

Social Rules for Online Dating

1. **Make sure you read someone's profile.** Profiles have valuable information that can help you know who might be a good fit or not. Do they have interests similar to yours? Are there any red flags you notice? Are they looking for a similar type of relationship as you are?
2. **Messaging someone does not guarantee a date.** Messaging can be a great way to connect with others, but you won't always meet up with everyone you chat with. There are many reasons why you or someone else may not be interested in meeting people in-person or going on dates. Remember to be respectful of other people's choices not to meet up!
3. **Give people time to respond before following up.** We all have responsibilities that may keep us from being able to respond right away. Bombarding someone with messages, especially if they have yet to respond, may overwhelm people and make them not want to talk to you.
4. **Take a hint.** Be prepared to not get a response. If you message someone, especially multiple times, it may mean they are not interested in chatting with you. Some people will be straightforward in communicating this with you, most will not.
5. **Don't take rejection personally.** Experiencing rejection is a normal part of dating, whether online or off. You will meet people you don't want to date, and you will meet people who don't want to date you. Be respectful of people's decision to not date you.
6. **Don't be afraid to end communication.** Remember that you are in control of who you talk to while online dating. You can choose to end communication whether you are not interested in dating or if the person is making you feel uncomfortable.
7. **Verify the person before you meet up.** It may be a good idea to look up someone on social media or google their name before you meet up to ensure they are who they say they are.
8. **Your safety is the #1 priority.** While being respectful is an important part of communication, it is not required if you feel your safety is at risk. It is better to be rude or disrespectful if it means you can safely exit a situation.