

DATING TIPS FROM ACTUAL DATING SITE USERS

"I have read the newspaper articles and am being cautious. I have encountered a veritable army of Nigerian scammers, privacy data theives, russian spammers and spies on the dating site. On top of that there are tens of thousands of newspaper articles warning about this. Additionally, nothing that you engage in with a stranger you are considering for possible intimacy will be valid over a computer, phone or text device. It isn't being paranoid if it is based on actual experience and vast documentation by the rest of America. 60 MINUTES just did a feature segment on how data theives can get all your stuff with just your full name and a picture they can run through image-comparison software. They do it all day long."

"Every date potential I have ever talked to on the phone wants to meet me. I "give good phone", but that has nothing to do with the "chemistry" reaction the other person will have in person. In online meetups, it is entirely about the in-person reaction that others have. Nothing you do in email, text or phone will count, once you meet in-person. It will all go out the window (ie: as sad as it sounds, pre-communication is a waste-of-time in online dating, because people decide on attraction in the first few minutes of the live meeting). "

"How Much Does A Modern Date Cost According To Tindr Users? Men pay for dates. Women rarely pay. Tindr and Match.com users have been discussing this on Reddit and Huffington Post. Let's look at the

final averaged results. If the woman has idealized (modified) abs, surgically dramatic facial structure or enhanced breasts, the costs are:

First Meeting Coffee Date:

Gas - \$4.00

Bridge toll - \$6.00

Parking \$15.00

Food & Drink Products: \$18.00

Your Time: XX

Total: \$43.00

Each of First 3 dinner dates:

Gas - \$8.00

Bridge toll - \$6.00

Parking \$28.00

Food & Drink Products: \$150.00

Your Time: XX

Per Dinner: \$192.00

Average Number of Dinners Before Sex Consent (DBSC) = 3

3 dinners x \$192.00 = \$576.00

Minimum Cost of 1 Hr. sex session with B-class Craigslist or Match.com escort = \$500.00

If the woman is "normal" or average looking, deduct 30% from those costs."

Everybody you meet in online dating are the same exact people you will meet in non-online dating. There is no such thing as waiting for the natural moment in the real world. If it existed it would have already happened for you decades ago. Online dating is the best chance to meet single people in any large city.

"Going on a date" means that both people believe that there is a 60%, or better, chance that the two of you will have sex.

Did you know that most big dating sites are all owned by one company called IAC and that IAC is run by Hillary Clinton's daughter: Chelsea Clinton? Did you know that IAC has been caught posting fake profiles and using robots to fake you into their scheme? Did you know that IAC sells your user data and messages to political parties and marketing companies and that everything you say on a big dating site is harvested, stored and read by others? Do you want Chelsea Clinton to control your sex life?

The single most important thing to realize is that "chemistry" is a series of bio-chemical and audio-visual reactions to the way a person looks and how they remind you of subconscious things in-person. It does not work-over the internet. Chemistry is not a metaphysical thing. You will not be able to decide about a person unless you meet them in person. The internet is just a place to see that certain people are single. The way that media has programmed you, the type of

people the media have told you are attractive and the look and feel of the people you have gathered around you will determine how the 42+ different psycho-visual, olfactory and other sensory reactions determine if you will allow yourself to be attracted to one person over another.

How Modern Dating Works With The Internet

By Susan Lester

Some of this reality will sound harsh. The new world of dating is not the "Leave It To Beaver" white picket fence Hollywood-romance that some may have been led to believe. You need to know these facts, though. Being aware will keep you emotionally and physically prepared.

You will find that the majority of profiles on big dating sites are fake profiles, Russian bots, scammers or automated response algorithms that the dating site has placed there. Until you meet them in person, you can't believe anything until you see it with your own eyes.

Anybody you meet on the internet should share 50% of the first meeting costs because of the unusually high number of scammers and gold-diggers on the internet. Men do pay for the first date in small country towns where you met at the barn dance but on the internet, it is totally different. Most people dating on the internet have a different date every night and they are "playing the odds". Many of them are just seeking free food and riding a low-self-esteem roller coaster of sexual conquest. There are ALSO wonderful people who are sincerely looking for marriage but the internet provides the most sex and free food so there are people who have embraced that reality too.

All physical interaction requires a verbal "yes". With all of the lawsuits and sexual extortion scams these days, it is essential to document a very clear verbal consent for all sexual activity. There are a large number of people who are seeking to blackmail people with paternity lawsuits or non-consent sex lawsuits in order to get money from them.

Match.com, OKCupid, and the other corporate dating sites, sell and/or have your data leaked, to political parties and marketing companies. You should know that everything you post or text on those sites is read by others and may be used against you. Use fake names, burner email addresses and information that is slightly different than your true information when you use those services. Move all communications to your personal email that you control, as soon as possible, to avoid leaving your private love life data on Match.com servers. Do you really want Match.com's management (Which includes Chelsea Clinton and the investors in big porn sites) reading your romantic emails?

A 'date' is a meeting to see if there is sexual chemistry. Many people are irked by the use of the term "date" but the reality is that dating is sexual compatibility testing.

There is a whole industry in the dating world called: "Honey Traps". If you have been on TV or in the news and if you have business competitors or political enemies, Honey Traps will be hired. These Honey Traps are people who pretend to be looking for love but they are actually sent to conduct industrial spying and political sabotage against you. If you appear to be successful, watch out for Honey Traps.

Big cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York have a huge number of "transaction-relationship" seekers. Because Craigslist and BackPage have had their sex ads shut down, all of the mistresses, hookers, rent boys and gold-diggers have moved to match.com, OKCupid and the corporate dating sites. Because of this, you now either need to 1.) put "NO transactional relationships" in your ad text or 2.) put the 'code words' in your ad if you do want that.

Anybody who uses a 'smartphone', on a date for phone calls or social media, is considered to be hyper-rude, privacy-violating and not aware of data hacking issues. Keep your phone in a wireless RFID blocking bag at the bar, coffee shop or restaurant on your first date. Nobody wants a 'social media zombie' with them on a date.

Never use a webcam for online dating. Once the camera has been used, even once, it notifies hackers around the globe and they will hack into it to watch you taking showers and sleeping. Webcams can be remotely activated by hackers and you can't tell that the camera is even turned on.

You probably don't know if you have bad breath. Get a regular tooth cleaning at your dentist every 6 months and take MintAssure breath tablets (Available on Amazon) 15 minutes before each date.

The bigger-the-dating-site/the more it's owner's abuse your rights. All dating sites read and archive your texts, emails and activities and sell that data to political groups, government agencies and marketing companies. Treat your dating data just like you would your medical records.

Everybody that is on a dating site is dating multiple people at once. Do not be naive. If you want to be committed and monogamous with

a person just tell them so out-loud. If you do not both agree to that arrangement VERBALLY, it will never happen. Men and women always assume different things about the status of a relationship. Most dating issues are about what stage each other person thought the dating phase was in. Men and women really, really do have different ways of thinking, different perceptions of things and different time-frames. Ie: Men are territorial and war-like. If a woman tells her men friends about a new date, then those men friends will try to jack up her relationship with the new guy because their subconscious minds want them to defend their turf.

If you have unprotected sex you will most likely have a pregnancy or get an STD. For each new partner you must get a blood and urine test for: HIV/AIDS, Herpes, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Mycoplasma Genitalium, Trichomoniasis, Human Papilloma Virus/HPV, Crabs/Pubic Lice, Scabies, Hepatitis/HBV, Chancroid, Bacterial Vaginosis/BV, Nongonococcal Urethritis (NGU), Molluscum Contagiosum, MRSA, and Lymphogranuloma Venereum. Take this list to any Quest Diagnostics Test Center or Public Health Center and ask for the "Full STD Palette Test" or just show them the list and ask for the test that covers those items. At the very least, pick up the off-the-shelf OraQuick test at your local drugstore and take that saliva test. These tests take only a few minutes and provides a lifetime of health security.

Sound rough? It is, but if you follow these simple tips the cream will rise to the top and you will eventually meet a great partner.

Everyone finds what they are looking for within 3 months but you must have endurance. If you have lived a sheltered life, avoided reading the news and only hung out with a handful of middle-of-the-road friends you might be in for a shock when you jump into the real

world.

