

How to Have a Successful First Date

Process Analysis

Are you nervous about your first date? Relax, it's normal. We all get nervous when we do something for the first time. You just need to properly prepare yourself and follow a few basic steps. It's all pretty much common sense anyway, so you should make it through just fine. There are several ways you can go when trying for a successful first date, but there is one in particular that I believe excels over the rest. Below are step by step instructions to approach this kind of date. Good luck!

- **Prepare yourself.** A few days before the big event, decide on where you will go and what you will do. This part of the process is crucial. You want to avoid asking your date the question, "So what do you want to do?" because more often than not they will respond with, "I dunno. What do you wanna do?" If neither of you can think of anything, your date may be over before it even begins. Also, before the date, make sure you have the cash to cover both of you for whatever you have decided on doing. If you're picking her up, make sure it's with a full tank of gas, especially if you're leaving town. No sense in interrupting a date for a gas run.
- **A little surprise goes a long way.** Surprise your date by buying her a nice bouquet of flowers. I personally like to buy a single red rose wrapped in cellophane. The best way to do this is to buy the flowers the day of the date, preferably on your way to pick her up. Believe me, she isn't going to appreciate a wilted bouquet.
- **Be on time.** Don't get overly excited and show up early for your date. Chances are she will not be ready yet. You know how girls are. On the other hand, don't

show up late either. She may get irritated, thinking you have stood her up.

Getting chewed out for your lateness is not a good way to start a date.

- **Be polite.** When picking up your date, take the time to get out of your car to get her. Don't be lazy and honk your horn or call her cell to tell her to come get in the car. This rule of thumb is especially important when it comes to pleasing parents. Often, they will want to meet you before they let you take their daughter out. After you have escorted your date out of the house, take the time to open the car door for her. This is important because it leaves a good first impression that says you are a true gentleman.
- **Avoid long silences.** Throughout the date, make sure that there is always some form of communication taking place. Long silences can cause discomfort. Try telling her about yourself and what your interests are. Chances are, she'll share some of those interests and that will give you something to talk about. On the other hand, don't be a blabbermouth. If you're still talking about yourself at the end of the date, you've probably talked too long. Give her a chance to talk about herself. If you are in the car when conversation between the two of you isn't working out well, try putting on some music to drown the silence until you can think of something to say.
- **Pay for your date.** Whatever you and your date end up doing during your evening, always pay for it. If you follow the first rule correctly, this shouldn't be a problem. If you find out that you have forgotten to make a trip to the bank, the best advice I can give you is to tell your date you are going to the restroom.

When you get there, quickly find a window and make a run for it. Your date would have ended anyway the minute she found out you were broke.

- **Bring your date home on time.** Keep an eye on the time so you don't end up breaking your date's curfew. Chances are if she comes home late her parents won't be pleased with you and might not allow her to go out with you again. Depending on how the date went, give her a kiss on the cheek or lips (only do this if you are sure your date went well and that she would be ok with it) then say goodnight.

Now that you know all of the steps to having a successful first date, you should be able to easily succeed in making it the best date possible. Just remember to properly prepare yourself for the evening, and don't forget to show her that you're a gentleman. It's all common sense anyway, so just be yourself, and above all, have a good time.