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COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO
ONLINE DATING AND RELATING

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THE COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE[®] TO

“This clever book takes the mystery and pitfalls out of looking for and learning about love on the Internet.

With humor and intelligence, author Joe Schwartz provides an entertaining and easy-to-use guide that makes the vast plains of cyberspace accessible to the would-be romantic and just plain curious.”

— ‘eMale’,
advice columnist for
women.com

Online Dating and Relating

- ◆ **The quick and easy** way to meet new people who share your interests
- ◆ **Idiot-proof steps** to establishing lasting friendships and relationships online
- ◆ **Down-to-earth advice** for when the going gets tough

Joe Schwartz



Dear Reader,

No doubt, if you are reading this, you are asking yourself the question "Should I buy this book?" Take this simple quiz to find out.

Dating is:

- (A) The measurement of an object's carbon content as a means to determine its age.
- (B) The process of ingesting a sweet edible oblong fruit.
- (C) The hellish dance of loneliness played out between two people as they vie for position to eviscerate each other's soul.
- (D) I do not date. I am a Vulcan.

If you answered any of the above, or even made up your own answer, you are correct and should buy this book (thus ensuring me a royalty). For those of you who need additional convincing, let's examine the answers more closely.

If you selected choice A, you probably have limited exposure to socializing with people. Since the last thing you want to do is converse with people face to face without any practice, purchasing this book will allow you to talk to others over the Internet without having to confront issues associated with grooming or hygiene. Inside these pages we'll explore chat rooms, instant messaging, and Web-based message boards, all of which can put you into contact with others over the Internet, while keeping you safe and anonymous.

If you selected choice B, you are either a farmer or someone obsessed with sexual innuendo. In either case, you need to meet people soon. Going through life relating to everything as a function of survival or a sick joke can only lead you to a troubled existence. In this book, you'll learn the best places to seek companionship online and, when converting it into an offline relationship, how to do so safely.

If you selected choice C, you're bitter. Nothing can really help you except the positive reinforcement of good experiences. Throughout this book are anecdotes from people who've met others online. Not all the stories end well, but all the storytellers have survived their tales. These stories hopefully will give you the courage to try to meet people via the Internet and the confidence to know that even if you do have a few dreadful experiences, you will survive.

Finally, if you selected choice D, you are an extraterrestrial. Who more than you needs to understand other humans? As such, these pages will introduce you to Web sites designed to give advice of the heart, assist with online romance, and ease the pain of getting over a relationship. As an alien, you will probably never use these resources yourself, but imagine how much better you'll interact with the human population after having been exposed to this information.

Thank you for taking this quiz to determine whether you need to buy this book. And thank you for your purchase.

Sincerely,

Joe Schwartz

The Complete Idiot's Command Reference

People socializing and dating on the Internet often have different reasons for wanting to meet others. Here are the five most common types of people, based on their social objectives.

The Dabbler has gone online to "see what this Internet dating thing is all about," but doesn't usually have any plan other than "to have fun." As you begin your journey socializing with others over the Net, you might find yourself in the middle of an email or chat room conversation that you thought was going really well, when the other party goes AWOL. That's the dabbler either getting bored or realizing that connection with another individual is not really what he or she is after.

The Nester wants to find a committed relationship and is looking to the Internet as one of many ways to find one. He or she is usually very goal-oriented in that the purpose of socializing online is not about the process of forging friendships, but is about finding THE ONE PERSON that will be his or her lifetime mate.

The Hormone wants sex. Usually he or she will make this very clear early on. Hormones vary in that some just want virtual sex (that is, simulating sex via a private chat room discussion or email), some want to meet you in the physical world, and some want it in all manner, shape, and form.

The Butterfly goes from chat room to chat room, person to person, having conversations with a multitude of different people. He or she is looking to make one or more friends and usually keeps the relationship platonic. In a simpler time, this person went by the name pen pal.

The Seeker doesn't know what he or she is looking for, but unlike the Dabbler, is seeking to make some sort of connection with another person. He or she might claim to be looking for a partner or just looking for sex, but the actual agenda is usually unknown to the Seeker.

Emoticons

Emoticon	Description
:) or :-)	The original smiley that means "I'm happy." Can also mean "I'm joking."
:(or :-("I'm sad." Indicates to the reader that the current writer is sad at what he or she has just heard.
;-)	A wink. Usually used for a flirtatious or sarcastic remark.
{hug} or [hug]	A hug.
{{{***}}}	Hugs and kisses.

If you'd like to explore the hundreds (if not thousands) of emoticons currently being used (or if you need to find the meaning of one), you can check out the following resources:

Online Lingo <http://www.thirdage.com/features/tech/netglos/index.html>

Internet Smileys.... ^_^ <http://members.aol.com/bearpage/smileys.htm>

Smilies Unlimited <http://www.czweb.com/smilies.htm>

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Acronyms that are common to the Internet have made their way into the messages people use to socialize online. Some of the more widely used ones are:

Acronym	Meaning
AFAIK	As far as I know
A/S/L	Age/Sex/Location
BBL	Be back later
BTW	By the way
DIKY	Do I know you?
GAL	Get a life
ILY	I love you
F2F	Face to face
IRL	In real life
LOL	Laugh out loud

If you want to learn and decipher the hundreds of additional acronyms found online, check out the following resources:

Alphabet Soup Explained <http://members.aol.com/nigthomas/alphabet.html>

Usernet Acronyms Dictionary <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~tajwileb/dictionary.html>

V.E.R.A. (Virtual Entity of Relevant Acronyms) <http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~oheiabbd/vera-e.html> (This is a search engine for acronyms.)

Do You Hate to Type?

Would you rather just click a link to visit the Web sites in this book? Just point your browser to

<http://www.size-eight.com/book>

This site provides links to every Web page discussed in *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Dating and Relating* as well as new socializing Web sites that were created after this book went to press.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

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