That world is different than the one you see depicted in old TV shows.

Be ready, have an open mind and forget about the Hollywood hype and you will have a great time!

1. Generally: People have made up their mind about whether or not they want to be with you 15 minutes after you have met them. Generally, men make up their minds more quickly than women because they are sensorial reactive. Decision processing is usually dramatically out-of-sync between genders based on genetic hunter/gatherer evolutionary programming. Both genders need to adjust to find the happy medium..

2. Most internet dates end in the first few emails because of misinterpretation. Many people are typing on their cell phone or iphone or they are at work or they are joking and you can't see it in email. Do not make prejudgments based on the first few emails, they are often wrong or unfair to the other person.

3. A large number of people follow "the third date" rule. This means that if the two of you have not decided to be intimate by the third date you probably never will.

4. Almost a majority of first meetings are cancelled by one of the two people just prior to meeting

because people feel no commitment to a stranger. Do not be surprised if people using the service are not too motivated re: the first meeting as many have been through these out-of-the-blue cancellations already.

5. Men are genetically ingrained to be territorial. Women's men "friends" may suddenly nay-say the new guy, use psychological tricks to create stress and suddenly confess their "secret love" for you in order to cut the new guy off at the knees. As soon as your guy friends, ex husband, old boyfriend, (even your children) etc, hear that you have a date, they will often try to jack-up your plans in order to protect their turf. If you are divorced then you usually already have a conflict relationship over child custody and schedules, watch for the ex-husband to constantly change child pick-up times, days to pick-up and other schedule shifts at the last minute if he suspects you have dating plans. Stand firm on your plans so you are not victimized by the ex-husband's territorial strategies

6. Many single people have an obsessive relationship with their pets if they are single. Consider how much you talk about or plan your life around your pet.

7. Men have a hard time talking about feelings.

8. Meet as soon as possible. A majority of people that spend time talking, first, on this online dating, seem to be disappointed. The majority have a wonderful set of emails and phone calls and think they have met the love of their life. .. but when they meet, the chemistry is not

there and both parties are twice as hurt by the brick wall because they have already created expectations and wishful thinking via advance communication. Most people find each other adorable on hours of phone calls but only 1% of the people said they had chemistry in person and vice versa. That has been the story that most other users on online dating have posted in tens of thousands of blogs so this appears to be the consensus of a general trend. Just an FYI. One would be losing relationships if they try to force a computer system to act human by using it for the initial interaction. You have to meet in the real world to not get screwed up by the computer and its process. One has to get out of the digital/chat room world as fast as they can and into the tangible real world of touch, vision and the other senses. Another reason for meeting soon is that people blog that a large number of people they start emailing with, suddenly cancel future meetings because someone else they were emailing with met them sooner. In many cases, when they have to book the first meeting a week or more out, they will contact you the day before and cancel the meeting because they starting seeing others they dated within that week delay. Most connections never happen because someone else gets there first.

9. Sexual politics have killed off a majority of first dates. While it may seem rude or inappropriate to discuss sex on the first few dates, it is a large part of "dating". If you get down the road and have actual sex only to find that you have two different styles, then the whole

relationship is over in minutes after weeks or months of wasted "dating". Kissing and petting are key to testing the waters early. Also, if you have not gone into Walgreen's and asked the pharmacist for the "Home Access Express HIV Test Kit" , gotten a Gardasil vaccination and acquired "Plan B" pills (web search these if you don't know what they are) then you are not ready to even go there. Condoms leak, spillover and break so must have these back-ups in place.

10. Brush your teeth and take Breath Assure tablets. Bad breath kills off many dates.

11. Know what you really want. Most people are specifically looking for marriages, sex, babies, distractions, fun, social status, therapy or other certain things. Compare notes on your actual needs in the first date. There is nothing wrong with just looking for sex, the volume of people is higher with computer dating so the odds are better, just be clear up front. In fact few people can have "just sex" without falling in love afterwards.

12. People with kids are able to date just as much as people without kids if they have a balanced life. Most single parents are able to get 3 full nights a week totally to themselves. If you can't pull this off, talk to a parent who does to figure it out.

13. Don't discuss emotional topics in email with someone you have never met.

14. On spending money: Women expect men to pay and men expect women to practice the "womens liberation" they fought for. Women want proof of stability and men want sexual reciprocation. Men get burned out buying a string of meals for strangers they will never see again. Men feel used and women feel diminished if the man doesn't pay. This is the hardest subject in dating. Manage expectations on this from the beginning. Dating math = To find a great marital partner you will spend the rest of your life with you need to meet at least 1000 people. To find a great LTR dating partner you need to meet at least 150. 99% of these meetings will not work out. If a guy meets one person a day for a month and the cost of food, parking & misc. adds up to \$95/night then he has to spend nearly \$3000.00 a month just to see if there is a chance. If the lady says to the man that "Her mom taught her that the man must always pay", or "she was raised in the South", or "She was brought up to let the man be the provider", in a recession. How do you think this makes the guys feel? Avoid dinners for the first few dates or agree to dutch treat unless you both are looking for a trophy-partner or transactional-sexual relationship.

15. We live in an age where advertising and media train us to be attracted to certain facial types: sorority girl looks like fraternity guy looks, biker guy looks like biker girl looks, hipster guy looks like hipster girl types. Realize that we are all being forced to be superficial by this. Try to get past this, or you will miss people who are, otherwise, perfect matches.

16. Exchange cell phone numbers for the first meeting. Most people do not look like their pictures and many people never find each other the first time. Use a web-voice number or get a \$27.00 phone from Walgreens if you don't want to give out your real number.

17. Where to meet is a political consideration. People who have done a few weeks of internet dating know that 99% of the first meetings don't click and they will never see that person again, so they are hesitant to go too far for a first meeting. Women think men should drive to their location. Men think that they are going to have to pay for everything so the women should come to them. A good fix is to meet half-way.

18. In life you have gathered people that are very similar to you around you in order to create a controlled and comfortable insulation. In online dating you will meet the full breadth of people and they are of every type. Be prepared to broaden your horizons.

19. If you feel the need to tell people that "you need to go slow"(A concept foreign to most men) or "are still hurt from your last relationship".. you may not be ready to date. Not only are most people on a dating site eager and willing to be in a relationship, but things move much faster online than not online. Don't hurt yourself, and others, by using a dating site for therapy. People on dating sites go fast, generally.

20. If you are wanting to blow somebody off and you are online dating, do not say you have "met someone" and then leave your profile up. If they see your profile still

up or get a notice (such as match.com sends out to everybody each time you go into your profile) they may feel lied to.

21. IT bears repeating: If you just got out of a relationship, do not use a dating service to either A: See if you are over it or B: try to get your ex to become jealous and come back to you. It is cruel to the other people that are meeting you that area "ready-to-go".

22. Every single modern TV show on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, etc. depicts couples running off to have sex within an hour after meeting. All modern men expect to have immediate sex if the two of you are seeming to be attracted to each other. Modern men are programmed by TV shows and the internet to assume that there will be immediate sex. If you are not interested in a rapid progression to sex you should not date using the internet.

THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL CLIFF NOTES FROM THE TV SHOW ON "ATTRACTION":

You are a tool of the media. If you are "attractive" you go for people (without looking for depth) who always use you and dump you as they search for attraction without depth. Science says that women with "model attractive" aquiline facial features will usually fail in love unless they pick the least "model attractive" man with non aquiline facial features that they can find because two model attractive people generally do not develop the depth or intent beyond appearance and only see the lack of the depth after the superficial comfort has worn off. Other examples of pre-programming are documented

in the TV series and text of:

Discovery Channel's Science of Sex Appeal- Cliff Notes:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/videos/science-of-sex-appeal/>

The bottom line, based on over one hundred years of research by thousands of different entities: "What people think they want is wrong if they are looking for anything more than just sex" Your subconscious biological programming will ONLY steer you to make more humans, it WILL NOT allow you to pick a relationship partner. It will make you pick someone who is cute and mostly totally wrong for you. This is why 90% of dating experiences never work out and 70% of marriages end in divorce. Online dating causes most of the people that SHOULD be together to not get picked because the main choosing process is picture-based.

