"BLIND DATING 101: Match.com

An Internet date is a blind date.

Emails and phone calls in advance of meeting are fairly pointless because the other person will make up their mind based on physical attraction in the first 3-5 minutes no matter what you talked about before hand. Advance communication will actual make the rejection more painful for both parties.

If a girl rejects a boy that was attracted to her they cannot be friends because the boy will always secretly think the girl will "come around". (Harry met Sally)

Most people cancel at the last minute or a few minutes before the first date because they forget about it and they have not met the other person so they do not attach any emotional obligation to the other part. The internet makes others more "delete-able". Always trade cell numbers. To adjust for this.

Nobody looks like their picture. A 2D picture cannot give you a good impression of a 3D person in real life.

Most people lie about their age to avoid judgementalism.

Women often expect men to buy them dinner but men who have been online for over 4 weeks may have just spent thousands of dollars on dinners, parking, phone calls, etc. for people they will never see again. This creates resentment around money for men so, don't ask about dinners, until he offers.

Women get 30 times more responses than guys online. Most women are dating a number of guys in the beginning because of the volume.

People that do not live in the same City have bailed out because of the commute. Suburb people will usually never come to a big city because of parking or fear-of-leaving-their-safety-sphere issues.

There are a number of articles and lawsuits about hired dating shills from each online service who pretend to be interested in you but then suddenly have a trip they never return from or say they want or don't want kids and you do/don't. Watch out for this.

Society programs people that look alike to only want to be with other people that look like them. Do not email a girl or guy that is hotter than you because they will be "typed" by social programming to not be attracted to you. Sorority Girls only are attracted to Fraternity Guys (ie: both have small sharply accented facial features which are symmetrically placed on the face. Don't set yourself up for a fall. You can have amazing emails and phone calls with a hot girl or guy but when you meet in person, you can see the look of disappointment on the others face as it crashes and burns. Heart-Breaking for at least one person.

In Over-35 dating near major cities there are large groups of a certain type: women who just divorced dot.com millionaires looking for a matching revenue stream; sports bar guys looking for a trophy wife or girlfriend, C-Level executive women at the end of the biological clock cycle who are rushing to have a baby because they forgot to have one during their career; Meal-ticket people; Sports-daters who are in a frenzy because of the massive volume of potentials that internet dating fires at you and who have 2-3 dates per day; Sport-sex who find the odds vastly better in the volumes of people linked on the internet; …and other "types".. try to ask the key questions up front to pick them out.

"Dating" carries a set of presumptions and assumptions A "Dating Site". Is not for "looking for friends". Use Friendster, Linked-In, My Space or the hundreds of Friends sites for that. A dating site is for Sex, Romance and Marriage, to be blunt. Everyone rationalizes other definitions for it but they all point back to one of those three or a combination of those three. Most people are on there seriously looking for one or all of those so be careful with the feelings of others if you are just on a dating site for curiosity or to kill time.

In a phenomenon particular to the internet, the single largest complaint of women on internet dating is that "all the men just want sex" and the single largest complaint of men on internet is that "all the women are just looking for money".

The key points:

1. **The process is different**. The nature of the system makes interaction different than other types of interaction.
2. **Never communicate by email**. Only use email to set-up a meeting. Everyone misinterprets email. Fights break out over typos and dual meanings and jokes that are thought to be serious and hundreds of other out-of-context misunderstandings. Paranoia is rampant in email. Email ruins more relationships than it helps and gets more initial meetings canceled with perfectly nice people because one or the other thought the other meant something they didn't.
3. **Move Fast.** You and the other people you are writing to are meeting more people in a week than you may meet in a year. Each of those people is seeking to " close a deal" soon so odds are that the person you are interested will be taken by one of the first few people they meet.
4. **Get cell phone numbers.** Most people don't look like their picture so get cell phone numbers when you meet or you may not find each other.
5. **Meet Soon.** Most people decide on attraction in the first 3-15 minutes. Don't spend much time on phone calls or emails as you will be heart-broken if the other person decides they are not attracted to you as soon as you meet, making all of the advance communication pointless.
6. **Be prepared for cut-to-the-chase communications.** The efficiency of the information system combined with the volume of rejections before finding someone makes most people get o the point rather quickly. While this increases judgementalism and superficiality it increases productivity for those seeking to get a partner soon and end the review process.
7. **Accept the interview style.** Since you and the other person have no history, the only way to build that context is to ask question-formatted interrogatories in order to create the context. No matter how you do it, it might feel like an interview. Just accept that it is not a job-interview and go with the flow.
8. **Don't pick model-like people if you are not a model-like appearing person.** Try as you, or they, might, to overcome social conditioning; most super-pretty/handsome people have social psychological conditioning to eventually, or immediately, not feel comfortable with people who do not have equal facial symmetry and you will likely be rejected.
9. **There is more sex.** Because of the volume of people and the more immediate communication style, the odds of finding a sexual partner are higher in internet dating so the topic of sex comes up more often.

10. **Don't take anything too seriously.** Try to not let yourself get to into it emotionally until you and a person have decided to be exclusive and shut down your profiles.