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# 10 Great Dating Ideas... to Make Every Date Special



Paul Myers

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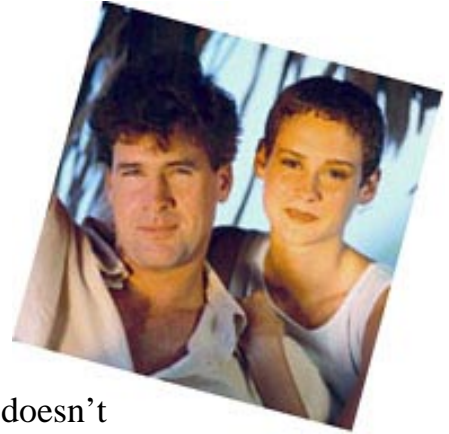
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**W**e were originally going to release this just as a Valentine's Day special. But we got to thinking about it, and realized that was exactly the wrong idea.



Yeah, you want to do something special for Valentine's Day. Really, though, doesn't thoughtfulness make the occasion even more special when you don't need a special occasion to show it?

Here are ten suggestions to get you thinking. Some are simple; others will take a little preparation. Some would make great first dates, and some are more suited to couples who have been together for a while.

No matter how long you've been together, you ought to find at least one here that will put a sparkle in that special someone's eyes... and maybe even start a fire in their heart.

Play with the ideas. Mix and match them, add touches of your own, and generally have fun with them. Come up with a date that they'll remember — vividly — for years to come.

To help you get the hang of it, we'll be sending out some great dating tips and ideas every month in the Great Dating Ideas Newsletter. Short emails with great suggestions for really great dates, ways to save (or gracefully escape from) a boring date, funny and romantic touches to make every date special, and more. If you'd like to get these (they're free), send any email to

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Okay. Enough talk.

Let's get to the dates! ♥





One of the best “first date” ideas you can come up with... Take him to a comedy club.

Why? Well, to start with, it’s different. The ABSOLUTE WORST thing you can do on a first date is the same old “dinner and a movie” schtick. Borrrring! And boring isn’t the way to start off what you hope will be a beautiful relationship, is it?

This is also a very “low pressure” date. If the comics stink — hey, it’s not your fault. But if they’re great, and she laughs herself silly, guess who gets the credit for a brilliant evening?

You should get there just before the show starts, and keep the conversation to a minimum. As the evening progresses, you’ll get more of a feel for him, and how you think you’ll get along. If you think there’s nothing there, you can end the date shortly after the show, and no one leaves with hurt feelings. Just don’t call him back for another date.

If you think you’d like to get to know her better, this is perfect. There are very few times when the conversation is more relaxed or light-hearted than after an hour or so of heavy laughing. The inhibitions are down, but the judgment is still good.

Truly the perfect first date. ♥

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# 2

**T**here's magic in a good date, so why not magicians?

Dinner and a magic show make for a killer combination. Especially if you pick one of the more intimate places, where the magicians come around to the table and do tricks for you.

In these clubs, you'll often find that the magicians will make a deliberate effort to get you and your date closer.

But what if you don't want to depend on them for random acts of romance? Set it up yourself!

Call the club before you make your reservations, and ask if the magicians can do special requests. If so, talk to one who will be working the day you want to come in. Ask him if he can produce a single rose for you, and then a simple piece of paper.

If he says yes, you're in business. On the day of the date, make sure you have the rose and the paper delivered.

When he produces the flower for your date, you're going to get an interesting



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look. When he produces the paper,  
the look will get even more curious.

When your date sees that the  
paper carries a poem or a letter that  
you wrote just for this occasion,  
the look will take a dramatic  
change.

That's REAL magic.

And you made it happen...





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\*POP\* the question...

So, you want to ask her to marry you?

(This obviously isn't for first dates.) <g>

After the magician introduces himself, he produces and gives her the rose. Then, as she sniffs it and tells him (or you) how beautiful it is, he produces the small envelope with your poem or letter in it.

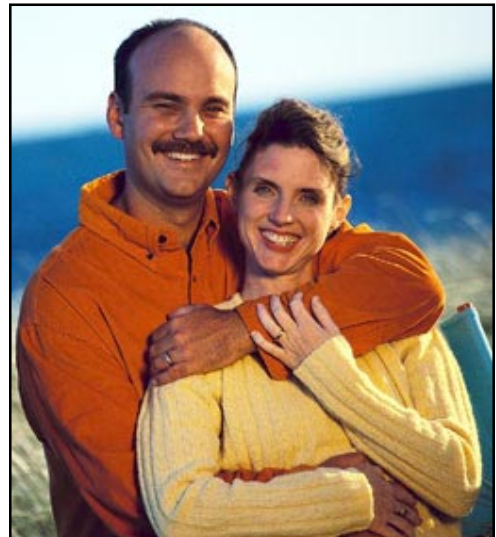
Can you see the smile on her face as she reads your note?