** Social, media and genetic programming makes you do things you do not mean to do in the dating process. To be successful in dating you have to actually NOT go with your "intuition" or "first impressions because science now shows us that it is a TRICK. Science now shows that reacting to pictures only, online, will only get you great sex and NEVER get you a deep or long lasting relationship.*

** You will not pick a person whose eye separation and distance from nose to brow is not the same as yours unless you consciously make yourself only look at the person in profile view. You unconsciously judge attraction based on equilateral positioning of all facial elements and geometric distances between points on the face.*

* *Women are generally repelled by men's scent (except when they are within a day or two of ovulation)...*

* *One research study illustrated that women tend to choose partners based on status or resources as a priority. Groups of women, selected at random, were shown photos of similarly dressed men of relatively equal attractiveness. Following a baseline numerical rating of attractiveness, later groups were shown the same pictures, but with an indication of social and economic status -- five- or six-figure incomes. The attractiveness ratings rose or fell significantly in direct correlation to perceived income level. Men put fins and flames on their cars and wear giant watches in order to create status-attraction to attract women.*

* *When women are ovulating; their voices change to a higher pitch to attract men, their skin tone changes to attract men, their pelvic muscles tighten to create a shimmier walk, they interpret smells different and they output different kinds of attracting odors.*

* *The more a man sways his shoulders in a swagger, the more women will be attracted to him. The more a woman sways her hips, the more men will be attracted to her.*

* *And the science of partner selection continues with human odor as a factor. Couples can discern the special smell of their partner. Every man has a unique smell -- 'eau de man.' Research has demonstrated that odor affects us at a subconscious level. We can't control it. No two people smell the same or have the same "HMC", as it is called. There is an optimum match for HMC.*

* *Women are generally repelled by men's scent (except when they are within a day or two of ovulation); but men, when exposed to odors, are consistently attracted. In experiments where men inhale imperceptible low doses of artificial copulants, the attractiveness rating of women shown in pictures is higher. Copulants impair men's ability to discriminate whether a woman is attractive. The scent of copulants prevents them from thinking clearly. (Odor also helps us steer clear of relatives and has performed the evolutionary role of "incest avoidance.")*

* *With chemistry-inspired flirting, lust, and love all continuously active below our level of consciousness, can we maintain attraction to one partner? Attraction has many stages, beginning with a single biochemical jolt resulting in a change reaction. Anecdotal reports indicate the "first kiss" is highly memorable in the attraction that builds (or fails to build). The abundant testosterone in saliva increases the sex drive.*

* *Men are genetically programmed at the core of their genes for tens of millions of years to sleep with as many women as possible in order to keep the species going. Just as women are programmed to want a baby like crazy as soon as they turn 18. A good college education or strict parents are not going to change this. Recent science has found a shot that can cause monogamy in men and a shot that can cause baby anxiety reduction in women.*

* *Even more sex appeal chemistry influences occur through the dopamine triggered in our brains. Dopamine is the brain's pleasure chemical that produces a high that can be addictive,*

energy producing, and exhilarating. Biochemistry shows the link between dopamine and testosterone with exhilaration and lust. But dopamine is not uniquely linked to sex appeal. The thrill of sports, bungee jumping for instance, can produce a dopamine rush. What about love?

** Many of our unconscious preferences and behaviors are conditioned by our chemistry. Studies report that women find slightly feminized pictures of the same man more attractive when they are not ovulating. Married women are biologically driven to promiscuous behavior as reported by an experiment based on digital movies of the female participants dancing during a "girls' night out." The women with long term partners and on their fertility cycles were the most provocative. This was concluded from movement and appearance analyzed through pixels and an estimated percentage of skin showing. These committed women sent out more sexual signals than the available ones. In contrast, other research pinpoints the role of the chemical oxytocin in monogamy for women.*

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** The science on sexual attraction claims that evolution prepares us to stay together just long enough to raise children. One study across 58 societies demonstrated a dual reproductive system going from pair bonding to straying at about the four-year mark in a relationship. The study conclusion: we are fundamentally built to stray. Does this mean that our exhilarating experience of early love is destined to be undermined by our inherent biology? Will we always fail at long-term love?*

** Men put flame decals, fins, large spoilers, giant speakers, and raised tires on their cars to draw the attention of women in order to seek to demonstrate that they have a higher ability to acquire goods and survive in the urban jungle.*

** Science claims that the chemistry of passion, lust, and love bind us together for a limited period of time. Haven't most of us figured that out at a personal level? My observation is we already know we need to build for the future before the reality storm hits. Yet many of us neglect our marriages and relationships anyway. Over focus on careers or children, and overindulging in our selfish habits through individual use of time frequently lead to rampant neglect of our partners. Science help us?*

** It takes just three minutes to fall in love, scientists revealed today. What the heart wants, it can establish fairly quickly, according to American psychologists who studied the behaviour of 10,500 newly-*

introduced couples. "Some people say they're looking for one kind of person, then choose another. Others say they don't even know what they're looking for," said Robert Kurzban of the University of Pennsylvania. "But our data suggest that, however it happens, people know it quickly when they see it." He claimed would-be lovers generally understand their own worth on the dating market, and so are able to judge potential compatibility within moments of meeting. Psychologists analysed the interactions between speed-dating participants, where men and women are given just three minutes to assess each other before moving on to the next person. At the end of a session each individual indicates which of the 25 or so people he or she met they would like to see again. "Although they had three minutes, most participants made their decision based on the information that they probably got in the first three seconds," Kurzban said. "Somewhat surprisingly, factors that you might think would be really important to people, like religion, education and income, played very little role in their choices" Psychologists have often likened relationships to transactions whereby people select mates based on the qualities their other half has to offer, such as power and money. But Kurzba's data reveals that when people meet face-to-face, things like smoking preferences and bank accounts are not of great importance. Actual behaviour is worth more than stated beliefs, he said, particularly in the case of speed-dating when participants do not want to risk a bad date and so have more incentive to follow their hearts and desires. The researchers caution that speed dating is not necessarily typical of how people usually interact. Their findings will be published in US journal *Evolution and Human Behaviour*."

HOW THE FAKE "SHILL GIRLS" OF MATCH.COM, OK CUPID AND POF WORK

You just joined one of the top 5 dating sites. You message some attractive ladies right near you. You get some responses. Alas, you don't realize that those "hot ladies", now messegaing with you, are actually all a guy with a goatee, named Wu Lee, in the Philipines.

While you see lots of talk about these dating services, "not allowing fake profiles", they are, in fact, the ones who hire the "shill Farms" to supply them with the fake date experiences.

They only use them for guys because women always get flooded with actual guys contacting them. Many of the pictures are from the ex-websites of dead Russian hookers.

The first red flags:

- Your date is out "of the area for a few weeks", or longer, on a trip or some big project so that a real person doesn't actually have to show up.

- They have some other excuse to not meet you for a few weeks. The psychology is that no guy will wait that long and move on to the next candidate. Alas, the next candidate, and the next, and the next, is, more often than not, that same guy Wu Lee. If you are savvy enough to track them in your calender and follow-up a few days after they are supposed to "return to town", they will tell you that they just happened to have met someone on their trip.

- They won't talk on the phone. While talking to a person on a dating site is very comforting, the Shill Farms have escalation Teams that route phone call requests to sex phone operators, with your local accent, who do double duty as fake phone dates and fake sex call takers. Even if you talk on the phone, it still is not guaranteed that you don't have a shill.

- The shill starts asking you very specific detailed personal data about yourself. In real world dating, nobody asks that kind of stuff before their first date. You look at each other, decide if you both look OK and off you go to the movies or dinner that Saturday. The reason the shills want detailed data on you is that the Shill Farm bosses make money from both providing fake profiles AND harvesting your private data for data harvesting banks.

- They try to keep you on the site for as long as possible. The Shill Farmer has a third way of making money off of you. It is called "Spoofing". The more volumes of people the dating site can show for their subscriptions and advertisers, the more money they can make.

- They won't meet. For most people, the purpose of a dating site is to meet someone you can hug, squeeze, kiss and go do things with. It should seem odd to you, if your potential date won't meet in person ASAP. If they were real, you would think they would want to see how both of you are, in-person, before wasting time.

