

Chatterbox #26 – Dating

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone, this is Harp.

Maura: And Maura.

Harp: At Culips.com.

Maura: That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Harp: We're here bringing you a Chatterbox podcast.

Maura: And this is where we chat about something interesting about North American culture or something fun that's happening right now, maybe in Montreal.

Harp: Exactly. Now, before we get started, we just want to let you know: make sure you check out the website, because there are a lot of fun, cool things there. For example, you could sign up, become a member, and access the Lipservice, which has the detailed explanations, the transcripts, and even a quiz.

Maura: Yeah, check it out. Now Harp, let's get chatting.

Harp: OK.

Maura: So, what are we going to chat about today?

Harp: Today we're going to talk about dating.

Maura: Yes, **the dating world**. There's so much to say, isn't there?

Harp: There is so much to say.

Maura: But first we're going to talk about how people find each other. So how does one person, find another person that they want to go on a date with?

Harp: Yeah, and then we're going to talk about some dating vocabulary.

Maura: There's so much dating vocabulary.

Harp: Yeah, and then at the end, we're gonna talk about the rules of dating and how there really aren't **set rules**.

Maura: Right, we're going to try to answer some questions, like when to call a person and what to do on your date.

Harp: ...and who pays for the date.

Maura: Right. That's a hard one to answer, but we'll do our best.

Harp: We will try our hardest.

Maura: So first we're going to talk about how people find each other and decide to go on a date in North America and especially in Canada, because that's what we know most about.

Harp: Yeah, everything we talk about today, and in most of our episodes, are related to Canadian or North American experiences.

Maura: So how do two Canadians find each other and go on a date? What do you think, Harp?

Harp: Well, some traditional ways that you meet people in Canada are through friends, or at school you might meet someone, or at work.

Maura: Yeah, exactly. So basically all of the places where you're with people and you're talking to people. So maybe your friend has a party and you go to that party and then you meet a friend of your friend that you didn't know before.

Harp: Exactly. Or maybe you start a new job and you have a new colleague and you want to date them.

Maura: Yup. Or you take a class and you meet a whole group of people there and maybe you're lucky and you find someone that you want to date in your class.

Harp: Exactly, so those are some traditional ways where we find people to date.

Maura: Right, but more and more, people take classes and they work, and of course they have friends, but they still don't find someone that they want to date or be in a relationship with.

Harp: Exactly. So there are some new ways that are **coming out** to find people to date.

Maura: Yes, and they're on the Internet.

Harp: Exactly. There are a lot of dating websites **out there** now.

Maura: Yeah, there are so many, I don't think we could even count them.

Harp: No, I agree.

Maura: So more and more, it's become normal for people to use dating websites to find someone to go on a date with. And probably just 10 or 15 years ago, I didn't know anyone who had done this. And now I definitely can think of a whole bunch of friends that have tried this or gone on dates with people from websites.

Harp: I actually know someone who is now married to someone they met on the Internet.

Maura: Yeah, you're right. One of my friends is engaged and, yup, they met online.

Harp: Yeah, it's a new technique that people are using to find people to date. But it's becoming more and more common in Canada.

Maura: Yeah.

Harp: Yeah, another fun way that people are meeting other people is through **speed dating**.

Maura: Yeah, that became popular a few years ago.

Harp: Yeah, so basically it's when you go to maybe a bar, or a coffee shop...

Maura: ...and, yeah, each couple meets and talks for a very short amount of time. Maybe even only five minutes, and then one person moves on to a new partner and they meet another person and talk for five minutes again and then they move on to another person. So they meet a lot of people in one night.

Harp: Yeah, so by the end of the night, with **speed dating**, you've met maybe 10, 15, 20 different people, only for about five minutes, and then you sign a form saying which ones you're interested in going on another date. And then if you're matched, then you can get the contact information for those people.

Maura: Yeah. Yeah, it's really interesting. It's a fun way, I guess, to meet some new people.

Harp: Yeah, I've never done it, but it seems kind of fun.

Maura: Another way that people might go on a date is if they're **set up** by their friends.

Harp: Yeah, for example if I had two friends who didn't know each other but I thought that maybe they could be a good couple, I would **set** them **up** on a date.

Maura: Yeah, that's fun. I always like to **keep my eye out** for two people that I think would be a good match.

Harp: Exactly. Sometimes it doesn't work out, but sometimes my friends start dating if I **set them up**.

Maura: Yeah, yeah. I set up a couple friends a few years ago and it worked out, but they did eventually **break up**, so...

Harp: Oh no. So yeah, these are some ways that people meet in Canada to date.

Maura: Yeah.

Harp: OK, so now let's talk about some vocabulary related to dating.

Maura: Yes, there's so much to talk about here.

Harp: Yeah, we'll go through some of it, but there's always more, so check out the Lipservice for that.

Maura: OK, let's start at the beginning. First you have two people that want to go on a date, so you can say *I'm going on a date* or *I'm going out on a date*.

Harp: Yeah, so after you've gone on a couple of dates, there are a couple of different ways of saying this.

Maura: Yeah, you could simply say *I'm **dating someone***, but you can also say *I'm **seeing someone***.

