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Creating a Great Online Dating Profile

By Jan Andersen

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by: **Jan Andersen**

First impressions are important, which is why it is essential to create an appealing, but honest profile of yourself. After all, this is the only information that a potential suitor has to go on initially and the decision on whether or not to contact you will be based upon what he or she reads in your profile. A great photo alone is not enough. After all, would you really want someone to choose you based purely on the way that you look rather than the person you are?

If you are not submitting a photo, then it is even more important to give a good description of yourself, your interests and your dislikes, along with information about the type of person you are seeking. A great profile will improve your chances of linking up with someone compatible and someone who is genuinely interested in you as a person.

There are no benefits in embellishing facts or lying, since the truth will emerge once you meet somebody. If they discover that you have distorted the truth, then trust will be lost, along with a potentially great relationship. You want somebody to choose you, because of who you are and not because you appear to live up to someone else's fantasy.

Allow your personality to shine through. If you have a talent for wit and a great sense of humour, then incorporate these qualities into your profile. Be totally honesty about whom you are seeking, even down to including traits that you wouldn't like in a potential partner and what you are hoping to gain from a future relationship. Conclude on an inviting note.

Don't, of course, include too many personal details, such as your home address, telephone number, social establishments you frequent, vital statistics or bodily flaws, unless you want some weirdo with a penchant for bunions or three nipples to turn up drooling on your doorstep.

Choosing a Photo to Accompany Your Profile

Creating a Great Online Dating Profile

Do include a recent, but flattering photo of yourself, not one that was taken 10 years ago when you were a different size/had a different hair colour/had more hair/less wrinkles/were going through your Gothic phase and which looks nothing like you do now. It may seem shallow, but those who include a photograph generally generate more interest than those who only submit a written profile.

Choose a clear photo in which you are smiling and appear approachable, rather than one taken when you were having a particularly bad day and which would probably deter anyone from wanting to contact you.

Double-Checking Your Profile

It is important to always double-check your spelling, punctuation and grammar before submitting your profile. Whilst most dating sites will provide the option of being able to edit your profile, it saves time in the long run by getting it right first time. I would always advise creating and saving your profile in Word

or Notepad, so that if the pc decides to kick you out of the system for any reason whilst you are in the middle of inputting your profile, it will not be lost. It also means that if you join more than one dating site, you can simply cut and paste the profile into the relevant boxes on the site.

Online dating has revolutionised the matchmaking process, so why not make it work for you by portraying yourself in the best possible light and attracting Mr or Mrs Right into your life?

Recommended dating sites:

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Jan Andersen is a British Freelance Writer and Copywriter specialising in articles and features on diverse lifestyle topics and social issues. She has also participated in many TV and radio programmes. Jan also owns and runs five websites; World Writer, Mothers Over 40, Child Suicide, SACS (Surviving After Child Suicide) and Jan Andersen Writing Services. Until recently, Jan had four children aged 20, 18, 17 and 4. Her eldest son, Kristian, tragically took his own life on 1 November 2002. Whilst campaigning for depression, suicide and drugs' awareness, Jan is writing a book on child suicide entitled, "Chasing Death".

The Single's Guide To Online Dating

By Hak Ty

If you're single and you're willing to try out new avenues to dating then you should try out online dating. It's definitely fun, less expensive and easier than dating the regular way. You're also able to meet more people since the Internet lets you talk to people from all over the world! With online dating, there's no need to restrict yourself to dating the same old guys from your very small town (read: population of 817). With online dating, there's no such thing as social classes because it's open to everyone!

Creating a Great Online Dating Profile

The Virtual Places To Be For Online Dating - If you're now open to the idea of online dating, there are several cyber places that you could stop by and see if there's anyone who appeals to your taste. First stop would be the online dating sites.

These sites were primarily designed to help people meet others with the same interests as theirs and maybe forge a relationship later on. Online dating sites such as these require you to register for membership and maybe even pay to enjoy additional features of the website.

Then, these online dating sites would ask you to create a profile for your own so that other members would know a little about you. These profiles could be the key to catching the interest of your future Mr. or Ms. Right so make sure that you make your profile as interesting as possible - without lying about anything, of course. Most online dating sites also allow you to upload photos of yourself so if you're reasonably attractive, do make sure that you post your best picture.

The second place that allows you to date online is chat rooms such as those provided by MIRC or Yahoo. These chat rooms are usually divided or categorized according to region, race or interest. If you enter a chat room with the name Singles20–40, then you should expect to meet people belonging to that age group. It's imperative to choose a chat room that reflects your preferences to ensure that you'll meet people who are probably similar to you in terms of interests.

The third virtual place to be if you want to try online dating is forums or interactive websites. By joining a forum or registering for membership in an interactive website, you'll be able to meet people who are sure to share the same interests as you do. These forums usually hold regular meetings so make sure that you participate actively and get yourself known!.

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