When she's done reading your words of romance, the magician then pulls a small box out of thin air. He looks at her, looks at you, and says, "I think this would be more appropriate coming from you, sir."

You look your date in the eyes, and thank her for the magic she's brought into your life. Let her know the miracle she is to you.

Open the box, and show her the ring.

Ask her to marry you. ♥



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# 3

Sometimes the most wonderful dates come from mixing things in ways that you normally wouldn't think of.



Why? Because it takes thought. It takes effort. It takes attention to what your date enjoys, rather than what's easy. All these things say, "You're special."

And those dates are always remembered.

Personally, I always like picnics. You can have one whenever it's convenient for you and your date. They're very low pressure. They're relaxed, private, and open for new ideas and "adding on" after the picnic is over.

Picnics are great ways for you to get to know a new date, and they're FANTASTIC ways to surprise a long-time partner if things have gotten stale.

If you want to make your picnic truly memorable, consider throwing in a twist. Literally. Or a waltz. Or any type of dancing that makes your date happy.

This, like many winning ideas, is simple. You sneak a portable CD player into the picnic basket, and go.

It's beautiful in the way it says, "I care, and I'm happy when I'm with you."

What more can you say? ♥



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# 4

**W**hat if you just want to spend time with someone to find out if you want to ask them out? Or you'd like to show them a good time in a very casual setting and let them get a feel for you before asking them out for a "Real Date."

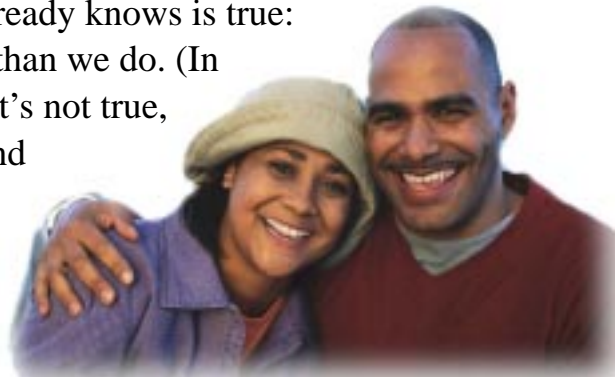
This one is terrific, and it's really simple: Go shopping.

Yes, go to the mall.

Believe it or not, this will work best when the man is the one who does the inviting.

In many cases, a woman inviting a guy to the mall is like asking him to watch her get her rugs shampooed. "Sorry, I can't. There's a fishing marathon on TBS that Saturday..."

On the other hand, it's easy for a guy to ask a woman to help him pick out a shirt, a gift, a sofa — or almost anything else you can buy in a mall. All we have to do is admit what the woman already knows is true: She has better taste in stuff than we do. (In the very rare case where that's not true, she BELIEVES she does, and will appreciate our confidence.)



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Guys, here's a hint: Make sure you're playing to her strong suit. If you really admire her taste in clothes, ask her to help you pick out a suit for your best friend's



wedding (or some other occasion). If she's got a terrific flair for decorating, ask her to help you pick out wallpaper for your dining room, or a new sofa/love seat combination.

If she's just plain fun, ask her to help you pick out gifts for a couple of upcoming birthdays.

If you just want to see if she's someone you'd like to spend time with, it's as easy as asking her for help. If you ask for help with something you really think she's good at, she's likely to realize that you're sincere, and be willing to give you her advice.

On the other hand, if you know you'd like to ask her out later, and want to create a good impression, you'll want to do a bit of homework.

Visit the mall on your own before you get together there with her. You want to look for one or two little things you can do for her while you're shopping, or as a thank you afterward.

Is there a restaurant you can stop at for a quick bite? A theatre with some good movies you can suggest if she seems receptive and unrushed? A store with something fun and light-hearted that you can buy for both of you "on the spur of the moment"?

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Give it some thought in advance. Just keep in mind that one of the most important things this idea has going for it is that it's "Very Low Pressure" and "Non-Threatening."

