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The

ULTIMATE

Cheat Sheet

to Online Dating

5 Tips That Will Help You Meet Interesting
People and Go on Great Dates

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Let's face it, online dating can be tough. You might be asking yourself things like:

“How do I fill out my profile?”

“What’s the best way to send an initial message?”

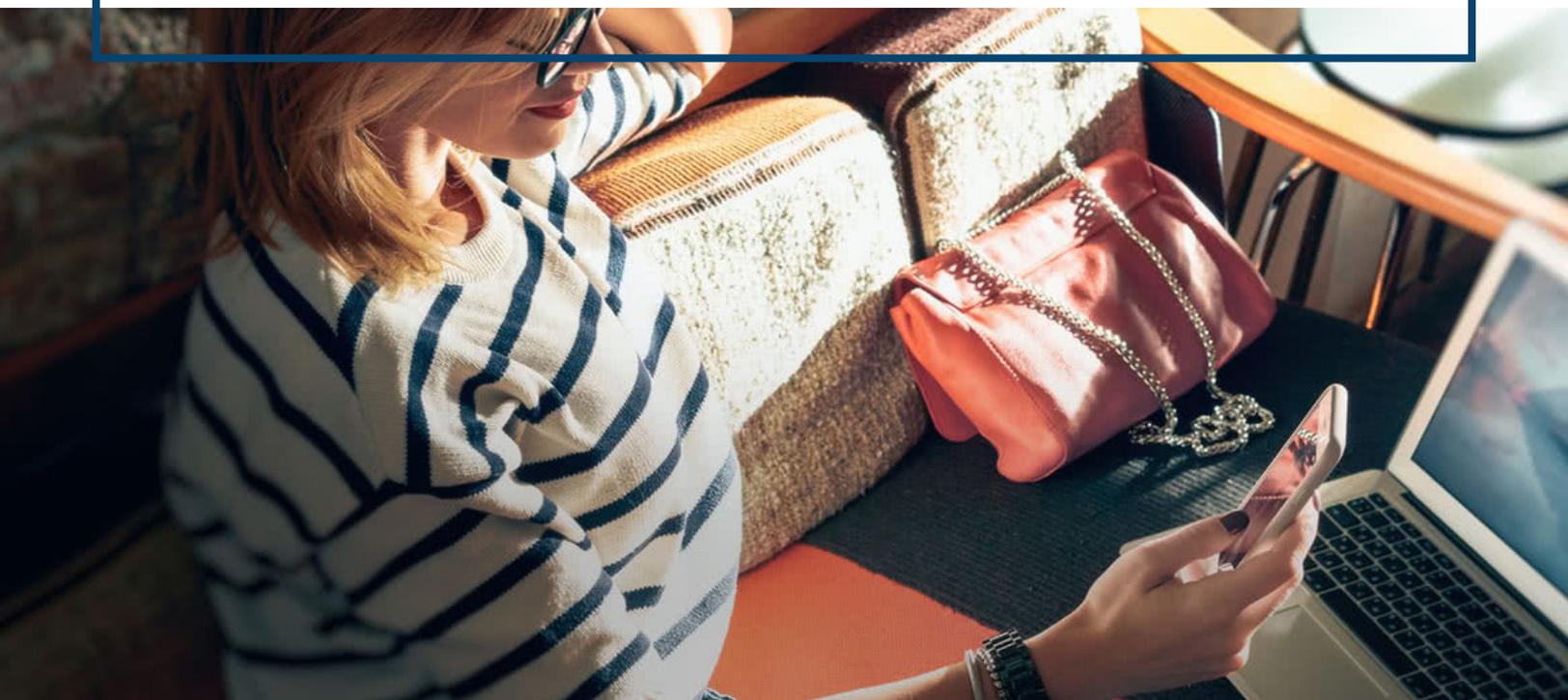
“When should I respond to messages?”

And many other nerve-racking important questions.

So how can you stand out from the crowd and attract more quality dates?

We've teamed up with Zoosk's Editor-in-Chief and Senior Content Strategist, Megan Murray, to create this awesome Ultimate Cheat Sheet for Online Dating. Zoosk is an online dating site and app that has over 38 million members! So they know a thing or two about our dating tendencies and what works for their successful members.

This cheat sheet is meant to compliment our interview with Megan Murray in episode 112: Don't Make These Online Dating Mistakes. In the interview we go even more in-depth with online dating tips, so if you haven't listened and are craving more, listen to episode #112 here: idopodcast.com/112



1.

FILL OUT YOUR FULL DATING PROFILE

When it comes to setting up your dating profile, most people would say photos are the most important part. In a way, they'd be right—the majority of online daters do pay attention to your photos more than any other part of your profile, but new data shows that your dating profile description may be just as important.