Harp: Yeah, exactly.

Maura: Yeah, just like the verb *to see*, but we can use it in a way that means to date.

Harp: Yeah, so you can say you're **dating someone**, you're **seeing someone**, or you could say you're **going out with someone**.

Maura: Exactly, so there's a lot of different ways that you can say that you're dating someone. Nowadays we would say something like ***I'm seeing someone*** or ***I'm going out with someone***.

Harp: Yeah, or ***I'm dating someone***.

Maura: Yeah. And then, after you've been on a few dates, you've been dating them for a few months, then you wouldn't really say that you're just dating someone anymore. After time passes it becomes more serious.

Harp: Yes, so you can start by saying that you have a boyfriend or you have a girlfriend or sometimes people say that they have a **partner**.

Maura: Yeah, right. You could also say that you're together with someone. But, one more thing Harp, what happens if you're dating someone but then you decide you don't want to date anymore?

Harp: Well, you could say that you **break up** with them.

Maura: Yeah, that's usually the most common, to say that you **broke up** with them.

Harp: Yeah, you could say that *I **broke up** with this person*, or *we **broke up***.

Maura: So what happens, Harp, after you've broken up with your boyfriend, and now you're thinking *oh, maybe he wasn't that bad*, and you want to date him again?

Harp: You would say *I **want to get back together*** or *I **want to make up***.

Maura: Right, so you could say that you **made up** or you **got back together**.

Harp: Exactly. And remember, we went through a lot of vocabulary here, but you can always check out the Lipservice, where we give more explanations.

Maura: Right, so now it's time to look at the last part of this episode, which is some of the dating rules that we have in North America.

Harp: Yeah, exactly.

Maura: And basically the rule is: there aren't any rules.

Harp: Sorry to make it seem complicated but that's the truth: there aren't any real rules.

Maura: Everyone has different opinions on what people should do when they're dating. The first question we're going to try to answer is, what do people do on dates? Especially the first few dates?

Harp: Yeah, well the traditional thing that many people do on a first date is go to a movie and then maybe to dinner or go for coffee or go for a drink. These are the traditional things.

Maura: Yup, exactly. I think those are pretty good things to do on a date. I like going out for coffee or to eat dinner, because it gives you a chance to talk and get to know the other person.

Harp: You know, I kind of like doing more fun activities, like maybe going ice skating or going bowling, because then you're doing something, but you can also talk at the same time.

Maura: Yeah, that could be fun too, but I remember a guy that I was dating asked me to go indoor rock climbing.

Harp: Oh wow, that's interesting.

Maura: Yeah, I think it was probably our second date and I felt really nervous, because I didn't think I would be a good rock climber.

Harp: So he was trying to be fun, but you didn't know if you'd be a good rock climber.

Maura: Yeah. But I think that what you said is true: to do an activity just gives you something else to concentrate on and maybe loosen some tension.

Harp: So now you're on the date and then **the bill** comes.

Maura: It's always an awkward moment.

Harp: Yeah. Who pays, Maura?

Maura: Yeah. Traditionally it was the guy that paid, but nowadays that's not what happens anymore. So it's always an uncomfortable moment when the bill comes because no one is really sure who should pay.

Harp: Yeah, sometimes people think that for the first date you should **split it 50/50**; each person pays for themselves. Sometimes people think that it should be the guy that pays. And then sometimes people think it should be the person who asked the person to go on a date who should pay. Do you think there's a set rule, Maura?

Maura: No, and I think that's why it's so awkward and strange, because everyone has their own set rule. I have my idea of what's right, but it could be very different from the person that I'm on a date with.

Harp: Yeah, I think **every single one** of my friends has a different idea of what's the right rule.

Maura: Right. So usually in the moment you work it out with that person. Sometimes one person might insist on paying.

Harp: Exactly, but there's no set rule.

Maura: OK, now the date is done and you're wondering if the other person liked you, if they want to see you again, or if you should call them.

Harp: Yeah, you never know. Should you call them the next day to ask them on another date? Or should you wait a couple days? Should you wait for them to call you?

Maura: I know, it's really difficult. But again, there's not really an answer to this question, but there's a general rule that a lot of people know about, which is to wait three days.

Harp: Yeah, **the three-day rule**. So basically, after you go on a date, you wait three days to call the person.

Maura: Yeah, yeah. Some people probably use that, but I think that's too long.

Harp: I agree; I don't like it. I expect a phone call the next day or the day after that.

Maura: Right, and some people will call you the next day. Some people might wait one week, you never know. You'll just have to decide what to do in that situation, in the moment.

Harp: Exactly.

Maura: OK, great. So we tried our best to answer the questions about dating, but like we said, every situation is different and unique.

Harp: Exactly, so it's hard to have **set rules** for dating. OK, so let's recap, Maura.

Maura: First, we talked about how people in Canada and North America find each other **to go out on dates**.

Harp: Exactly, and then we talked about vocabulary related to dating.

Maura: Right. We talked about when two people start to date, we talked about after they've been seeing each other for some time, **making up, breaking up...**

Harp: Yeah, all of that good stuff.