Terms:

Shill- A person pretending to be someone else, or another gender, in order to suck you in to some scheme to get your money or your data

Shill Farm - A large building, apartment complex, warehouse or other building where large numbers of shills are based

Shill Farmer - The owner of the Shill Farm. Often Russian mobsters, Asian gangs or Nigerian cartels

Dating Harvester - Match.com, Plenty of Fish, OK Cupid and similar automatted conglomerate-owned dating services that are in the business for far different reasons than you might think

Trolling - Working the pretext to try to get the victim/target guy sucked into the scheme. Using different scenarios and talking scripts to get the target to loosen their guard.

Spoofing - creating fake user volume numbers in order to help dating sites trick advertisers into paying more/

Is Dating A "Numbers Game"? - Comments:

- The cost per date is about \$110.00+ for food, travel, parking, gas, tolls, etc. in the USA. That's \$3000.00+ per month to try to find a wife or lover. All of the women on online dating sites are dating other men so the odds are greatly reduced by competitive market factors. Science, dating site marketing brochures and census studies show that you need to meet a large number of people in person to find a wife (only half as many to find a lover) but it is a huge effort. If all of the other men are feeding her too

then you will soon be financially and emotionally exhausted. "Foodie Calls" are now widely discussed in the news, too. This is where a woman uses dating men for food just like dating men use dating women for physical satisfactions. If you read the dating anthologies with all of the online daters comments you will see that 90% of daters agree. - RG, Long Island

- Men respond to 100% of the contacts from women online, yet women only respond to 3% of the guys. This leaves men with no choice but to use partial cut and paste because they would otherwise have to spend 50 hours a week composing personal messages that nobody ever looked at or that never did them any good. So: Men DO cut-and-paste. Women don't answer most of the emails from men. So women should not yell at men if they think they cut and pasted the first contact email and men should not get mad if every person they write to does not respond to them. Men must put out a huge number of inquiries in order to even get even a small number of responses. - KW, Denver

- Most people would find it amazing that when someone offers their heart, extends their emotions and makes themselves vulnerable by letting another person know of their interest, even if part or all of the computer message is pasted, that there are people out there who would emotionally abuse them by attacking them in their first response email. You are using a computer to exchange notices of interest with strangers. Forget about whether or not the first notification email was cut-and-paste or not. It is only an issue after you have met in person. - RQ, Fresno

- It is a numbers game if you use a computer because that is how the computer thinks. The government and dating sites say you

have to meet 1000 people to find the "perfect" marital partner (60 to 70% of marriages end in divorce now) and 100 people to find the "perfect" girlfriend or boyfriend. There 200,000 single women and 200,000 single men in any major city. Only 10 are right for each person. How do you find those 10? - HL, Los Angeles

- You are using a COMPUTER to get sex or love or both. This is a database system that is running numbers so you can meet in person ASAP. Until you meet you are just interacting with a computer. Of course you will naturally respond: "But I am not a number"... but to the computer you are ; because that is the way it works. You have to get off the computer and "In person" as fast as possible because the conflict between the computer interface and human contact begins the degradation of the process the second you both are connected. It only gets worse as soon as you both exchange your first email. "Go live", get out into the "real world" as that is the only key to success. - TL, Brentwood

- Its a numbers game. 50% of the people won't be attracted to you but you may be attracted to all or most of them so that can be heartbreaking, 50% of the people will be attracted to you but you will only be attracted to 25% of them, of the 25% you are attracted to, one of you will have an issue about sex, money, politics or entertainment choices which will cause one to terminate, of the final few, if you met them on the internet, they are forced to date so many people because of the sudden volume of introductions that they may not pay attention to, or appreciate you, so you have to meet them soon because most people select their partner within a week. - GH, Fremont

HOW THE FAKE "SHILL GIRLS" OF MATCH.COM, OK CUPID AND POF WORK

You just joined one of the top 5 dating sites. You message some attractive ladies right near you. You get some responses. Alas, you don't realize that those "hot ladies", now messegaing with you, are actually all a guy with a goatee, named Wu Lee, in the Philipines.

While you see lots of talk about these dating services, "not allowing fake profiles", they are, in fact, the ones who hire the "shill Farms" to supply them with the fake date experiences.

They only use them for guys because women always get flooded with actual guys contacting them. Many of the pictures are from the ex-websites of dead Russian hookers.

The first red flags:

- Your date is out "of the area for a few weeks", or longer, on a trip or some big project so that a real person doesn't actually have to show up.

- They have some other excuse to not meet you for a few weeks. The psychology is that no guy will wait that long and move on to the next candidate. Alas, the next candidate , and the next, and the next, is, more often than not, that same guy Wu Lee. If you are savvy enough to track them in your calender and follow-up a

few days after they are supposed to "return to town", they will tell you that they just happened to have met someone on their trip.

- They won't talk on the phone. While talking to a person on a dating site is very comforting, the Shill Farms have escalation Teams that route phone call requests to sex phone operators, with your local accent, who do double duty as fake phone dates and fake sex call takers. Even if you talk on the phone, it still is not guaranteed that you don't have a shill.

- The shill starts asking you very specific detailed personal data about yourself. In real world dating, nobody asks that kind of stuff before their first date. You look at each other, decide if you both look OK and off you go to the movies or dinner that Saturday. The reason the shills want detailed data on you is that the Shill Farm bosses make money from both providing fake profiles AND harvesting your private data for data harvesting banks.

- They try to keep you on the site for as long as possible. The Shill Farmer has a third way of making money off of you. It is called "Spoofing". The more volumes of people the dating site can show for their subscriptions and advertisers, the more money they can make.

- They won't meet. For most people, the purpose of a dating site is to meet someone you can hug, squeeze, kiss and go do things with. It should seem odd to you, if your potential date won't meet in person ASAP. If they were real, you would think they would want to see how both of you are, in-person, before wasting time.

DATING COMPANIES ARE SCREWED:

Match.com denies using "that many" dead Russian Prostitutes for fake profiles. Says- "Almost all of our Russian Prostitutes are very much alive and operating our fake profiles with their actual pictures" says ex-staffer. Says CEO: "I didn't know my staff were doing crimes"

OK Cupid plans to "Mood Test" Match.com staff to prove they are lying.

All 3 also caught using "photo-comparison and analysis facial recognition software" which FINDS YOU in outside personal and business sites, thus breaking your privacy and anonimity security and exposing you to stalkers, hackers, spies, data-miners, marketing companies and rapists. They even sell your image data to data miners!

I am cut and pasting the articles below, which are posted across the internet, for your edification. What are your thoughts on these?:

The internet guide to dating:

Updated version:

From Salon.com

TIPS:

Everybody you meet in online dating are the same exact people you will meet in non-online dating. There is no such thing as waiting for the natural moment in the real world. If it existed it would have already happened for you decades ago. Online dating is the best chance to meet single people in any large city.

The single most important thing to realize is that "chemistry" is a series of bio-chemical and audio-visual reactions to the way a person looks and how they remind you of subconscious things in-person. It does not work-over the internet.

Chemistry is not a metaphysical thing. You will not be able to decide about a person unless you meet them in person.

The internet is just a place to see that certain people are single.

The way that media has programmed you, the type of people the media have told you are attractive and the look and feel of the people you have gathered around you will determine how the 42+ different psycho-visual, olfactory and other sensory reactions determine if you will allow yourself to be attracted to one person over another.

1. Generally: People have made up their mind about whether or not they want to be with you 15 minutes after you have met them. Generally, men make up their minds more quickly than women because they are sensorial reactive. Decision processing is usually dramatically out-of-sync between genders based

on genetic hunter/gatherer evolutionary programming. Both genders need to adjust to find the happy medium..

