

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.

THE SHIDDUCH CHECKLIST

By, Toby Lieder

THE PERFECT PERSON

(that doesn't exist)

Generations ago, the matchmaking scene was totally different. Women looked for a G-d fearing kind man, and a good provider. Men looked for a warm nurturing woman, who would raise their kids with love, affection, and maintain a happy home. Today, the challenge is to not only find the above, but for our 'Soulmate'.

A soulmate is not just a Nurturer but a partner in marriage that can fulfil our emotional, spiritual and physical needs. They must have not only good communication skills, but also find the humor in everyday life, be patient with kids, intelligent enough to make smart decisions, be very responsible and reliable, and be honest. He/she needs to be balanced in their religiousness.

No extremes. In addition, they must be Street Smart, Ambitious, Loyal and Authentic. They need to be emotionally stable and have a good job. They should be Involved in the community, and also be a family person! They must be a good listener and have emotional Intelligence. Some are looking for 7 people in one!

REALITY CHECK:

Realistically no one can have all the above qualities. That would make a perfect person! Perfection is found only in angels! So, let's explore and identify your most important values that you absolutely must have and can't live without. I have come up with a formula that can help us downsize this dream list to 5, I call these 5 values, GOLD! Choosing 5 core values makes it more realistic.

BRAINSTORMING:

Think about how you would like your ideal spouse to be. Whatever comes to your mind write it down. Brainstorm download from your mind as much as you can, all the qualities that you wish for in a spouse. Select from this long list that you've brainstormed, only 5 Deal breakers. These are your chosen 5 Core values that you need your spouse to be or have. You would not date or marry him/her if they did not qualify these 5 deal breakers! This is your GOLD. This list will serve you well in years to come. Next time you date, look out and check-in with your list that your potential candidate actually has these 5 selected values. You can choose not date or marry someone unless they qualify your 5 Non- Negotiables. This list will be your guide.

VALUE CHOICES

Select Your 5 Deal-Breakers from This List Of 20 Value Choices!

1. EMOTIONAL STABILITY:

Are they emotionally and mentally well balanced? Are they vulnerable? Do they self-express? Do they have emotional baggage? Does this person come from a secure, healthy warm family environment? What sort of a role model are their parents? Was there peace in their home? Is there a divorce? Are they Self-Aware? Do they have a healthy self-esteem and good self-confidence?

Are they high or low maintenance? Are they needy or the dependent type or more independent? How do they manage their anger? Are they short tempered have a short fuse, swear easily, or are they in control of their emotions? Do they say, "Big deal, Hashgocha Protis, it's meant to be, it's all for the best, it'll all work out!", or do they panic easily, and may have anxiety issues. Do they have Emotional Intelligence? Do they have a 3D deep understanding about emotions and feelings? Do they connect well with people? Are they a people's person? Do they feel ok in their own skin.

2. HONESTY / INTEGRITY:

Are they Authentic and Real? Genuine? Do they have Integrity? Do they mean what they say? Are they loyal and trustworthy? Are they honest, someone you can fully trust, or do they cut corners and try to get away with breaking the rules or the law?

3. SENSE OF HUMOR:

Are they more serious, or more chilled about life? Some people have a great sense of humor and can laugh off their problems while finding the humor in everyday life situations. Do people enjoy being around them? Are they light and easy-going, just happy and chilled nature? Do they laugh easily and smile often?

4. GROWTH ORIENTED:

Do they enjoy a good book? Are they easily inspired and like to share an inspiration? Are they eager to grow spiritually and emotionally? Are they open to change? Do they join a weekly class in any areas of growth?

5. RESPECT / MENTSCH:

Does this person respect everyone equally? Are they accepting of all types? Do they respect themselves. Are they a Mensch? Do they have good manners, and say please and thank you? Do they hold open the door for other people? Do they shout, scream, or swear freely, or talk softly? Do they have an ego?

6. KIND:

Does this person go out of their way for another person? Do they put other people's needs ahead of their own. Are they a giving person by nature? Are they caring and thoughtful, loving and warm? Are they generous or a penny pincher? Are they warm and affectionate, Compassionate and empathetic, considerate of people's time, space, and property? Are they sensitive, patient, and tolerant? Do they judge people easily. Are they accepting of all types? Are they humble? Are they positive-minded?

7. OPENMINDED:

Is this person open-minded, or stubborn and stuck in their own ways? Are they easy-going and more flexible or is it 'their' way or the highway? Can they easily say "it's meant to be", and appreciate other people's opinions?

8. LEARNED / EDUCATED / WORLDLY:

Is this person the more studious type? Are they educated or worldly? If so, and how worldly must they be? How important is it that they have a shiur/class at least once a week? Is Learning an area of strength or weakness for them? Do they have to know more than basic everyday general knowledge, to what degree?