Keep it that way. You should be prepared, but let her take the lead if she wants. She IS doing you a favor, after all, isn't she?

The key is to keep it light and have fun. Everything else is unimportant, as long as you both have a good time.

Oh yeah... The reason I suggested that you make sure you're asking for her help with something she's really good at (and that you really need) is that you want to actually buy the stuff she recommends.

No better compliment to someone's taste, is there? ♥



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# 5

If you want something that's both fun and unusual, take your date to an auction.

Look in your Sunday paper's classified section for auctions. In most areas, there'll be auctions every day, and many are held on a weekly basis. They can be a lot of fun, and are as much a social gathering as a way to buy unusual items at sometimes ridiculous discounts.



Narrow the field based on what they list for sale and where they're located. You may want to visit a couple to see which would be most enjoyable. The atmosphere and the people working at them can have a tremendous impact on how much fun you and your date will have.

You'll want to show up at least 30 minutes (and possibly an hour) before the auction starts. Register, then spend the time looking over the items they have for sale. This is a great time for conversation as you browse the offerings and discuss what you might be interested in bidding on. And it's a great way to see what kinds of things your date is interested in.

The first time you take a date to an auction, make sure you think ahead and add a few nice touches.

Before the auction starts, keep an eye on the things

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your date ooohs and aaahs over. Consider bidding on them as spontaneous gifts. If the auction has box lots, and you see something he'd like hidden in the bottom of a box, bid on it and give it to him as a surprise.

You might want to get her a gift BEFORE the auction, and keep it in your pocket. Bid on something that would go with it, give her that, and tell her you got it because it goes with... (Present your gift at that point.)

Something to nibble on (depends on what your date likes) and a Thermos of hot cocoa make a good ice breaker. If the auction gets boring, this kind of thoughtful gesture can save the date.

Consider chocolates and some non-alcoholic wine if you want to make it romantic... (You do want to make it romantic, don't you?)

The opportunities are endless.



Auctions are especially well suited for you if you're someone who can be romantic, funny or creative on the spur of the moment.

If that's you, give it a go. You'll have a ball, and so will your date! ♥

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# 6

**P**arks are great places for a first date. They're open enough to allow intimate conversation and a reasonable level of privacy, and public enough to be safe.

But... parks aren't "special."

Are they?

They can be. Like most dates, a little thought and some imagination make all the difference.

What you'll want to look for is a park that has a lot of attractions nearby. A playground, a waterside path, a spot to watch a sunset, a library, a mall... Wherever you can find that has lots to do nearby.

Start with a romantic picnic lunch. Something light and tasty. Make sure you have different textures, too. Apples, some hard bread, cheese, and something creamy for dessert make a good menu that's easy to serve and enjoyable. (You can carry it in a paper bag, so when you're done you don't have to lug the dishes around...)

Wine can be good, but you may not want to serve it from the original bottle. (Many towns frown on public consumption of even a small amount of alcohol, and it could get you a ticket, so don't bring wine if that's the case.)

Find a spot where there's a pleasant scent from flowers







or nearby bushes. A nice earthy or floral smell adds a whole new dimension to the experience.

Ask her about something she is really interested in, and then SHUT UP. Really pay attention. Watch her face as she speaks. Don't interrupt, and don't express opinions. Acknowledge, and accept. Listen like she's the most important thing in the world. At that point, she should be.

If he starts looking around, follow his lead. If he's looking at the playground, suggest playing on the swings. If you think he might brush it off as a macho thing, ask him to push you on the swings. He'll do that, and he'll warm up to the idea quickly enough.

If she's gazing longingly at the shore, ask her if she'd like to take a stroll along the beach. This is a very romantic way to enjoy someone's company.

The goal here is to set your date up to take the lead, to choose from a lot of options. You just go along, and really enjoy their choice.

If you've never been the complete and total center of someone's world for an afternoon, you'll be tempted to dismiss this lightly.

Don't. This is one of the most powerful ways possible to make a lasting and positive impression.

It's also a lot of fun to make another person the focus of your world for a while.

Try it. You'll be pleasantly surprised. ♥

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# 7

**T**his one is a classic. And soooo simple.

Ask him to take a dance lesson with you.

If you want to get off to a romantic start right away, make it something slow and close like the ballroom two-step, or something sexy like the Cha Cha. If you want to keep it light and fun, take line dancing lessons.

You can dress however you want him to see you dressed, move however you want him to see you move (or however you want to see him move), and be as formal or casual as you like. This is one of those rare times when you can completely set the tone.