2. Most internet dates end in the first few emails because of misinterpretation. Many people are typing on their cell phone or iphone or they are at work or they are joking and you cant see it in email. Do not make prejudgments based on the first few emails, they are often wrong or unfair to the other person.
3. A large number of people follow the third date rule. This means that if the two of you have not decided to be intimate by the third date you probably never will.
4. Almost a majority of first meetings are cancelled by one of the two people just prior to meeting because people feel no commitment to a stranger. Do not be surprised if people using the service are not too motivated re: the first meeting as many have been through these out-of-the-blue cancellations already.
5. Men are genetically ingrained to be territorial. Womens men friends may suddenly nay-say the new guy, use psychological tricks to create stress and suddenly confess their secret love for you in order to cut the new guy off at the knees. As soon as your guy friends, ex husband, old boyfriend, (even your children) etc, hear that you have a date, they will often try to jack-up your plans in order to protect their turf. If you are divorced then you usually already have a conflict relationship over child custody and schedules, watch for the ex-husband to constantly change child pick-up times, days to pick-up and other

schedule shifts at the last minute if he suspects you have dating plans. Stand firm on your plans so you are not victimized by the ex-husbands territorial strategies

6. Many single people have an obsessive relationship with their pets if they are single. Consider how much you talk about or plan your life around your pet.

7. Men have a hard time talking about feelings.

8. Meet as soon as possible. A majority of people that spend time talking, first, on this online dating, seem to be disappointed. The majority have a wonderful set of emails and phone calls and think they have met the love of their life. .. but when they meet, the chemistry is not there and both parties are twice as hurt by the brick wall because they have already created expectations and wishful thinking via advance communication. Most people find each other adorable on hours of phone calls but only 1% of the people said they had chemistry in person and vice versa. That has been the story that most other users on online dating have posted in tens of thousands of blogs so this appears to be the consensus of a general trend.

Just an FYI. One would be losing relationships if they try to force a computer system to act human by using it for the initial interaction. You have to meet in the real world to not get screwed up by the computer and its process. One has to get out of the digital/chat room world as fast as they can and into the tangible real world of touch, vision and the other senses. Another reason for meeting soon is that people blog that a large number of people they start emailing with, suddenly cancel future meetings because someone else they were emailing with met them sooner. In many cases, when

they have to book the first meeting a week or more out, they will contact you the day before and cancel the meeting because they starting seeing others they dated within that week delay. Most connections never happen because someone else gets there first.

9. Sexual politics have killed off a majority of first dates. While it may seem rude or inappropriate to discuss sex on the first few dates, it is a large part of dating. If you get down the road and have actual sex only to find that you have two different styles, then the whole relationship is over in minutes after weeks or months of wasted dating. Kissing and petting are key to testing the waters early. Also, if you have not gone into Walgreens and asked the pharmacist for the Home Access Express HIV Test Kit , gotten a Gardasil vaccination and acquired Plan B pills (Google these if you dont know what they are) then you are not ready to even go there. Condoms leak, spillover and break so must have these back-ups in place.
10. Brush your teeth and take Breath Assure tablets. Bad breath kills off many dates.
11. Know what you really want. Most people are specifically looking for marriages, sex, babies, distractions, fun, social status, therapy or other certain things. Compare notes on your actual needs in the first date. There is nothing wrong with just looking for sex, the volume of people is higher with computer dating so the odds are better, just be clear up front. In fact few people can have just sex without falling in love afterwards.
12. People with kids are able to date just as much as people

without kids if they have a balanced life. Most single parents are able to get 3 full nights a week totally to themselves. If you can't pull this off, talk to a parent who does to figure it out.

13. Don't discuss emotional topics in email with someone you have never met.

14. On spending money: Women expect men to pay and men expect women to practice the women's liberation they fought for. Women want proof of stability and men want sexual reciprocation. Men get burned out buying a string of meals for strangers they will never see again. Men feel used and women feel diminished if the man doesn't pay. This is the hardest subject in dating. Manage expectations on this from the beginning. Dating math = To find a great marital partner you will spend the rest of your life with you need to meet at least 1000 people. To find a great LTR dating partner you need to meet at least 150. 99% of these meetings will not work out. If a guy meets one person a day for a month and the cost of food, parking & misc. adds up to \$95/night then he has to spend nearly \$3000.00 a month just to see if there is a chance.

If the lady says to the man that "Her mom taught her that the man must always pay", or "she was raised in the South", or "She was brought up to let the man be the provider", in a recession. How do you think this makes the guys feel? Avoid dinners for the first few dates or agree to dutch treat unless you both are looking for a trophy-partner or transactional-sexual relationship.

15. We live in an age where advertising and media train us to be attracted to certain facial types: sorority girl looks like fraternity guy looks, biker guy looks like biker girl

looks, hipster guy looks like hipster girl types. Realize that we are all being forced to be superficial by this. Try to get past this, or you will miss people who are, otherwise, perfect matches.

16. Exchange cell phone numbers for the first meeting. Most people do not look like their pictures and many people never find each other the first time. Use a Google-voice number or get a \$27.00 phone from Walgreens if you dont want to give out your real number.
17. Where to meet is a political consideration. People who have done a few weeks of internet dating know that 99% of the first meetings dont click and they will never see that person again , so they are hesitant to go too far for a first meeting . Women think men should drive to their location. Men think that they are going to have to pay for everything so the women should come to them. A good fix is to meet half-way.
18. In life you have gathered people that are very similar to you around you in order to create a controlled and comfortable insulation. In online dating you will meet the full breadth of people and they are of every type. Be prepared to broaden your horizons.
19. If you feel the need to tell people that you need to go slow (A concept foreign to most men) or are still hurt from your last relationship.. you may not be ready to date. Not only are most people on a dating site eager and willing to be in a relationship, but things move much faster online than not online. Dont hurt yourself, and others, by using a dating site for therapy. People on dating sites go fast, generally.

20. If you are wanting to blow somebody off and you are online dating, do not say you have met someone and then leave your profile up. If they see your profile still up or get a notice (such as match.com sends out to everybody each time you go into your profile) they may feel lied to.

21. IT bears repeating: If you just got out of a relationship, do not use a dating service to either A: See if you are over it or B: try to get your ex to become jealous and come back to you. It is cruel to the other people that are meeting you that area "ready-to-go".

ATTRACTION CLIFF NOTES:

OK. Here are the details from that TV show:

You are a tool of the media. If you are attractive you go for people (without looking for depth) who always use you and dump you as they search for attraction without depth. Science says that women with model attractive aquiline facial features will usually fail in love unless they pick the least model attractive man with non aquiline facial features that they can find because two model attractive people generally do not develop the depth or intent beyond appearance and only see the lack of the depth after the superficial comfort has worn off. Other examples of pre-programming are documented in the TV series and text of:

Discovery Channels Science of Sex Appeal- Cliff Notes:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/videos/science-of-sex-appeal/>

The bottom line, based on over one hundred years of research by thousands of different entities: What people think they want is wrong if they are looking for anything more than just sex

Your subconscious biological programming will ONLY steer you to make more humans, it WILL NOT allow you to pick a relationship partner. It will make you pick someone who is cute and mostly totally wrong for you. This is why 90% of dating experiences never work out and 70% of marriages end in divorce. Online dating causes most of the people that SHOULD be together to not get picked because the main choosing process is picture-based.

- * Social, media and genetic programming makes you do things you do not mean to do in the dating process. To be successful in dating you have to actually NOT go with your intuition or first impressions because science now shows us that it is a TRICK. Science now shows that reacting to pictures only, online, will only get you great sex and NEVER get you a deep or long lasting relationship.

- * You will not pick a person whose eye separation and distance from nose to brow is not the same as yours unless you consciously make yourself only look at the person in profile view. You unconsciously judge attraction based on equilateral positioning of all facial elements and geometric distances between points on the face.

- * Women are generally repelled by mens scent (except when they are within a day or two of ovulation)...

- * One research study illustrated that women tend to choose partners based on status or resources as a priority.

Groups of women, selected at random, were shown photos of similarly dressed men of relatively equal attractiveness.

Following a baseline numerical rating of attractiveness, later groups were shown the same pictures, but with an indication of social and economic status -- five- or six-figure incomes. The attractiveness ratings rose or fell significantly in direct correlation to perceived income level. Men put fins and flames

on their cars and wear giant watches in order to create status-attraction to attract women.

