



## How to Choose the Right Online Dating Website

Posted by [Alex Vidal](#) on [June 18, 2013](#) in [International Dating](#)

When most people consider the idea of [online dating](#) they immediately sign up with the first dating website that they come across. While it may be tempting to jump right into the world of online dating and sign up with the first website you see, it's important that you take the time to consider all of your options before making a decision.

### How to Choose a Dating Site to Suit your Needs

There are a few simple steps that you can take to help you make sure that you choose a dating site that is right for you. To follow the steps below you will need a notebook or a word document, which you can use to make notes.

#### Step One: Consider your Aims

The first step is to consider what you aim to get from your online dating experience. Are you looking to find a serious relationship which could lead to a lifelong partnership or marriage? Are you just interested in casual dating? These are important questions to consider as many online dating websites cater to different types of users. Some are aimed towards people who are interested in serious relationships and marriage, whereas others are catered towards more casual daters. Write the answer to this question down, or type it into a word document. This is the start of your dating site criteria list which you can use as a checklist when you are searching for a dating site.



#### Step Two: Consider the Cost

The next step is to consider how much, if anything, you are willing to spend on online dating. There are two main types of online dating websites, free sites and paid sites. Free sites, as the name suggests, are free to join, which makes them perfect if you are on a budget. On the other hand paid sites require you to pay a membership fee, which you generally pay monthly to use the site. The cost of paid dating websites varies from site to site. Both types of dating websites have their advantages and disadvantages. Paid ones tend to be better moderated and the quality of their membership base is usually better. Free websites are quick and easy to join and are great if you are on a budget. If you are going to choose a paid website, write down the maximum membership fee you would feel comfortable paying.

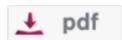
#### Step Three: Consider your Lifestyle and Interests

The next step is to consider your lifestyle and your hobbies. Firstly, consider your age, your marital status, your family situation and your sexuality. Many dating sites cater to divorcees, single parents, people who are gay and mature daters. Secondly, think about your hobbies and interests. There are many dating sites that cater to people with particular interests. Such as fitness enthusiasts and sci-fi fans. Make a note of any important factors about your lifestyle and hobbies.

#### Step Four: Search Using your Checklist

Once you have your checklist, you can begin your search for the right [dating website](#). Try typing in keywords into a search engine based on your checklist. For example, if you are a single parent, you could type in a phrase such as "online dating single parents". You could also type in search terms based on your hobbies. When looking at a dating website, make sure that you go over your checklist and see how well each dating website fits your criteria.

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