

DateBOB.co.uk
The Soulmate Finder

Online Dating Advice and Tips



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1. How To Write Personal Ads and Personals

Personal Ads are an art in their own right. For decades, personal ads have appeared in magazines and newspapers all over the world and people had to think of how to describe themselves in 25 words or less. It was difficult, impossible really, almost like the winning caption for a competition. But as none of us would like to be described as a competition prize so dating has evolved too. These days very sophisticated personal ads are appearing in top quality dating sites like DateBOB.co.uk. Luckily modern profiles are detailed and in depth and often offer multiple choice with hundreds if not thousands of answers to select from. However you are still describing yourself. It need not be so hard to make a free profile and get yourself dating again in an instant if you take some free advice that I offer you here.

If you want to get the best of your personal ads membership, try to present the right image, get people to interact with you by chatting daily, and become popular by being friendly. But these basics may help:

Obvious one - complete your personal ad profile fully. No, not partially! Fully! And accurately! There is nothing worse for a browsing member than spending their quality time opening your profile only to find your profile is full of Ask Me statements. SoBe informative, be complete, be thorough, and be of interest.

Add a photograph or two or even four! Amazingly, members with photos in their personal ads are likely to get up to 9 times more replies than members without any photo image attached to their profile. Okay, I know we aren't all photogenic models, but believe me - any photo is far better than none at all.

Don't be aggressive or rude in personal ads. It may be your sense of humour to be sarcastic or cutting, but it doesn't always come across best in anonymous text. Your sense of humour may not come across in the first instance and may not attract the desired attention, which comes once you are chatting.

You may have had a bad time with a previous partner, but making a list of specific criteria a future partner must meet usually has the effect of making people look elsewhere. Even if they match! We all seek Mr. and Miss Right, but turning dating into a job interview removes every ounce of romance and passion from the occasion.

If you wish to use swear words, then save them! Please don't use them here in your personal ad or conversations and emails. They are generally offensive and turn people off.

Make your personal ad truthful above all things, but also emphasize your best characteristics. Admitting that you are a loner who has no friends will not win you new friends usually. But emphasizing that you are a true individual with unique genuine properties, will.

If you really feel passionate about something say so, don't try and hide the things that are important to you. If you love partying say so, if your religion is important to you, say so. Be yourself.

Do not pretend that you are willing to fly half way round the world to meet someone if you are not. It's not fair on anyone including you. If you are really only looking for some one in your state or close to home then stick with that and make it clear.

Always try and reply to people's messages and reply in a reasonable amount of time, not weeks later. If you are serious about dating, you are serious about replying to personal messages.

Be patient, it takes time to find someone special using personal ads but it does work. After all, it's just that one special person that you wish to meet. Sometimes you need to chat to quite a few people first. Unfortunately, that is the world we live in. Take your time to complete your personal ads, take your time to chat with many different people, and take your time to get to know someone well.

Think positive and keep thinking positive. The best things in life may be free, but you have still got to find them first!

2. Hints and Tips for Safe and Successful Online Relationships

The key to meeting new friends is to have fun, relax and enjoy. DateBOB.co.uk is an excellent example of a dating site environment in which you can do these things safely and without any pressure. If you decide to meet someone there or in the outside world, then we feel there are some basic ideas you should follow for your personal comfort.

Of course, they cannot take responsibility for your actions using their services, as you are all adults, but there are a few basic rules that should be observed.

Okay, so what can you do to help yourself?