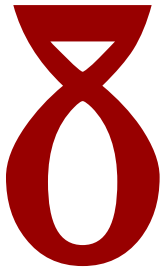
The options for after the class are wide open. If you had fun, you can suggest going somewhere “to practice while it’s still fresh in your mind.” Or, you could be hungry after all that exercise. Or thirsty. Or...

The key here is that you ask for ONE lesson. You’re not signing up for a weekly commitment. (Yet.)

If he likes the classes (and you), you’re pretty much a shoe-in for future lessons.

Of course, you take it one step at a time... ♥





**Y**ou have to do this one to appreciate it. It's an amazing way to learn about your date, and a lot of fun.

Get four disposable cameras. Take your date on a picnic somewhere with a lot of beautiful scenery, and each of you should take enough pictures to use up two of the cameras.

Hint: You want to try and get a few really flattering pictures of your date.

You'll have a blast just looking at the scenery, and trying to get that perfect shot of the best view of the day. This kind of outdoor activity is always good for bringing you closer.

Plus, you know you have a second date, since you'll want to compare pictures after you have them developed.

This is where it gets interesting. You'll be surprised at the differences in what you took pictures of, how much sky you each left in the shot, and so many other things.

It really does show you a lot about how your date looks at the world... And how you do. ♥

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# 9

Instead of going out for a date, why not have the date come in for you?

Picture it: You're sitting around on a Friday evening, just watching a movie, and the doorbell rings. It's the delivery guy, with a great dinner, which he proceeds to lay out on the table. Your date had no idea food was ordered.



A few minutes later, the doorbell rings again, and it's a friend of yours, dropping off a bottle of wine and the CD player he borrowed. "Oh, check out the new disc I got," he says. "I left it in there for you to listen to."

Your date's catching on by this point, but she's liable to play along just to see how far it goes. Once dinner is done and you've opened the wine, there should be one more ringing of the doorbell.

Dessert. Something fancy and rich.

After dessert, one of you should turn on the music.

Surprise! Soft dancing music.



*(You were surprised, right? No? Good for you! You're catching on.)*

A lot of time and thought go into making this date just right. You have to pick out the food, wine, and music. You have to arrange to have all this stuff delivered. And you have to keep a straight face while all these people drop stuff off like it was just another Friday evening.

Then, to top it off, you have to have a few clever (and complimentary) things in mind to say when she decides to mention that she's figured it out.

This can be adapted to fit any couple, any budget, and any occasion, including none at all.

The fun in this one is that it begins as a surprise, and then develops into something predictable and thoughtful. And very romantic.

Try it sometime. It's guaranteed to impress your date with your effort. And that counts for a lot. ♥

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# 10



Is there anything more romantic than your date singing your favorite love song to you?

If you've ever been serenaded by someone you were involved with, you know the feeling. If not, you're missing out on something truly wonderful.

Why not give your date that same feeling of being the center of the Universe, if only for 3 minutes and 25 seconds?

If you have access to a tape recorder, you can make her (or his) day. Record a song 'a cappella,' or sing along with the album version. If you know someone who has access to a library of karaoke CDs, you can probably even get the music to sing along with, and be the only vocal on the recording.

Give it to her as "something to dance to," and watch her eyes light up when she realizes it's you singing.

Or, if you don't want to give it to her while you're on a date, surprise her. Slip it into her lunch or put it on the seat of her car. Your next date will be much more romantic after that.

To make it even more fun, make her a CD with all of her favorite songs on it, with your rendition of the best at the end of the disk.

Want to bet that becomes her instant favorite album? ♥



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**P**lay with these ideas, folks.

For example, you could mix a couple of these and have a picnic in the mall. It sounds silly, but I guarantee you, it's huge fun.

Or take the pictures in the mall. Or have the picnic in your backyard — in February.

The goal is to be thoughtful, funny, original, caring and romantic. As often as you can. Don't limit yourself, or your relationships, to "Greeting Card Days."

Be a great date, every day. ♥

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PS: If you liked the ideas, you really should ask for our free Great Dating Ideas newsletter. We'll be adding not only more great dating ideas, but also a mix of extra touches that you can use every day to add a little spice to your relationships.

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And hey, when you use any of these, email me and let me know how it worked out for you.

If you have an idea that you'd like to share with others, send it in. You may help someone else to get together with that special someone they've been waiting for all their life. And maybe I'll make you famous. ;)

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