- * When women are ovulating; their voices change to a higher pitch to attract men, their skin tone changes to attract men, their pelvic muscles tighten to create a shimmier walk, they interpret smells different and they output different kinds of attracting odors.
- * The more a man sways his shoulders in a swager, the more women will be attracted to him. The more a woman sways her hips, the more men will be attracted to her.
- * And the science of partner selection continues with human odor as a factor. Couples can discern the special smell of their partner. Every man has a unique smell -- 'eau de man.' Research has demonstrated that odor affects us at a subconscious level. We can't control it. No two people smell the same or have the same HMC, as it is called. There is an optimum match for HMC.
- * Women are generally repelled by mens scent (except when they are within a day or two of ovulation); but men, when exposed to odors, are consistently attracted. In experiments where men inhale imperceptible low doses of artificial copulants, the attractiveness rating of women shown in pictures is higher. Copulants impair mens ability to discriminate whether a woman is attractive. The scent of copulants prevents them from thinking clearly. (Odor also helps us steer clear of relatives and has performed the evolutionary role of "incest avoidance.")
- * With chemistry-inspired flirting, lust, and love all continuously active below our level of consciousness, can we maintain attraction to one partner? Attraction has many stages, beginning with a single biochemical jolt resulting in a change reaction. Anecdotal reports indicate the first kiss is highly

memorable in the attraction that builds (or fails to build). The abundant testosterone in saliva increases the sex drive.

- * Men are genetically programmed at the core of their genes for tens of millions of years to sleep with as many women as possible in order to keep the species going. Just as women are programmed to want a baby like crazy as soon as they turn 18. A good college education or strict parents are not going to change this. Recent science has found a shot that can cause monogamy in men and a shot that can cause baby anxiety reduction in women.
- * Even more sex appeal chemistry influences occur through the dopamine triggered in our brains. Dopamine is the brains pleasure chemical that produces a high that can be addictive, energy producing, and exhilarating. Biochemistry shows the link between dopamine and testosterone with exhilaration and lust. But dopamine is not uniquely linked to sex appeal. The thrill of sports, bungee jumping for instance, can produce a dopamine rush. What about love?
 - * Many of our unconscious preferences and behaviors are conditioned by our chemistry. Studies report that women find slightly feminized pictures of the same man more attractive when they are not ovulating. Married women are biologically driven to promiscuous behavior as reported by an experiment based on digital movies of the female participants dancing during a "girls night out." The women with long term partners and on their fertility cycles were the most provocative. This was concluded from movement and appearance analyzed through pixels and an estimated percentage of skin showing. These committed women sent out more sexual signals than the available ones. In contrast, other research pinpoints the role of the chemical oxytocin in

monogamy for women.

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* The science on sexual attraction claims that evolution prepares us to stay together just long enough to raise children. One study across 58 societies demonstrated a dual reproductive system going from pair bonding to straying at about the four-year mark in a relationship. The study conclusion: we are fundamentally built to stray. Does this mean that our exhilarating experience of early love is destined to be undermined by our inherent biology? Will we always fail at long-term love?

* Men put flame decals, fins, large spoilers, giant speakers, and raised tires on their cars to draw the attention of women in order to seek to demonstrate that they have a higher ability to acquire goods and survive in the urban jungle.

* Science claims that the chemistry of passion, lust, and love bind us together for a limited period of time. Haven't most of us figured that out at a personal level? My observation is we already know we need to build for the future before

the reality storm hits. Yet many of us neglect our marriages and relationships anyway. Over focus on careers or children, and overindulging in our selfish habits through individual use of time frequently lead to rampant neglect of our partners.

Science help us?

* It takes just three minutes to fall in love, scientists revealed today. What the heart wants, it can establish fairly quickly, according to American psychologists who studied the behaviour of 10,500 newly-introduced couples. Some people say they're looking for one kind of person, then choose another. Others say they don't even know what they're looking for, said Robert Kurzban of the University of Pennsylvania. But our data suggest that, however it happens, people know it quickly when they see it. He claimed would-be lovers generally understand their own worth on the dating market, and so are able to judge potential compatibility within moments of meeting. Psychologists analysed the interactions between speed-dating participants, where men and women are given just three minutes to assess each other before moving on to the next person. At the end of a session each individual indicates which of the 25 or so people he or she met they would like to see again. Although they had three minutes, most participants made their decision based on the information that they probably got in the first three seconds, Kurzban said. Somewhat surprisingly, factors that you might think would be really important to people, like religion, education and income, played very little role in their choices. Psychologists have often likened relationships to transactions whereby people select mates based on the qualities their other half has to offer, such as power and money. But Kurzban's data reveals that when people meet face-to-face, things like smoking preferences and bank accounts are

not of great importance. Actual behaviour is worth more than stated beliefs, he said, particularly in the case of speed-dating when participants do not want to risk a bad date and so have more incentive to follow their hearts and desires. The researchers caution that speed dating is not necessarily typical of how people usually interact. Their findings will be published in US journal Evolution and Human Behaviour." Computer Taught To Recognize Attractiveness In Women ScienceDaily (Apr. 5, 2008) "Beauty," goes the old saying, "is in the eye of the beholder." But does the beholder have to be human?

Until humans reach the age of 25, their brains are incapable of complete reasoning. The front of the brain has not fully formed yet. That is why insurance companies do everything they can to keep kids out of cars. That is why teens will suddenly have sex without thinking about the consequences. Part of this is the human species trying to get the species to make babies as fast as possible in order to continue humankind. Notice, in later years, the whole sex drive/must-have-a-baby thing goes away. Here is a great article about the science of this:

National Geographic:

Beautiful Brains

Moody. Impulsive. Maddening. Why do teenagers act the way

they do? Viewed through the eyes of evolution, their most exasperating traits may be the key to success as adults.

By David Dobbs

Although you know your teenager takes some chances, it can be a shock to hear about them.

One fine May morning not long ago my oldest son, 17 at the time, phoned to tell me that he had just spent a couple hours at the state police barracks. Apparently he had been driving "a little fast." What, I asked, was "a little fast"? Turns out this product of my genes and loving care, the boy-man I had swaddled, coddled, cooed at, and then pushed and pulled to the brink of manhood, had been flying down the highway at 113 miles an hour.

"That's more than a little fast," I said.

He agreed. In fact, he sounded somber and contrite. He did not object when I told him he'd have to pay the fines and probably for a lawyer. He did not argue when I pointed out that if anything happens at that speed a dog in the road, a blown tire, a sneeze he dies. He was in fact almost irritatingly reasonable. He even proffered that the cop did the right thing in stopping him, for, as he put it, "We can't all go around doing 113."

He did, however, object to one thing. He didn't like it that one of the several citations he received was for reckless driving.

"Well," I huffed, sensing an opportunity to finally yell at him,

"what would you call it?"

"It's just not accurate," he said calmly. "'Reckless' sounds like you're not paying attention. But I was. I made a deliberate point of doing this on an empty stretch of dry interstate, in broad daylight, with good sight lines and no traffic. I mean, I wasn't just gunning the thing. I was driving.

"I guess that's what I want you to know. If it makes you feel any better, I was really focused."

Actually, it did make me feel better. That bothered me, for I didn't understand why. Now I do.

My son's high-speed adventure raised the question long asked by people who have pondered the class of humans we call teenagers: What on Earth was he doing? Parents often phrase this question more colorfully. Scientists put it more coolly. They ask, What can explain this behavior? But even that is just another way of wondering, What is wrong with these kids? Why do they act this way? The question passes judgment even as it inquires.

Through the ages, most answers have cited dark forces that uniquely affect the teen. Aristotle concluded more than 2,300 years ago that "the young are heated by Nature as drunken men by wine." A shepherd in William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* wishes "there were no age between ten and three-and-twenty, or that youth would sleep out the rest; for there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, wronging the ancientry, stealing, fighting." His lament colors most modern scientific inquiries as well. G. Stanley Hall, who formalized adolescent studies with his 1904 *Adolescence: Its Psychology and Its*

Relations to Physiology, Anthropology, Sociology, Sex, Crime, Religion and Education, believed this period of "storm and stress" replicated earlier, less civilized stages of human development. Freud saw adolescence as an expression of torturous psychosexual conflict; Erik Erikson, as the most tumultuous of life's several identity crises. Adolescence: always a problem.

