

# Breaking the Shidduch Code

Toby Lieder's Practical Guide To A Smoother Ride On The Shidduch Path



## **32 PRACTICAL TIPS FOR DATING**

**Toby Lieder, Dating Coach and Shadchan**

### **1. THE 5 DEAL BREAKERS:**

Reduce your list of requirements to 5 deal breakers. Before and after each date check the list using it as a point of reference. Share this list with the Matchmaker and family/friends informing them exactly of your needs.

This list is your guide.

### **2. GOLD:**

In the future when small nuisances (imperfections) play out in our spouse, we can remember these same deal-breakers, your 5 Core values, which attracted you to him/her in the first place, reminding you to put things back into perspective. I tell singles to keep this list forever as a constant reminder, this is your gold!

### **3. PROFILE AND REFERENCES:**

Selecting the 'right' references carefully, people that know you personally is of utmost importance. Choose carefully. Too many potential matches fall through because of lack of selecting the right references. Sometimes, the references work against you. Your profile should look professional, as if you are applying for a job.

### **4. TALKING PROFILE:**

Consider the idea of a talking profile. It enables people to see you in a different light. The talking profile captures your body language and expressions. Talk into a video sharing your name, your passion, job, and the values you seek in a spouse. Successful engagements have been made as a result of a one-minute clip as opposed to a photo! This has given singles a greater chance to be seen in their true self. For those who feel comfortable doing this, it is very worthwhile considering. I have seen singles change their minds after rejecting a profile, based on the photo only. When watching a video of the same person come alive, seeing their body language and cute facial expressions, they agreed to go out!

### **5. MATCHMAKER:**

Always keep the Matchmaker in the loop. Many potential matches unfortunately fall apart because the Matchmaker was let go! The more involved the Matchmaker is, the greater the benefits are, allowing the dating process to flow more smoothly, and diplomatically. The matchmaker as a messenger, prevents miscommunications.

## **6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

A fellow once asked for my PayPal after arranging a date for him (depositing \$100), acknowledging the hard work I put into helping to get him a date. This is greatly appreciated. The Shadchan works dedicated long unpaid hours; many suggestions don't always work out! A box of chocolates/thank you card goes a very long way.

## **7. FEE:**

It is important to be upfront and agree on the Matchmaker's fee before starting the process so there are no unexpected surprises or misunderstandings.

## **8. LISTEN:**

Parents pay serious attention and listen to what your child is telling you and what they really want in a spouse. Do not decide based on what is good for you. Make no judgements while having this conversation. If the child is mature enough to get married, he/she is old enough to choose what they want for their future spouse!

## **9. GENTLE REMINDERS:**

Every month send out a message to only close friends and family that really care about you and your child. Ask them to stop and think of a suitable match. I have seen successful engagements come from this idea. Attach the resume and photo.

## **10. FIRST IMPRESSIONS:**

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Take time out to look polished, clean and very presentable. Dress up in your finest clothes. It is also very important you are rested up. Consider taking off an hour or 2 earlier from work to avoid tiredness. This indeed is one of the most significant investments of time, preparing to properly meet your possible future spouse!

## **11. THE DATE:**

It is recommended to start out earlier than later on a date. Keep dates to a minimum of 3-4 hours. This helps prevent burn-out and dating-fatigue. Ideally dating should be arranged for every other night and a day date the third date.

## **12. TEXTING:**

Too many potential matches fall apart because of misinterpreting texts. Avoid any texting at all, especially during dating and engagement. Discuss this rule right from the start. The Matchmaker will deliver your urgent messages - that is their job.

## **13. OPEN MINDED:**

Think outside the box. Allow yourself to be surprised to reconsider dating someone previously suggested or dated. I know of many successful matches that resulted from revisiting a previous suggestion that was once dismissed.

#### **14. PRAY FOR ANOTHER:**

It says, if one prays for another person that which he himself needs, Hashem will answer his prayers first. Pray for friends who are also in need of a Match.

#### **15. TZEDOKAH AND EMUNAH:**

Give extra Tzedakah, having in mind that this is in the merit of finding your right match. Hashem is running the world precisely the way it is meant to be and will reveal His plan exactly the right time with the right person intended.

