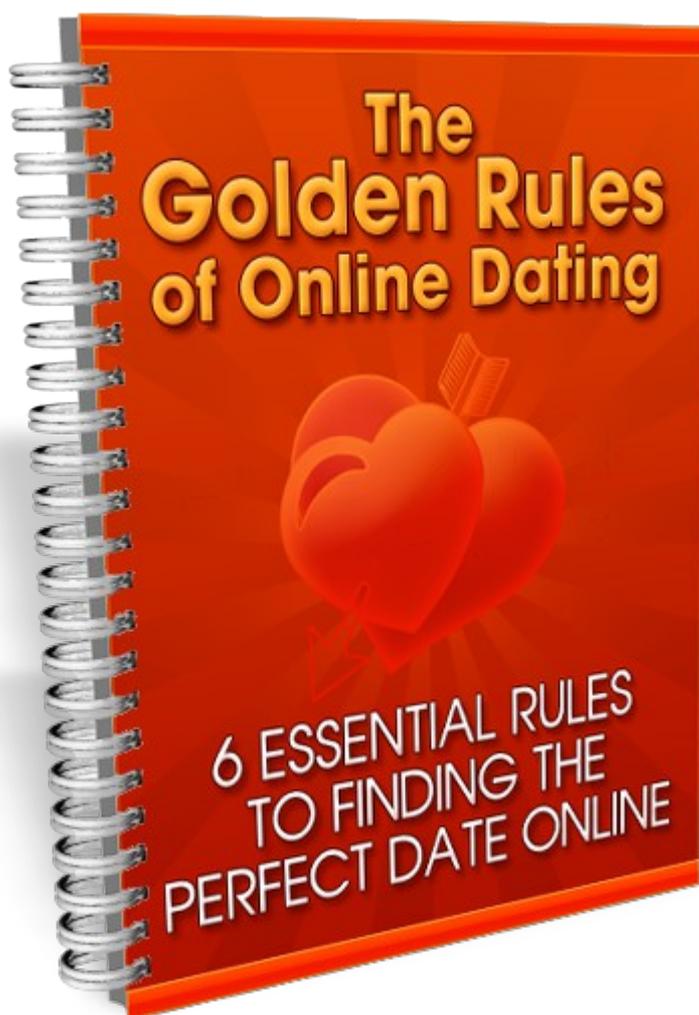


The Golden Rules of Online Dating  
6 Essential Rules To Finding The Perfect Online Date  
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## The Golden Rules of Online Dating

Online dating has exploded in popularity over the past few years. As our lives get busier and more hectic, and the internet has become more accessible, it has become easier and easier to meet new people online as opposed to via more “traditional” methods. Online dating lets you identify people who share your interests, and fit the profile of the kind of person you are looking for, before you even make first contact. The possibilities of making the kinds of connections you want are very realistic, and many long lasting relationships and marriages have begun via online dating services, not to mention casual relationships as well if that is what you prefer.

The possibilities are all right there and waiting for you, but there are a few key rules you need to know and follow in order to find your perfect date online. Read on to learn The Golden Rules of Online Dating – 6 essential rules to finding the perfect online date!

### Rule number 1: Play it safe

Online dating is a fantastic way to meet new potential love interests, and the kind of people you'd like to get to know further, but at the same time there are risks involved, as with just about anything in life. Before you decide which online dating site you are going to join, there are some precautions you should take.

To begin with, make sure your computer itself is adequately protected. Ensure you have an antivirus program installed, a firewall, as well as

malware protection. With these applications in place, you face far less risk of any unwanted nasties making their way onto your computer once you start browsing for dating sites and exchanging emails with potential dates.

When you come to the point of interacting with people online, don't hand out unnecessary personal information. Nobody online needs to know your home address, the specifics of your place of employment, your full name and other information of that nature. You can share personal information after you have actually met an individual and established a sufficient level of trust. Before that point, protect your personal information and concentrate on the kind of light exchanges that will help you decide who you might like to get to know further.

For men, be wary of people who may seem to be expressing an unusual interest in marriage early on in your interactions. Also be careful of people making requests for things from you, such as money. If you begin to feel pressured, step back from the interaction and consider seeking a new service or potential date. Online dating should be enjoyable and pressure free and if you follow the golden rules, it is.

For women, don't allow any individual to place any kind of unwanted pressure on you, be it to discuss things you'd prefer not to, or to meet in a place you are uncomfortable with. The first time you meet up with someone offline, make sure you set a time in the middle of the day, and go only to well lit public places until you know you are dealing with someone who can be trusted. For the first couple of offline dates, arrange to meet with or call a friend immediately afterward, so you have

someone looking out for you.

Keep these considerations in mind, exercise a healthy amount of caution and common sense, and you will find online dating to be a safe and wonderful experience.

## Rule number 2: Carefully choose the right site for you

Online Dating has grown exponentially over the past few years, and the amount of choice in Online Dating sites is enormous. In order to make contact with the kind of people that suit you, it is important that you start by finding the type of site that suits this kind of people.

There are a number of questions for you to consider that will help you make the right choice.

1. *How much are you able to spend?*

There are both free and paid online dating services, and varying prices on sites with different features to offer. Generally speaking, free sites are less than ideal, as you will find far less protection in place from the site administrators, and a higher number of 'unsavory types'. If money is a real issue and you feel you need to use free sites, be sure to remember the precautions described in "Rule 1".

2. *What features would you like to have access to?*

Paid sites will offer different features such as chat, instant messaging, profile matching and so on, and you'll be able to access

varying features for varying amounts. Investigate which sites give you the best value for money, and provide you with the most features that you are interested in using.

3. *Would you prefer to meet people who share special interests and / or your religion?*

There are a number of websites dedicated to particular sets of interests and hobbies, and also to individual religious faiths. If special interests and / or your religion is highly important to you, you may want to consider dedicated online dating services such as these.

4. *What degree of privacy and safety are you looking for?*

Some online dating sites allow you to restrict views of your profile and picture, giving you the option to manually allow specific people to see them. Some sites also do full background checks on their members, verifying marital status, age and so on. Decide what degree of privacy and safety you'd like in your service and choose a site accordingly.

5. *Who do your friends, family and associates recommend?*

If you know anybody that has done any online dating, nothing beats hearing about a first hand experience. See if you can get any testimonials on quality online dating services from people you know.

Rule number 3: Write a great profile, with a great pic.

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