電
I couldn't help falling in love—it was chemistry.
28. practical adj. sensible 講究實際的; 現實的; 功利的; 實用的
Your knowledge of English is not practical.
29. passion n. strong uncontrollable feeling 激(熱)情
The poet expressed his burning passion for Linda.
30. mature adj. fully grown and developed 成熟的
You must learn to behave in a more mature way.
31. by contrast with phr. comparison of unlike objects 比起來; 相形(較)之下
By contrast, she was much more outspoken.
32. infatuation n. the state of being wild about someone 迷戀; 痴心
We all know of Tina's infatuation for Andy.
33. be marked with phr. having 具有...的特色(徵)
Her face is marked with grief.
34. insecurity n. without safety 不安全

35. deny v. to declare untrue 否認
He denied that he was involved and demanded an apology.
36. isolation n. the condition of being isolated 孤立; 隔離
37. preserve v. to keep unchanged 保留(持)
In times of danger, he always preserves calmness.
38. separate v. to move apart 分離
I heard that Mr. and Mrs. Smith had separated.
39. trust n. firm belief; faith 信任(賴)
He showed himself worthy of our trust.
40. mutual adj. equally shared by each one 共同的;
one towards the other 互相的
41. contract n. a formal agreement between two 契約; 合同
The newly wed signed a marriage contract.
42. commitment n. loyalty to a system of thought and action; responsibility 承諾;
責任