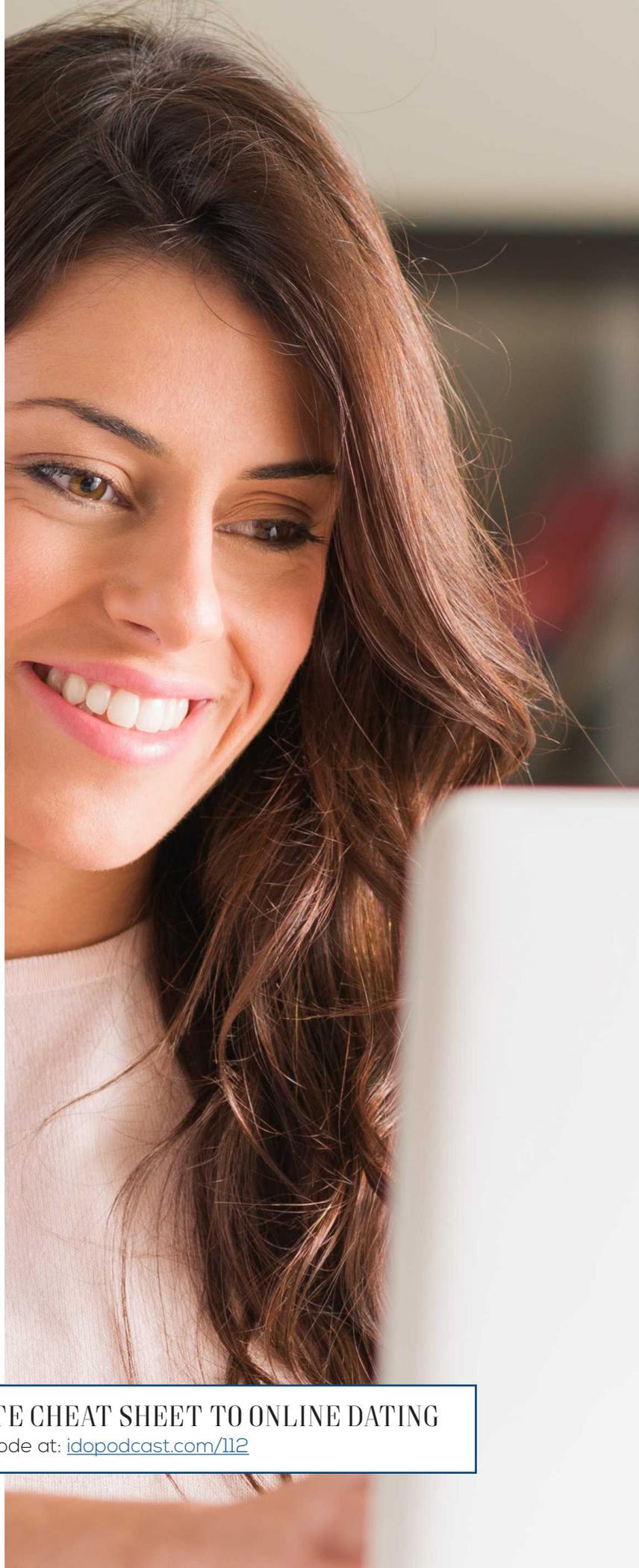
People who fill out their description actually get 28% more messages than those who don't. But that's not all, they also get 14% more likes and 8% more profile views.



If you're using a dating site that requires a display name, make sure to fill that out to. Daters who didn't have a display name got 20% fewer messages than those who did.



They found that daters who fill out the description of the person they're looking for can get up to 31% more messages, while those who described their favorite date got 21% more messages.



2. DON'T BOTHER SAYING HELLO.

Wait... what? No hello? That's right. According to Zoosk data, using a greeting like hello or hi actually gets you fewer messages.

- ▶ Saying hey gets you 35% fewer messages.
- ▶ Saying howdy gets you 19% fewer messages.
- ▶ Saying hello gets you 21% fewer messages.
- ▶ Saying hi gets you 22% fewer messages.
- ▶ Saying what's up gets you 10% fewer messages.



So what's so bad about saying hello? Well, when you're trying to start a conversation with someone online, just saying hi (or hey, howdy, or hello) isn't very helpful. Women (and men!) see a lot of the same "Hi, how are you?" and "What's up?" types of messages every day and it puts the pressure on them to come up with an entertaining response. Instead of saying hi, try diving right in with something like "You went to Jefferson High? Me too!" or, even better, "What's up with all this crazy rain we've been having?"

3. TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER

This one may seem counter intuitive. After all, what could be more mundane than the weather? But according to the data, first messages with the word weather get 39% more replies from women. And if the weather is bad, it's even better for you. Messages with the word rain get 20% more messages, while sun actually gets 6% fewer messages than the average. The reason? It's hard to say. But it could be that talking about something going on locally (like severe weather) is just an easy, universal way to start a conversation. While just bringing up that the sun's out, is a little boring and makes for a lame start.



4.

DON'T WAIT TO RESPOND

If you're wondering where to focus your efforts, instead of messaging new people or making new matches, reply to the people you've already messaged first. It seems like a normal thing to do but a lot of people overlook it.

According to Zoosk, if you want to get a reply back and keep the conversation going, reply back to messages within the day.



Men who message women back in the same day have a 62% response rate.



Men who wait a day to message a woman have a 50% response rate, which is a 24% decrease.



Men who wait two days before responding have a 45% response rate.

When it comes to online dating, the two day rule definitely does not apply.

5.

REMOVE YOUR FILTERS

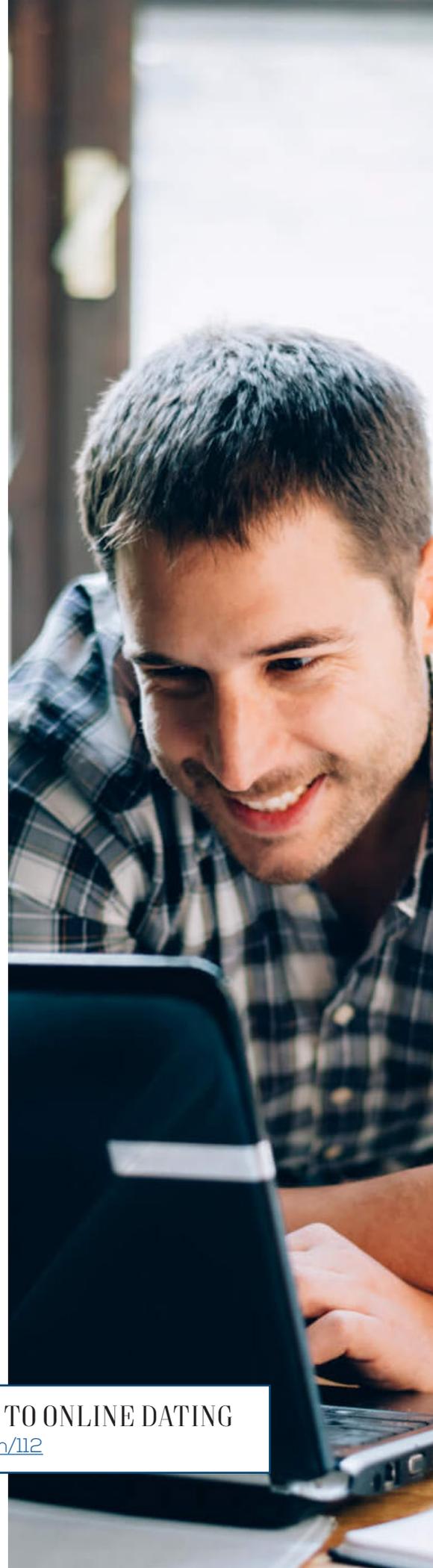
According to Zoosk data, using filters while online dating may actually make it harder for you to meet someone you're interested in.

People who use filters tend to find a lot of people they're interested in, so they're more engaged in reaching out to those people and starting a conversation. However, they're not leading to a deeper connection.

So what does the data mean for those of us trying to find someone? Well, while we often have a pretty good idea of what we're looking for in another person, it may pay off to be more open-minded. Maybe we don't actually know what we're looking for until we find it.

One of the main benefits of meeting people in real life is that you can feel the chemistry and start a conversation with someone you might have overlooked if you'd only judged them by their basic information. Maybe you thought you'd never date someone shorter than you, but once you started talking to that short guy at the bar you found out he was hilarious and that you both work in education. Maybe you thought you'd never date a single parent, but when your friend introduced you to their next-door neighbor with two kids at a party, you couldn't keep your eyes off her.

Online dating works the same way. While it's good to know what you want, it's also good to keep in mind that you might want something you haven't even thought of yet. Dating is a process of discovery, and what you may discover is that the person who makes you the happiest isn't who you thought they'd be.



REFERENCES:

[4 Online Dating First Message Tips You Probably Haven't Tried Yet](#)

[Being a Gentleman While Online Dating Gets You More Replies](#)

[Why Your Online Dating Profile Description Matters](#)

[Do Online Dating Filters Really Help You?](#)