First you need to get replies to your emails and messages. To do this here are some tips you may find helpful:-

- Think about how your profile is written. Ensure there are NO spelling mistakes in your My Own Words section and your emails and messages. This is the first important rule.
- Keep your description short but be completely honest. If you are not being truthful then when you meet, you will be discovered, if not before.
- Add fun and humour to your profile, and don't be too serious at first.
- Don't be afraid to state who you wish to meet and why. Most adults know the kind of person they are attracted to, even if they are not sure why.
- Tell people what you like and perhaps things you don't. Don't be offensive though.
- Take your time; you can edit your profile at DateBOB at any time. Change it occasionally to keep it fresh, and try to be original.
- Add a photo to your profile. We find that a member with a photo can get anything up to 9 times the amount of replies, in comparison with those that do not include one.
- Be polite with messaging, and don't make judgments about the length of time to get a reply.
- Please don't feel you need to block someone just because they are too busy to chat this time. Be cool.
- Keep your first email short and to the point, perhaps humorous and interesting. Don't include too much detail at this point, and just a few things that you have in common. Make the email talkative and allow it to flow. Don't be too serious at this stage or too emotional.
- Do NOT include your personal details in an introduction email. Leave that until a relationship is established, and you feel very comfortable with the other person.
- Try and contact a few people at the same time, but always those who you have matched, not those who you have nothing in common with as they will not welcome your contact.
- Be honest and stick to the truth. It is all too easy to add things that at this stage are not checkable. However, you may get caught out later and ruin a fantastic friendship or romance.
- Always reply quite quickly to any messages.
- Don't talk about money or possessions at this time. Most people like or love someone for who they are, not what they have. We assume you do not want to find someone who simply wants you for what you can provide.
- Do not apply any form of pressure in an email, whether it is for a reply or a meeting. Do not be critical of their profile or photo. This will create a negative response.

Okay, so once you have mailed other members and are receiving their emails, then you may wish to consider the following:-

Ensure Your Privacy is Protected

The information you supply when you register at dating sites like DateBOB.co.uk is completely confidential. Your registration details are kept secret from all members and under no circumstances are made available to any third party. No member of staff should ever ask you for your password. They must NOT use your contact or email details for marketing purposes. Any member who matches you in their searches can only see what you have told them in terms of your personal profile, nothing more. Therefore, remember not to include your actual email address or telephone number in the text of your profile or in emails unless you are sure that you would like to take your friendship further. Dating sites generally cannot access your emails and do not have any control on what information you supply to another member. If someone you are in contact with is not giving much away then perhaps you should err on the side of caution.

Listen to Your Intuition

Often overlooked I feel. This is the thing we all use on a daily basis and we all trust our intuition often. It's easy to get carried away when someone appears to be interested. Remember the rule; if you suspect something, you are probably correct. Trust your judgment. Listen to what you are being told. Ask many questions. Don't give too many details away if the other person tells you very little. If someone is being honest, they will be happy to tell you about themselves and their lives. A key point is to make sure that you are enjoying your online dating. Never ever let someone pressure you. If you don't want to explain something or provide certain details then do not. A real friend will behave in a patient and relaxed way. After receiving an email, sit back and think about what you are being told, take your time and try and sense the person behind the email. And read their profile thoroughly.

When the Time Comes

At some point you may wish to meet in person the friend you have made. Remember the rule; you only have to meet someone if you really want to. If you feel uncomfortable about meeting, then don't agree to meet. Even if you have agreed, you can change your mind whenever you like. Perhaps you need to chat for longer; perhaps it would be better to use the phone first. Do not give out your home number, address, or personal details unless you are sure about the person you wish to meet.

If you do decide it's time to take your friendship a step further then here are some things to think about. It may save you a great deal of time and effort: -

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do you feel you know the person well?
- Have they answered your entire question?
- Are they patient, good humoured and fun?
- Do you trust them?
- Have they applied any pressure on you?
- Do you know what they do for a living, and the area they live in?
- Do you know about their background and family?
- Have you seen their photo and have you more than one photo of them in different situations?
- Have you spoken on the phone?
- Are you sure they have described themselves truthfully?