9. SMART/STREET SMART/LIFE SMART:

Are they equipped with a common sense (which is not so common!) How street smart or life smart are they? Can they book an airline ticket easily? Are they Intelligent? Can they make wise decisions? Can they budget, pay bills, and shop sensibly, manage a household? Is life smarts very important to you? Do they know how to get around the world, basically?

10. POSITIVE/NEGATIVE, HAPPY TYPE:

Some people always see the good in every situation. They are able to let go of things easily and see the positive in all or most situations. Some see everything the opposite. Are they always critical, constantly complaining about everything and everyone? The Schools, the Shuls, the Rabbis, the Govt, the Weather? Are they the happy positive type that most people are attracted to them? Are they a calm?

11. NATURE /PERSONALITY:

Are they relaxed and laid-back type by nature, or are they high energy, action oriented, always on the go? Are they a 'Chevraman type? Sociable? Are they a good communicator, listener, and have all the time in the world, or always in a rush? Are they more adventurous or the stay at home type? Would they rather relax with a book, or more out-doorsy type? Are they loud or soft spoken?

12. RESPONSIBLE RELIABLE:

Are they Goal Oriented, and dependable? Are they financially secure, studying for a degree? Are they ambitious, self-Motivated, and driven? Are they a team player? Are they self-disciplined? Do they have a respected position/job? Are they put-together? A go-getter? Are they driven, reliable? Are they a hard worker? Can they take on any management positions? Are they the committed type? Do they appreciate structure?

13. SELF CONFIDENCE/ESTEEM

Do they have a good sense of self-esteem? Can you look up to this person? Do they have a sense of dignity, some class? Do they have self-confidence? Good self-worth? Are they very needy? Do they feel good in their own skin? Are they self-assured? Do they exude a sense of confidence, making you feel safe and secure?

14. ORGANISED / CLEAN:

Are they by nature a clean organized person? Do they need everything to be in a certain order, or are they messy, and sloppy by nature? Well presented?

15. FAMILY ORIENTED:

Are they into family picnics, rituals, birthdays, Family First attitude? How important is family to them? What is their relationship with their parents and siblings? Is it a good one? Do they speak well of them? What size family do they envision one day having? How much do they value their own future family to be?

18. HOBBIES / SPARE TIME:

What do they do when they have some spare time? Who do they enjoy hanging out with? Who are their friends? Where do they like to go to socialize? What are their talents, hobbies, and personal interests? What is their sense of fun and a good vacation? Do they enjoy travelling? What do they consider fun? What do they do when they have nothing to do?

16. YIDDISHKIET/RELIGIOUSNESS:

Does your future spouse have to value, 100% Shabbos, Kosher, Family Purity, Shomer Ngiah? What are your boundaries on Praying, Minyan, Code of dress beard, hair covering. Describe Shabbos in your home. Is it "Open Home Policy" with lots of guests? How strict do you want Halacha/Jewish law in your home? What about the Secular influences in the future, Non-Jewish music, internet video/movies How does the Rebbe play a role in your future life? What Shul affiliation is important to you? Very Chassidische? Chabad, Chabad Light, Friends of Chabad. Your spouse must be involved in Shlichus, or Koidesh? Are they spiritually inclined?

40 QUESTIONS TO INQUIRE ABOUT A SINGLE

Below is an assorted list of all sorts of questions. Choose only the questions that pertain to your 5 Non-negotiable's list. Pick and choose your questions from here.

FIRST THING: What's the first thing that comes to your mind when I mention his/her name? What is that 1 first thing that comes to your mind?

STRENGTHS: What are their greatest strengths? What can they bring to the table? Everybody has something they specialize in. What's their strength?

PASSION: What are his/her passions that he/she loves to do when they have extra time that gets them very excited and very happy? A chesed, or hobby?

TIME: Do they value time generally? Are they more on the lazy side, like can easily waste time. Do they value structure, and is goal oriented? Any example?

MONEY: What is his/her attitude with money? Are they a penny pincher? Or generous by nature, a MORE giving person? Are they super careful like very calculated or responsible with money? Can you please give any examples?

RESPECT: Are they respectful of people who provide services, such as a janitor, bus driver, or waiter? Do they respect rules, or purposely flout them? Do they respect the Rabbis, teachers, gov't, elderly, shopkeepers?

SELF RESPECT: Do they respect themselves, are they careful about their appearance or are they messy, sloppy, all over the place? Have self- respect?

SENSITIVE: Are they sensitive? Are they sensitive to other people's? feelings or emotions? Can he/she cry easily? Are they afraid to show or express emotions, tend to bottle up and keep their emotions to themselves?

