

**Lesson B**

# More than a Friend



## The first date

**starting point**

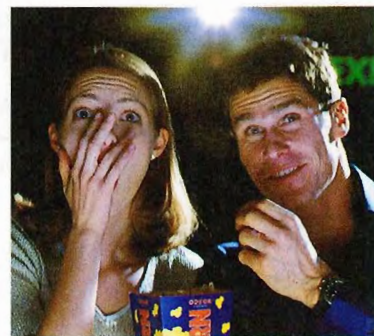
**A** Read about the places these people went on a first date. Did they make good choices? Why or why not?



**Sarah:** "I normally don't like going to amusement parks, but this time was different, and we had a lot of fun. We went on some terrifying rides and ended up going through a haunted house. The experiences gave us something to talk about."



**Andrea:** "I suggested that we go to a restaurant for dinner. Once in the restaurant, we had to wait for ages for a table. The food was bad, the service was lousy, and to top it all off, when we got back to the parking lot, it had already closed for the night."



**Jason:** "She said she didn't want to be taken anywhere special, so we went to a movie. It was a great choice because the movie was really scary, and she held my hand all the way through."

**A:** You shouldn't choose a restaurant for a first date. It forces you to sit and talk for a couple of hours, and that can be a strain.

**B:** Yes, but it can be very romantic, as long as you choose the right place.

**B Group work** What do you think of these suggestions for things to do on a first date? Discuss them and give other suggestions of your own.

- going dancing at a club
- renting a video and watching it at home
- having a picnic in the park
- visiting a museum

*I think the best idea is having a picnic in the park. It's relaxing and inexpensive....*



## Dating services

**listening**

**A** Listen to an advertisement for a dating service. What does the service offer? How do you become a member?

What the service offers	How to become a member

**B Pair work** Would you use the service? Why or why not?

## Gerund and infinitive constructions

Notice how the following verbs are used with gerunds and infinitives.

Verbs that take either a gerund or an infinitive: can't bear, can't stand, hate, like, love, prefer.

I **don't like going out** on blind dates. I **prefer to know** my date.  
I **like to go out** with people I have a lot in common with.

Verbs that take gerunds only: avoid, consider, enjoy, mind.

I **wouldn't** ever **consider using** a video dating service.

Verbs that take infinitives: ask, decide, expect, hope, intend, need, plan, refuse, want.

I **refused to go** to an amusement park on our first date.

Passive constructions can also be used with infinitives and gerunds.

subject + verb +  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{being} \\ \text{to be} \end{array} \right\}$  + past participle

I **don't mind being asked out** at the last minute.  
I **like to be taken** to exotic restaurants.



**A** Look at what these people have to say about dating. Complete the sentences with the gerund or the infinitive of the verbs in parentheses. Use the passive where necessary.

- I can't stand going to bars. I certainly wouldn't want to meet my future partner at one! (go, meet)
- I prefer \_\_\_\_\_ to a quiet club where I can talk with my date. (take)
- I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ like someone special. I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ ordinary things. (treat, do)
- I wouldn't consider \_\_\_\_\_ on a cruise to meet someone. It's too expensive. (go)
- On dates, I like \_\_\_\_\_ a choice of things to do. (give)
- I intend \_\_\_\_\_ a new electronic dating service I saw on the Internet. (use)
- I love \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere exclusive. I love \_\_\_\_\_ like I'm special. (invite, feel)
- I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ on a picnic or \_\_\_\_\_ things outdoors. (go, do)

**B Pair work** Discuss the sentences in Exercise A with a partner. Which do you agree with most?

**C Pair work** What do you like to do when you go out with someone special—a boyfriend or girlfriend or a spouse? What don't you like to do? Complete these statements and compare with a partner.

- I enjoy . . .
- I don't mind (being) . . .
- I avoid . . .
- I can't stand (to be) . . .
- I hate (to be) . . .
- I prefer . . .

A: I enjoy going dancing with my husband.

B: With my girlfriend, I enjoy going to a restaurant where we can talk.





## Adjectives to describe incidents and events

### vocabulary

**A** Look at these adjectives. Which ones have a positive meaning, and which have a negative meaning? Divide them into two groups. Then add two more adjectives to each group.

absurd	embarrassing	horrifying	scary
awesome	fabulous	intriguing	stressful
awkward	hilarious	memorable	tense
disastrous	horrendous	ridiculous	thrilling



**B Group work** Choose five of the words to describe something that happened to you on a date, at a party, or in some other social situation. Then share your story with the group.

*This guy I went out with decided to stand up in a restaurant and sing me a romantic song. It was so embarrassing that I wanted to hide under the table.*



## The rules of the dating game

### discussion

**A Pair work** Look at these rules for dating. Which statements do you agree with? Why?

- ♥ The man should always pay for the date. Some things should never change.
- ♥ A woman should never approach a man first. She should always be the one who's invited.
- ♥ It's inadvisable to talk about your problems at the beginning of a relationship.
- ♥ Don't say things like "Can I see you again tomorrow?" Play it cool. Don't make it appear that you're desperate.
- ♥ To avoid awkward situations, let your family know where you're going and when you'll be back.
- ♥ It's better to go out with groups of friends in the beginning.
- ♥ Most blind dates tend to be disastrous, so it's best to avoid them.
- ♥ It's indiscreet to ask personal questions until you get to know each other.



**B Group work** What are the most important dating rules in your culture? Agree on five important rules, and then tell the class.

*It's best for young people to go out in groups. Two people should never go out on their own unless they're planning to get married.*



**reading** **A Pair work** Discuss these questions. Then read the article, and compare your ideas with the author's.

1. How can you maintain a romantic relationship? What are some important things to remember?
2. What problems might you face if you have been going out with the same person for a long time?

## GUIDE TO Romantic SUCCESS

Even the best relationships sometimes run into trouble, so you have to work at maintaining the spontaneity and romance you took for granted when you first started seeing each other. Here's what the experts say about the secrets of romantic success.

### *Show that you like each other*

Showing that you both like each other helps keep a relationship fresh. Even such simple things as complimenting your partner on his or her looks or buying small surprise gifts can help. Don't start taking each other for granted.

### *Keep on being polite*

Treat your partner with the same attitude as you would a friend and the same way in private as you do in public. Just because you feel very comfortable with each other is no reason to relax your manners and behave like a slob when the two of you are alone.

### *Maintain your independence*

When you first start dating, every tiny difference between the two of you (one likes football and the other tennis) seems like a potential obstacle. That's because you are looking for common ground on which to base your relationship. The problem is once you start spending more time together, you forget about the things that make you unique—the same things that attracted you to each other in the first place. Remember, it's important to develop your own interests and encourage your partner to do the same.

### *Commit to getting fit*

Exercising reflects your efforts to remain attractive to your partner, and it encourages him or her to do the same for you. Plus, when you get in shape, you feel much better about yourself.

### *Take care of each other*

It's the everyday things that let your partner know you care, like buying him or her a favorite magazine or the sort of snack you know he or she loves and you hate! Look for the sort of things that would make you feel appreciated. Be attentive to each other's ups and downs, too. Talk through each other's school, work, or family worries when you need to.

### *Resolve disagreements*

Even the happiest of couples disagree over things and have squabbles. When this happens, don't think it's the end of the world. Forget that an argument has to have a winner and loser. Try to find a mutually satisfying solution. Make your point without sounding as if you are criticizing your partner. This way you can resolve issues without scoring points off each other.

**B Group work** Discuss these questions. Share your answers with the class.

1. Do you agree with all of the suggestions above? Which ones are the most useful? Do you have any additional suggestions?
2. Do you agree that even the best relationships can run into trouble?