

## *Don't Get Fed Up...*

It's another lonely night, watching television and eating takeout. Then your best friend calls. She has a dream date lined up for you, a former acquaintance from school you've heard *all* about but never met. She tells you that you have the same taste in music, share a sense of style, enjoy foreign films and even grew up close to one another. Sounds almost too good to be true, right?

We've all heard the horror stories of set-ups gone wrong. Over time this has had an impact on our willingness to be bold and try new things. It could turn out to be the love of your life or a colossal waste of time and energy. You quickly weigh your options before ultimately agreeing to the set-up. After all, this potential new love interest does come highly recommended.

It's time to reconsider the set-up as an excellent dating option. By following the five dos and don'ts provided here, you may find yourself in an unexpected romance. As with anything, taking a chance can reap the biggest rewards.





## Get Set Up!

### **DON'T: JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS** – no matter how tempting it is.

The whole reason you're on a set-up is to be surprised, so be open to the experience and avoid immediate judgments. Even if your date is not your usual type—a little tall, a bit short, wears glasses or has a funny voice—just roll with it! Remember, what you find out as the night goes on might actually excite you.

### **DO: YOUR RESEARCH** – use your friend's insight to your advantage.

Ask your mutual friend about your date's interests, hobbies, pets, family or other quirky facts. This will help you strike up a conversation and provide talking points if things start going poorly. Nothing cuts through an awkward discussion on past relationships like “so... I hear you're a big fan of Bowie. Me too!”

### **DO: LET YOUR FRIEND KNOW THE SCORE** – manage your friend's expectations before the date.

Make sure you set the ground rules with your friend before the date. For example, have your friend agree that she won't be upset if you don't like the person she recommended or think he's creepy or just plain boring. Your friend's acquaintances don't **have** to be yours. For that matter, manage your own expectations too! After all, Cupid may just be shooting blanks this time around.

### **DON'T: GET LOST IN A CROWD** – pick the right venue.

If you're meeting your set-up in a public place, make sure it's somewhere you can easily find each other. Not knowing what your date looks like should be exciting, not a reason to miss dinner. Also, make sure you choose a place where you can actually have a decent conversation. Remember, there are much better dating scenarios than yelling over bad karaoke.

### **DO: TELL YOUR FRIEND EVERYTHING** – she's going to find out, regardless; better to hear it from you.

No matter what happens—good, bad, embarrassing or otherwise—if she asks, make sure to tell your mutual friend what happened on your date. Since she was the one who set the two of you up, she deserves the truth. For the sake of your friendship it's better to swallow your pride, mention the bad breath or mind-blowing first kiss, and keep on great terms. At the very least you can laugh about it together! ♥