SENSE OF HUMOUR: Does he/she have a good sense of humor? Can they find the humor in everyday life? Are they witty? Are they funny?

LEADER: Were they ever in a leadership role? Like a head counsellor, or in some sort of management? Can you share in what way they are a leader type?

LIKABLE: Is this person likable? Do they have a lot of friends? What type of friends? Is it easy to get to know them? Do they have just a small circle of friends, not too popular? Please describe which one they are more, larger or smaller circle of friends.

OPEN HOME POLICY: Does he/she want an open home full of guests? To what extent? Or are they more of a private person enjoying their own family, time and space? Please explain what you understand. More sociable or private?

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE: Is he/she a complainer? Do they focus more on the negative than the positive in life generally? Do they see the glass half empty or full? Are they happy with who they are and with what life brings them or do they mostly complain, or they say “Hashgocha Protis it’s ok, no big deal”.

SPARE TIME/HOBBIES: What does he/she do in their spare time, for fun? What are their favorite hobbies? Where would they go to chill, and with whom? What are their favorite pastimes? Are they adventurous? Outdoorsy type? Likes to travel?

LEARNING: Does he/she have any set learning? When, where, what and with who.

MENTOR: Do they have a mentor to consult for important issues in life?

GROWTH ORIENTED: Are they a growing person, like enjoying TED talks, self-improvement books? Always curious and wanting to learn more? The deep intellectual type? Do they enjoy DMC conversations? analyzing and discussing Psychology? Are they more ordinary and on the surface? Lighter type?

PRAYER: Does he/she daven 3x daily, go to minyan? Or bare minimum, just puts on tefillin daily? Is he/she sincere about their davening?

SPOUSE: Do you know what sort of a spouse they’re looking for, their main core values that is most important to them? Their deal breakers?

DRESS-CODE: What is their dress code? Do they dress modestly? B/W?

SECULAR INFLUENCES: Do they watch movies once in a while, go to cinema, listen to non-Jewish music? What sort of entertainment would they allow?

TYPE PERSONALITY: Is he/she an extrovert or introvert? Sociable, or shy and quiet? Outgoing with lots of friends, or more on the private side?

RESPONSIBLE: Are they dependable, responsible, reliable? How do you know? Are they ambitious, Goal oriented, Driven, Self-motivated, self-disciplined? Structured type, or all over the place?

SMARTS: Are they street-smart? Are they able to manage a home, organize the tickets, holiday schedule? Are they capable of knowing how to shop? Life smarts?

HALACHA: Is he/she very stringent about halacha? Not really? Medium? Very?

FAMILY: Are they family oriented the family first type? Close knit family type? Like family picnics and birthdays play a very high value in their life? What is their relationship with their siblings? Parents?

FUTURE FAMILY: Do they want a small family or maybe they have little patience? Or is it more like whatever Hashem gives us, the more the merrier! What type?

ANXIOUS/PATIENT: What's their tolerance level like? Are they high strung, nervous & anxious? Do they have patience? More relaxed and easy-going? Are they very patient with people, kids, elderly?

EDUCATED: Is he/she learned and educated? Do you catch them studying? Can they share an inspirational talk at the Shabbos table? Are they interesting to talk to? Are they book smart? Do they have to know a lot of stuff? Are they the intellectual type?

ENERGY: Are they a high energy, must keep busy all the time, type of person? Are they an attractive energy that people enjoy hanging around them?

KIND: Is he/she the kind to "give a shirt off your back" kind and helpful? Are they kind, compassionate, a good communicator, warm and loving? Affectionate? Do they have compassion? Are they empathetic? Do they have a generosity about them? Or are they tight with their time and money? Are they known to be a Baal Chesed? What is their reputation like?

FLEXIBLE: Are they flexible easy going, or more fixed in their ways stubborn? Are they go with the flow type? peaceful, not going to be involved in arguments.

EMOTIONALLY STABLE: Are they emotionally stable, balanced mentally? Do they have a healthy self-esteem, and confidence? Have self-worth? Is their mental state balanced? Do they control over their emotions? Do they manage their anger? Are they comfortable in their own skin?

HONEST: Are they Honest, Loyal, Trustworthy, don't cut corners, trying to get away with things? Are they genuine, authentic, a word is a word? Are they Real? Can you trust them, that a word is a word?

TALENT: Are they talented with their hands, artistic, creative, cooking, fixing things? Good with computers? Would you take them for your own if you had a child available?

toby.lieder@gmail.com

www.tobydatingcoach.com

Instagram [@tobydatingcoach](https://www.instagram.com/tobydatingcoach)

WhatsApp and Phone +61470173916