If you can answer YES to these happily then maybe it is time to meet. Only you can decide that. Think about these general dating rules, and act upon them if you think they are a good idea:-

- Tell a person close to you about the meeting. Tell them where you are going, when you are meeting them, where the meeting will take place, what time you will be returning. Give a person close to you as much information as you can. If you have a mobile phone or are close to a pay phone then perhaps call to say you are fine and that everything is great.
- Agree to meet in a public place first. Perhaps a restaurant or bar or somewhere where there are plenty of other people. Agree to meet somewhere that you know, in familiar surroundings where you can relax and enjoy the meeting. You could arrange to have other friends in the same place but at a distance, so you feel more relaxed.
- Do not agree to be collected from work or home, and make your own way there and home on the first occasion. Perhaps get a friend to take you there and collect you afterwards.
- Restrict the time of the first meeting. Perhaps a lunch hour or a short time after work. This is useful if you decide that the situation is not favourable and you need to leave.
- If at any point you wish to leave then do so. Do not feel obliged to stay and find yourself feeling awkward. If you do not feel relaxed then you will not enjoy the date. You owe it to yourself to feel happy and relaxed, and it is possible that it may take a few meetings with different people before you find that special person.

Long Distance Relationships

Online Dating through sites like DateBOB means that you can easily meet people from all over the world. This is a fantastic way of dating and perhaps very soon you may find yourself emotionally involved with someone who lives a long way away. Perhaps that may be part of the attraction even. However you should try and be practical. If the person lives overseas then ask yourself the question as to are you serious that you will travel a long way to see that person? If you do travel and find yourself more than happy, then how easy will it be to keep up the relationship? If you are content with this situation, and you decide to meet then there are some other things you may wish to consider:

- ALWAYS stay in a hotel you have arranged, and never stay at their accommodation, however generous. This will allow you both to feel less pressure, to relax into the situation and find some common ground. You may have both made promises in mail or on the phone that may be harder to keep once a meeting has occurred. If possible, arrange the hotel in a secure area of the city you are visiting, and arrange the hotel yourself. It's always easier to escape a date that's not going well, when not staying with them.
- Provide the details of your hotel and travel arrangements to a best friend at home, and make an arrangement to contact them when you arrive, after you have met your new friend and when you are returning. Take a mobile phone if possible and keep in contact.
- Always be cautious if in any doubt, and never be uncomfortable about changing your mind and returning home at any time should the situation cause you any concern.

The Bottom Line

The bottom line is to be yourself and enjoy your dating. We know that online dating can be great fun, safe and immensely enjoyable. We have found that as long as the basic precautions are followed, then it is possible to travel locally, or indeed, anywhere in the world to meet a special partner or make new friends. The beauty of dating online is that the whole world is open to allow you to meet fantastic new people. Just use a little intuition and common sense. We hope you don't mind us offering some basic tips and wish you every success.



3. Choosing an Online Dating Website

There are a variety of dating websites available to both general and specialist groups. Dating agencies like DateBOB.co.uk, Singlescrowd.com, and eHarmony deal with thousands of profiles worldwide, hosting millions of members looking for love. Other online dating sites, like JDate, ChristianCafe, BlackSingles.com, Hispanic Match.com, Senior Yahoo Personals, and more, concentrate purely on a single religion, ethnicity, or age group. I would never advocate selecting just a single specialist dating site at first because you really are putting all your eggs in one basket, but if you don't find what you're looking for on a general dating site, a specialty dating site may be just what you need.

Most dating sites have security and privacy policies and those that don't are best avoided. By security we mean that they vet their members, they have policies and terms of use allowing people to be removed, or barred from the site. They may have protective measures in place to ensure that the members dating online will not face any serious annoyance when logged in. On top of that some sites will register with data protection registrars and have a strict password system protecting accounts.

The very best dating sites will be aware particularly of women's issues when dating online and will have a positive policy allowing women members to block those who they do not wish to communicate with, without repercussions. There are some sites that penalize for blocking and we would never advocate you to use them.

Email should always be a private affair when dating online and the top dating sites usually keep your email within the site itself so that you have a protected in box but messages are never transmitted to your real world address. Instant messaging is increasingly seen as very important when dating online and allows instant communication with other members who are online at that time. This facilitates easy and private chats which can lead to positive relationship building.

