

Create a great profile that increases your chances of results!

“Luck Is What Happens When Preparation Meets Opportunity”. Roman philosopher Seneca

I have done many profiles, and I am much better at editing and asking the right questions to find out what you want, think and value from experience. I'm finding the same mistakes keep coming up. When I was online dating I realised the more I worked on my profile the more chance I had of ending up with a partner who would suit me. I redid and thought about it and things started to go much better.

1. The profile is the first door you have to get through, to get a date. It's not a CV, it's not just yet another boring form you have to fill in, it's about your future, your happiness, your dreams, hopes, support, laughter and much, much more. Do it with integrity and thought, I like profiles to have a bit of soul, with your character on it.
2. I often meet people once they have filled out their profile and often they have not **captured their energy or best assets**. After a few prodding questions things emerge that they have completely forgotten about, mainly because they are so obvious to them, they forget the person reading the profile has not a clue about who you are! Examples are a lady who turned out to be an artist with shows and hadn't mentioned it.
3. **Fly your flag with more gusto than you normally would**. The Italians don't need a matchmaker, sometimes the English do. I find their quiet reserve, even if nervously extroverted, very charming, and endearing and show genuine respect. If you consider you do something well, say it with passion, not easy I know, but it will come across.
4. **Be honest, really have a good think about what you need and want**. How can you be anything but honest, you would be wasting your time otherwise. Is money that important? I always say a good relationship is the best security you will find. Money can be lost in a day, don't rely on it! What are your dreams? What would be the three top things you would be most proud of when you lie dying? What are your values? People struggle with this one. If something upsets you, then the opposite is your value, I think.
5. At my events, I ask people to wear their first name only and put their **favourite 2 films** underneath. Immediately you have a talking subject and an idea of that person. Things don't have to match, my husband and I enjoy different films but find midway things too.
6. **State whether you want children or not**, get the basics sorted, it's awful if you discover you both want different things and children are a hard one to accommodate easily. It amazes me how few couples discuss this big decision.
7. **Be yourself, everyone else is taken!** Everyone is so very different, I've met hundreds of people and they are all so different. it's amazing. Be honest, think about what and who you are, and ask friends and family. Also ask them what they think you need, what would make

you happy!? When you have finished show it to people who know you and try to read it as if you were a stranger.

- 8 **The thing you do most in a relationship is relax**, so your interests should be right up there and in detail. Things don't have to match and indeed if all your interests were the same you might get to be competitive and spend too much time together, the same applies to being in the same workspace or career. Your interests tell someone a lot about you, how broad your interests are, and how much energy you have! The sort of space you relax in and how much peace you need. A profile is not a CV, and I would say just an idea of your line of work.
8. **Keep your profile shorter**, a much more experienced matchmaker said to me when I presented her with my ream of questions as a profile, 'less is more, Brigid'! Once you have completed your profile read it again and again, and read it out loud. When you have finished show it to people who know you and try to read it as if you were a stranger reading it.
9. **Let your photos be relaxed, honest and casual**. I remember when I was dating receiving photos of men wearing sunglasses and in the distance on a mountain range, it could have been anyone. Sunglasses cover your eyes and can look unfriendly. You don't have to be smiling like a Cheshire cat, you could even be looking out thoughtfully. Don't have photos where you have cut out someone, that's not a good look and it implies you haven't moved on. The most important part is you have to be and look relaxed and friendly.

Finally....

Get a dating email, without your surname in it. I insist on my clients doing this whether they use me or not. Have you ever googled yourself? Do you know what is out there about you? Why would you give personal information away before you have met someone? Even saying where you work and what you do gives a lot away. I ask people to be vague about their work, just the rough area of their experience. Have a bit of mystery, it's not only refreshingly mysterious but you add a bit of allure too. Arouse their curiosity!