Such thinking carried into the late 20th century, when researchers developed brain-imaging technology that enabled them to see the teen brain in enough detail to track both its physical development and its patterns of activity. These imaging tools offered a new way to ask the same question What's wrong with these kids? and revealed an answer that surprised almost everyone. Our brains, it turned out, take much longer to develop than we had thought. This revelation suggested both a simplistic, unflattering explanation for teens' maddening behavior and a more complex, affirmative explanation as well.

The first full series of scans of the developing adolescent brain a National Institutes of Health (NIH) project that studied over a hundred young people as they grew up during the 1990s showed that our brains undergo a massive reorganization between our 12th and 25th years. The brain doesn't actually grow very much during this period. It has already reached 90 percent of its full size by the time a person is six, and a thickening skull accounts for most head growth afterward. But as we move through adolescence, the brain undergoes extensive remodeling, resembling a network and wiring upgrade.

For starters, the brain's axons the long nerve fibers that neurons use to send signals to other neurons become gradually more

insulated with a fatty substance called myelin (the brain's white matter), eventually boosting the axons' transmission speed up to a hundred times. Meanwhile, dendrites, the branchlike extensions that neurons use to receive signals from nearby axons, grow twiggy, and the most heavily used synapses—the little chemical junctures across which axons and dendrites pass notes—grow richer and stronger. At the same time, synapses that see little use begin to wither. This synaptic pruning, as it is called, causes the brain's cortex—the outer layer of gray matter where we do much of our conscious and complicated thinking—to become thinner but more efficient. Taken together, these changes make the entire brain a much faster and more sophisticated organ.

This process of maturation, once thought to be largely finished by elementary school, continues throughout adolescence. Imaging work done since the 1990s shows that these physical changes move in a slow wave from the brain's rear to its front, from areas close to the brain stem that look after older and more behaviorally basic functions, such as vision, movement, and fundamental processing, to the evolutionarily newer and more complicated thinking areas up front. The corpus callosum, which connects the brain's left and right hemispheres and carries traffic essential to many advanced brain functions, steadily thickens. Stronger links also develop between the hippocampus, a sort of memory directory, and frontal areas that set goals and weigh different agendas; as a result, we get better at integrating memory and experience into our decisions. At the same time, the frontal areas develop greater speed and richer connections, allowing us to generate and weigh far more variables and agendas than before.

When this development proceeds normally, we get better at

balancing impulse, desire, goals, self-interest, rules, ethics, and even altruism, generating behavior that is more complex and, sometimes at least, more sensible. But at times, and especially at first, the brain does this work clumsily. It's hard to get all those new cogs to mesh.

Beatriz Luna, a University of Pittsburgh professor of psychiatry who uses neuroimaging to study the teen brain, used a simple test that illustrates this learning curve. Luna scanned the brains of children, teens, and twentysomethings while they performed an antisaccade task, a sort of eyes-only video game where you have to stop yourself from looking at a suddenly appearing light. You view a screen on which the red crosshairs at the center occasionally disappear just as a light flickers elsewhere on the screen. Your instructions are to not look at the light and instead to look in the opposite direction. A sensor detects any eye movement. It's a tough assignment, since flickering lights naturally draw our attention. To succeed, you must override both a normal impulse to attend to new information and curiosity about something forbidden. Brain geeks call this response inhibition.

Ten-year-olds stink at it, failing about 45 percent of the time. Teens do much better. In fact, by age 15 they can score as well as adults if they're motivated, resisting temptation about 70 to 80 percent of the time. What Luna found most interesting, however, was not those scores. It was the brain scans she took while people took the test. Compared with adults, teens tended to make less use of brain regions that monitor performance, spot errors, plan, and stay focused areas the adults seemed to bring online automatically. This let the adults use a variety of brain resources and better resist temptation, while the teens used

those areas less often and more readily gave in to the impulse to look at the flickering light just as they're more likely to look away from the road to read a text message.

If offered an extra reward, however, teens showed they could push those executive regions to work harder, improving their scores. And by age 20, their brains respond to this task much as the adults' do. Luna suspects the improvement comes as richer networks and faster connections make the executive region more effective.

These studies help explain why teens behave with such vexing inconsistency: beguiling at breakfast, disgusting at dinner; masterful on Monday, sleepwalking on Saturday. Along with lacking experience generally, they're still learning to use their brain's new networks. Stress, fatigue, or challenges can cause a misfire. Abigail Baird, a Vassar psychologist who studies teens, calls this neural gawkiness an equivalent to the physical awkwardness teens sometimes display while mastering their growing bodies.

The slow and uneven developmental arc revealed by these imaging studies offers an alluringly pithy explanation for why teens may do stupid things like drive at 113 miles an hour, aggrieve their ancestry, and get people (or get gotten) with child: They act that way because their brains aren't done! You can see it right there in the scans!

This view, as titles from the explosion of scientific papers and popular articles about the "teen brain" put it, presents adolescents as "works in progress" whose "immature brains" lead some to question whether they are in a state "akin to

mental retardation."

The story you're reading right now, however, tells a different scientific tale about the teen brain. Over the past five years or so, even as the work-in-progress story spread into our culture, the discipline of adolescent brain studies learned to do some more-complex thinking of its own. A few researchers began to view recent brain and genetic findings in a brighter, more flattering light, one distinctly colored by evolutionary theory. The resulting account of the adolescent brain calls it the adaptive-adolescent story casts the teen less as a rough draft than as an exquisitely sensitive, highly adaptable creature wired almost perfectly for the job of moving from the safety of home into the complicated world outside.

This view will likely sit better with teens. More important, it sits better with biology's most fundamental principle, that of natural selection. Selection is hell on dysfunctional traits. If adolescence is essentially a collection of themangst, idiocy, and haste; impulsiveness, selfishness, and reckless bumbling then how did those traits survive selection? They couldn't not if they were the period's most fundamental or consequential features.

The answer is that those troublesome traits don't really characterize adolescence; they're just what we notice most because they annoy us or put our children in danger. As B. J. Casey, a neuroscientist at Weill Cornell Medical College who has spent nearly a decade applying brain and genetic studies to our understanding of adolescence, puts it, "We're so used to seeing adolescence as a problem. But the more we learn about what really makes this period unique, the more adolescence starts to seem like a highly functional, even adaptive period. It's exactly

what you'd need to do the things you have to do then."

To see past the distracting, dopey teenager and glimpse the adaptive adolescent within, we should look not at specific, sometimes startling, behaviors, such as skateboarding down stairways or dating fast company, but at the broader traits that underlie those acts.

Let's start with the teen's love of the thrill. We all like new and exciting things, but we never value them more highly than we do during adolescence. Here we hit a high in what behavioral scientists call sensation seeking: the hunt for the neural buzz, the jolt of the unusual or unexpected.

Seeking sensation isn't necessarily impulsive. You might plan a sensation-seeking experience a skydive or a fast drive quite deliberately, as my son did. Impulsivity generally drops throughout life, starting at about age 10, but this love of the thrill peaks at around age 15. And although sensation seeking can lead to dangerous behaviors, it can also generate positive ones: The urge to meet more people, for instance, can create a wider circle of friends, which generally makes us healthier, happier, safer, and more successful.

This upside probably explains why an openness to the new, though it can sometimes kill the cat, remains a highlight of adolescent development. A love of novelty leads directly to useful experience. More broadly, the hunt for sensation provides the inspiration needed to "get you out of the house" and into new terrain, as Jay Giedd, a pioneering researcher in teen brain development at NIH, puts it.

Also peaking during adolescence (and perhaps aggravating the ancientry the most) is risk-taking. We court risk more avidly as teens than at any other time. This shows reliably in the lab, where teens take more chances in controlled experiments involving everything from card games to simulated driving. And it shows in real life, where the period from roughly 15 to 25 brings peaks in all sorts of risky ventures and ugly outcomes. This age group dies of accidents of almost every sort (other than work accidents) at high rates. Most long-term drug or alcohol abuse starts during adolescence, and even people who later drink responsibly often drink too much as teens. Especially in cultures where teenage driving is common, this takes a gory toll: In the U.S., one in three teen deaths is from car crashes, many involving alcohol.

Are these kids just being stupid? That's the conventional explanation: They're not thinking, or by the work-in-progress model, their puny developing brains fail them.