Chat rooms don't occur on all dating websites but we see them as very useful for new daters and socialites who love to chat to many people at once. It is a good way of getting your typing and chat skills on top form. The best sites allow you to use a different name in a chat room to your regular profile to maintain anonymity levels. The other communication feature we now see increasingly is voicemail. Apart from being able to communicate online it is very useful to be able to leave voice messages and listen to them without ever giving out a real phone number. Certain dating sites utilize secure voicemail box ids and passwords through a common number allowing people to send and receive voice messages between themselves and members they like.

Here are some key things I believe you should always keep in mind when attempting to use the Internet for romance.

- Use a professional introduction agency, one that has been established for at least 3 years
- Use an Internet dating specialist firm, not some extra which is an afterthought
- Use an agency that allows free profile registration for all members
- Use an online service that allows you to post more than one photo for free
- Use a dating services agency that has a secure ecommerce system
- Do not use completely free agencies as you don't often get top quality services
- Do find an online agency that offers email and messaging that are onsite
- Don't use agencies that insist on sending emails to your own inbox
- The best Internet dating specialists offer you great customer service
- Use an agency that is appealing and relaxed and suits your style
- Don't go for agencies that pay for adverts to catch your eye, they are not always the best
- Look for online agencies that provide detailed dating articles and advice
- Make sure that the online agency includes their full address and phone number
- International websites usually have the best variety of member profiles
- Find an Internet agency that is willing to chat about any issues you may have
- Use an agency that offers different methods of secure payment
- Some of the best dating agencies allow payment in different currencies
- It is essential that you can Browse & Find profiles for free
- Make sure that the search facilities are fast and suit your style of searching



4. Photo Personals: Using Photos In Personal Ads

Photo personals are now extremely popular on the web. When using top internet dating agencies like DateBOB.co.uk you will get the opportunity to post different photos of yourself along with your profile for people to see. If you choose not to post any photos then generally you will not get many replies to your ad and you won't be making the most of your membership.

When you first meet someone, you look at their face, you look into their eyes, you hold their gaze and within a single second you may have stored 2 million separate pieces of information about that face. Instinctively you will either be drawn to its appearance or not. Much research tells us that we like symmetrical faces most of all, but we also take great notice of hair colour, length, nose, lips, smile and anything else of key initial importance in judging attraction.

Why then do people find it so hard to post photos of themselves on their profile? Believe me when I say, photo personals work! I cannot stress this enough. If you want to be successful when internet dating then begin by adding at least a single photo. Research varies on actual statistics but generally you can expect to get up to eight times more replies with a photo than without. This is because people can see what you look like and all those who are attracted to you will feel able to form a link with you and make contact.

It certainly appears to make sense to add a profile photo but many don't. The reason is often that people don't view themselves as photogenic. What they mean is that they don't look attractive in film. Maybe the camera adds weight to their features or they just don't like to see themselves as others do. It's a self-confidence issue. The argument goes that they don't have any nice photos available or the scanner is broken or they should really get round to scanning some in. The truth is that they don't like seeing themselves. This can be rectified by having some nice photos taken by a professional photographer which can then be scanned in later.

Another way of solving the problem and keeping the cost down is to buy a digital camera which you can then use to take thousands of photos of yourself time after time until you get the image you like the best. However if you do that you should only select the photos that actually resemble you. I have seen many disasters of people using internet dating services and misleading other members by using photos that were taken 10 years ago or that aren't a true reflection of them day to day. This in turn leads to instant disappointment on meeting.

Don't fool yourselves, when internet dating someone may indeed fall in love with you online and get to know your personality in depth but the moment you meet, if you don't look like your photograph it will mean nothing. People do NOT understand when they feel they have been misled so capturing someone by using no photo or a photo that is not a truthful representation is a complete waste of time. You are underestimating the power of physical attraction. Now I don't know how many countless times I have heard it said by people that they have learned to look deeper, beyond the outer shell and I am impressed. But it's not entirely true.

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