

An app-solutely special date

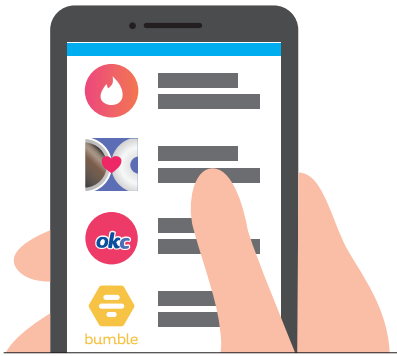
In the complex world of love and dating, the advent of online dating has made things more convenient – but also more confusing. From choosing the right dating app to selecting the best photos for your profile, the modern dating game has come a long way from the traditional boy-meets-girl-on-date. Not to worry, YIP WAI YEE has a step-by-step guide to digital romance, from picking the right app to meeting the right one. Swipe right.



PICK THE APP

• Tinder was the spark which popularised the swiping method – swipe right if you like a profile and swipe left if you are not interested. This may make the matching process a lot more efficient, but it is also why the app, launched in 2012, is often associated with casual hook-ups.

• The dating apps that users say are geared for more serious relationships are Coffee Meets Bagel and OkCupid, as setting up an account with them requires a lot more than just a couple of nice selfies (a la Tinder).



• There are women who make a beeline for Bumble as it gives them more control. After you get a match here, the women are the ones who have to make the first move and start messaging the men.



SET UP THE PROFILE

• No bathroom selfies. According to a survey by dating app Hinge, users who post bathroom selfies are 90 per cent less likely to get likes.

• Wefies are a no-go. How can anyone tell which one in the group you are? Even worse if you are seen with several members of the opposite sex – it just makes you look like a player.

• Look sporty. According to the Hinge survey, women who post sports-related photos are 166 per cent more likely to get likes, while men who do so are 45 per cent more likely to get likes.

• Even if you are using Tinder, which requires only photos to get started, write at least a few lines in your profile to show a bit of personality. But avoid mentioning past relationships.

• Check your grammar. A lot of people are turned off by poor English.

• Avoid using the same photos on your profile as the ones on your social-media accounts. It is too easy for someone to search for your social media footprint that way.



MAKE THE CUT

• If you are looking to widen your pool, just keep scrolling until you get matched and then cull the less appealing matches.

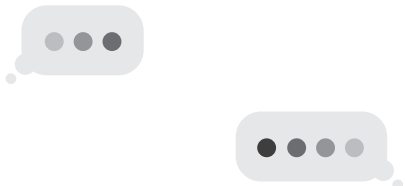


• However, if you know exactly what you are looking for, zero in on the ones you are truly interested in.

• Remain active on the app, even when it gets frustrating. Every choice helps to tell the app what you like and, in return, could lead to potentially better matches.



LEARN TO ENGAGE



• Keep it sweet but not too short. For the first text, say more than just a “hi” for a higher chance of getting a response.

• Refer to something your match wrote in his or her profile, or is in his or her picture. It shows that you were paying attention.

• Avoid ghosting. Politely tell your match you are no longer interested, if that is the case, so that he or she is not left waiting around and wondering what happened.

• If a match's texts make you feel uncomfortable, report him or her to the people in charge of the app. Then delete information about that person immediately.



CONFIRM THE DATE

• Save the date. To avoid disappointment, a seasoned online dater suggests reserving first dates for weeknights rather than weekends. That way, if the date goes badly, you do not feel like you wasted an entire weekend.

• Meet somewhere public and tell a friend where you are going, just to be safe.

• Be yourself. This is clichéd, but it is harder to hide behind a mask in person. Your mobile phone screen is no longer shielding you.