Yet these explanations don't hold up. As Laurence Steinberg, a developmental psychologist specializing in adolescence at Temple University, points out, even 14- to 17-year-olds the biggest risk takers use the same basic cognitive strategies that adults do, and they usually reason their way through problems just as well as adults. Contrary to popular belief, they also fully recognize they're mortal. And, like adults, says Steinberg, "teens actually overestimate risk."

So if teens think as well as adults do and recognize risk just as well, why do they take more chances? Here, as elsewhere, the problem lies less in what teens lack compared with adults than in what they have more of. Teens take more risks not because they

don't understand the dangers but because they weigh risk versus reward differently: In situations where risk can get them something they want, they value the reward more heavily than adults do.

A video game Steinberg uses draws this out nicely. In the game, you try to drive across town in as little time as possible. Along the way you encounter several traffic lights. As in real life, the traffic lights sometimes turn from green to yellow as you approach them, forcing a quick go-or-stop decision. You save time and score more points if you drive through before the light turns red. But if you try to drive through the red and don't beat it, you lose even more time than you would have if you had stopped for it. Thus the game rewards you for taking a certain amount of risk but punishes you for taking too much.

When teens drive the course alone, in what Steinberg calls the emotionally "cool" situation of an empty room, they take risks at about the same rates that adults do. Add stakes that the teen cares about, however, and the situation changes. In this case Steinberg added friends: When he brought a teen's friends into the room to watch, the teen would take twice as many risks, trying to gun it through lights he'd stopped for before. The adults, meanwhile, drove no differently with a friend watching.

To Steinberg, this shows clearly that risk-taking rises not from puny thinking but from a higher regard for reward.

"They didn't take more chances because they suddenly downgraded the risk," says Steinberg. "They did so because they gave more weight to the payoff."

Researchers such as Steinberg and Casey believe this risk-friendly weighing of cost versus reward has been selected for because, over the course of human evolution, the willingness to take risks during this period of life has granted an adaptive edge. Succeeding often requires moving out of the home and into less secure situations. "The more you seek novelty and take risks," says Baird, "the better you do." This responsiveness to reward thus works like the desire for new sensation: It gets you out of the house and into new turf.

As Steinberg's driving game suggests, teens respond strongly to social rewards. Physiology and evolutionary theory alike offer explanations for this tendency. Physiologically, adolescence brings a peak in the brain's sensitivity to dopamine, a neurotransmitter that appears to prime and fire reward circuits and aids in learning patterns and making decisions. This helps explain the teen's quickness of learning and extraordinary receptivity to reward and his keen, sometimes melodramatic reaction to success as well as defeat.

The teen brain is similarly attuned to oxytocin, another neural hormone, which (among other things) makes social connections in particular more rewarding. The neural networks and dynamics associated with general reward and social interactions overlap heavily. Engage one, and you often engage the other. Engage them during adolescence, and you light a fire.

This helps explain another trait that marks adolescence: Teens prefer the company of those their own age more than ever before or after. At one level, this passion for same-age peers merely expresses in the social realm the teen's general attraction to novelty: Teens offer teens far more novelty than familiar old

family does.

Yet teens gravitate toward peers for another, more powerful reason: to invest in the future rather than the past. We enter a world made by our parents. But we will live most of our lives, and prosper (or not) in a world run and remade by our peers. Knowing, understanding, and building relationships with them bears critically on success. Socially savvy rats or monkeys, for instance, generally get the best nesting areas or territories, the most food and water, more allies, and more sex with better and fitter mates. And no species is more intricately and deeply social than humans are.

This supremely human characteristic makes peer relations not a sideshow but the main show. Some brain-scan studies, in fact, suggest that our brains react to peer exclusion much as they respond to threats to physical health or food supply. At a neural level, in other words, we perceive social rejection as a threat to existence. Knowing this might make it easier to abide the hysteria of a 13-year-old deceived by a friend or the gloom of a 15-year-old not invited to a party. These people! we lament. They react to social ups and downs as if their fates depended upon them! They're right. They do.

Excitement, novelty, risk, the company of peers. These traits may seem to add up to nothing more than doing foolish new stuff with friends. Look deeper, however, and you see that these traits that define adolescence make us more adaptive, both as individuals and as a species. That's doubtless why these traits, broadly defined, seem to show themselves in virtually all human cultures, modern or tribal. They may concentrate and express themselves more starkly in modern Western cultures, in which

teens spend so much time with each other. But anthropologists have found that virtually all the world's cultures recognize adolescence as a distinct period in which adolescents prefer novelty, excitement, and peers. This near-universal recognition sinks the notion that it's a cultural construct.

Culture clearly shapes adolescence. It influences its expression and possibly its length. It can magnify its manifestations. Yet culture does not create adolescence. The period's uniqueness rises from genes and developmental processes that have been selected for over thousands of generations because they play an amplified role during this key transitional period: producing a creature optimally primed to leave a safe home and move into unfamiliar territory.

The move outward from home is the most difficult thing that humans do, as well as the most critical not just for individuals but for a species that has shown an unmatched ability to master challenging new environments. In scientific terms, teenagers can be a pain in the ass. But they are quite possibly the most fully, crucially adaptive human beings around. Without them, humanity might not have so readily spread across the globe.

This adaptive-adolescence view, however accurate, can be tricky to come to terms with the more so for parents dealing with teens in their most trying, contrary, or flat-out scary moments. It's reassuring to recast worrisome aspects as signs of an organism learning how to negotiate its surroundings. But natural selection swings a sharp edge, and the teen's sloppier moments can bring unbearable consequences. We may not run the risk of being killed in ritualistic battles or being eaten by leopards, but drugs, drinking, driving, and crime take a mighty toll. My son lives, and

thrives, sans car, at college. Some of his high school friends, however, died during their driving experiments. Our children wield their adaptive plasticity amid small but horrific risks.

We parents, of course, often stumble too, as we try to walk the blurry line between helping and hindering our kids as they adapt to adulthood. The United States spends about a billion dollars a year on programs to counsel adolescents on violence, gangs, suicide, sex, substance abuse, and other potential pitfalls. Few of them work.

Yet we can and do help. We can ward off some of the world's worst hazards and nudge adolescents toward appropriate responses to the rest. Studies show that when parents engage and guide their teens with a light but steady hand, staying connected but allowing independence, their kids generally do much better in life. Adolescents want to learn primarily, but not entirely, from their friends. At some level and at some times (and it's the parent's job to spot when), the teen recognizes that the parent can offer certain kernels of wisdom/knowledge valued not because it comes from parental authority but because it comes from the parent's own struggles to learn how the world turns. The teen rightly perceives that she must understand not just her parents' world but also the one she is entering. Yet if allowed to, she can appreciate that her parents once faced the same problems and may remember a few things worth knowing.

Meanwhile, in times of doubt, take inspiration in one last distinction of the teen brain: a final key to both its clumsiness and its remarkable adaptability. This is the prolonged plasticity of those late-developing frontal areas as they slowly mature. As noted earlier, these areas are the last to lay down the fatty

myelin insulationthe brain's white matterthat speeds transmission. And at first glance this seems like bad news: If we need these areas for the complex task of entering the world, why aren't they running at full speed when the challenges are most daunting?

The answer is that speed comes at the price of flexibility. While a myelin coating greatly accelerates an axon's bandwidth, it also inhibits the growth of new branches from the axon. According to Douglas Fields, an NIH neuroscientist who has spent years studying myelin, "This makes the period when a brain area lays down myelin a sort of crucial period of learningthe wiring is getting upgraded, but once that's done, it's harder to change."

The window in which experience can best rewire those connections is highly specific to each brain area. Thus the brain's language centers acquire their insulation most heavily in the first 13 years, when a child is learning language. The completed insulation consolidates those gainsbut makes further gains, such as second languages, far harder to come by.

So it is with the forebrain's myelination during the late teens and early 20s. This delayed completiona withholding of readinessheightens flexibility just as we confront and enter the world that we will face as adults.

This long, slow, back-to-front developmental wave, completed only in the mid-20s, appears to be a uniquely human adaptation. It may be one of our most consequential. It can seem a bit crazy that we humans don't wise up a bit earlier in life. But if we smartened up sooner, we'd end up dumber.