#### **16. RESEARCH:**

Just like purchasing a new cell phone, car, house, or laptop, we don't just buy without extensive research to ensure that it meets all our requirements. How much more so with the person we will live with for 120 years. Our spouse!

#### **17. THE MATCHMAKER:**

It is highly recommended to use a Matchmaker during the dating process. The Matchmaker delivers all the communication. This is of great benefit to you both, preventing any unnecessary misinterpretations.

#### **18. LESS IS MORE:**

Too many potential dates are ruined because someone speaks badly about a possible candidate. Just because the candidate wasn't good for one person doesn't mean they are not suited to someone else! We never know if what we say may prevent someone from meeting their Bashert. Choose words carefully!

#### **19. GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT:**

When you hear a negative report about your potential candidate for dating, don't believe everything you hear. Give them the benefit of the doubt and find out the truth. Go directly to the actual person involved and ask them questions.

#### **20. A SECOND DATE:**

Most people are nervous on the first date and find it hard to be confident and natural. Unless the first date was totally off-putting. It is highly recommended a second date when you both will be more relaxed and passed that first date.

#### **21. GOOD MANNERS:**

Remember to open the door for the girl when entering a venue. The way you interact and speak to the doorman, waiter, Uber driver, or bartender, will be closely monitored by your date. Remember to say please and thank you.

#### **22. SAYING GOODNIGHT:**

When dropping the girl back home, always wait for her to go into her house before leaving. This will give her a sense of safety and security. Never drive away until she is inside. This will make a very fine impression on the young woman.

**23. LISTEN:**

Listen more than you talk. Hear her out completely and show a real interest in Her. Do not interrupt her with your opinions. Repeat back in your own words what you understood. It will make her feel acknowledged, and respected.

**24. WHEN TO END THE EVENING:**

3-4 hours into the date ask her if she is tired, wants to continue, or would like to go home. Even if the date is going well, still give her the choice to go home.

**25. TEXTING IN DATING (JUST PICK UP THE PHONE INSTEAD!)**

I have unfortunately seen many engagements broken off due to misinterpreting a text message. One didn't answer quick enough or the other didn't reply at all. These miscommunications can be avoided if decided beforehand, no texting.

**26. BE PUNCTUAL:**

If you are picking her up at 7:00, be there at 7:00. It's not just a matter of being on time, it's a matter of showing her early on that you stand by what you say. You are reliable, and trustworthy. You stand by your word. Integrity is a very high value.

**27. WALK UP TO HER DOOR:**

When picking her up, walk all the way up to her doorstep. Do not send her a text saying "Here" or "Outside" when picking her up. (Only when appropriate). Go out of the car and go up to the door. It is a courteous gesture that says a lot.

**28. CLOSE YOUR CELL PHONE:**

It is disrespectful to look at or even glance at your cell phone at any time during a date. Make sure it is shut before you start the date. Don't take it out during dating.

**29. CAR:**

Make sure the car for the date smells fresh and is clean. Get a carwash. This will definitely be appreciated. A messy or dirty car is a big turn-off. A girl wants to be assured that an effort was put in preparing for this date. It speaks a lot about the boy if the car wasn't cleaned or freshened up before a date. Please consider this important. A clean car represents you being considerate, organized and clean.

**30. DATING IS NUMBER ONE:**

Consider taking time off work to be rested for your upcoming date. This is one of the most significant decision-making times in your life! Be rested, calm and relaxed. Do not base your dates around 'personal commitments', like someone's L'chayim, Birthday party, gym, or a Shiur. A date is priority over anything else. Consider the possibility that each date could possibly be your potential Bashert!

**31. DAY DATES:**

Guys like to feel nurtured. What greater way than you bringing food prepared nicely for the day out? It can be sandwiches, snacks etc. The more thought you put into the preparing and presentation, the more appreciated it will be. It'll make a big difference to feel well fed and cared for. Bring some food along like sandwiches, drinks and snacks. It feels good to know someone's looking out for you and cares. Spend a few minutes on the presentation. Nice presentation goes a long way.

**32. DISCUSSING AND COMPARING:**

It is recommended to not compare notes or discuss with friends' details of your date. It is honorable to treat the dates with privacy and respect. Many singles have lost promising opportunities dating a wonderful potential candidate, that could have possibly been their bashert, due to lack of consideration by friends who bad-mouthed them. Don't do to others what you don't want done to you.