Maura: And then we tried to answer some questions around dating in North America.

Harp: Exactly.

Maura: So, if you want to see the transcripts for this episode or any more important information, go to our website and become a member and have access to all of that.

Harp: Yeah, for sure. And leave us some comments about dating rules or customs in your country.

Maura: Yeah, I love to hear about those cultural differences. They're so interesting.

Harp: Yeah, or if you've ever had a crazy first date, leave some comments for us. Tell us about what's going on with you.

Maura: Yeah, we always love to hear from you.

Harp: Yup, so that's it for us.

Maura: And this has been Maura.

Harp: And Harp.

Maura: And we'll talk to you next time.

Harp: Bye everyone!

Maura: Bye!

Detailed Explanation

The dating world

The dating world talks about anything connected to dating. **The dating world** is used to refer to the general topic of dating. And this is definitely the topic of this episode.

You can do this with any topic, for example, *the karate world*, or *the university world*. We can also say *the world of university* or *the world of dating*.

Here are some examples with these **world** phrases:

Joann: He didn't call me back, so I don't think he likes me.

Kelly: In **the world of dating** anything can happen.

Lisa: I was doing so well, but after I lost the match I think my reputation is ruined.

Kevin: You never know in **the chess world**.

Set rules

Set rules are rules that are decided and predetermined. It's a bit strange, because rules must be decided and predetermined. Saying **set rules** instead of only **rules** emphasizes that the rules are strict or firm and cannot be changed.

In this episode, Harp and Maura admit that there are not any **set rules in the dating world**. There are personal rules that some people may follow, or general rules that people might think about, but no **set rules**.

To come out

Here is a two-word phrasal verb that is quite commonly used and has a few different meanings. **To come out** in the way that we use it in this episode means to become available and known to the general public for the first time. In this episode, Harp says, "So there are some new ways that are **coming out** to find people to date."

New products **come out**, and movies **come out** in theatres. Here are some examples with **to come out** with this meaning. Remember that there are other ways to use **to come out** too.

Ivana: I'm going to buy that new perfume this weekend.

Paul: Yeah, I think it **comes out** on Friday.

Olivia: When does Brad Pitt's new movie **come out** on DVD?

Carmen: I don't know, but it must be soon.

Out there

This is a funny little expression that we use to mean *in the world* or *in society*. **Out there** can also mean somewhere in the universe. To say that something is *out there* means that it exists. *Out there* is very general and so the location is not specific.

Harp says, "There are a lot of dating websites **out there** now." She means that there are a lot of dating websites that exist in the world today.

Here are some other examples with **out there**:

Ken: I know you're sad about not having a girlfriend, but there's someone **out there** for you.

Jack: Yeah, I know. It's just difficult.

Fred: I've been looking for a nice table for my kitchen for so long. I know what I want, but I just can't find it.

Lily: I'm sure your table is **out there** somewhere.

Speed dating

This is a trend in dating services that got popular in the last 1990s. **Speed dating** is, like we explain in this episode, an organized time when many people meet possible partners for short periods of time. At the end, each person notes the people they were interested in. If there's a match, then these people can go on a longer date.

This kind of matchmaking service is based on the idea that people do not need a lot of time with someone to decide whether they're attracted to them, and would like to get to know them more.

To set up/To be set up

To be set up or **to set someone up** means that a date has been arranged between two people by another person. People might also say the long version: **to set someone up on a date**. The shorter version is also clear in the context, but remember that **to set up** or **to be set up** can have other meanings than a date.

Here are another couple of examples:

Justin: What are you doing tonight?

Nicole: My friend Peter **set me up** with his friend, so I'm going on a date.

Heather: I think I'm going to **set up** my friends Shannon and Jessica.

Luke: Be careful. I **was set up** last month by my friend and it wasn't a good match at all!

To keep an eye out

To keep an eye out is not an expression only for dating. **To keep an eye out** means that you are going to watch for something. You might be doing other things, but you'll continue to watch for something else. You can **keep an eye out** for a person or a thing.

Maura says that she likes to **keep an eye out** for two people she knows who might be a good match. For example, this could mean that she is taking a night course and suddenly notices that someone in her class would be a good match for her friend.

Here are some examples with **to keep an eye out** used other than to talk about dating:

Kiley: My friend Howard is supposed to meet us here at 7:30.

Victor: OK. I'll **keep an eye out** for him.

Geordie: Can you **keep an eye out** for a nice patio chair when you go shopping today? I want to buy a couple for my backyard.

Paula: Yeah, I'll see what I can find.

To break up

To break up is to end a romantic relationship. There are lots of songs with these words in it or as part of the title. You say that a couple **broke up**. And you can also say who ended it: John **broke up** with Carly, or Carly **broke up** with John.

A more casual and not very respectful way to speak about the end of a relationship is to say, for example, that John dumped Carly. This is more often used by teenagers.

You would not usually use **to break up** to talk about a marriage ending. In this case we would say *to separate* or *to divorce*.

To date someone/To see someone/To go out with someone

There are many ways to say that you're **dating someone** or **seeing someone** but these are the most common. These expressions are used at the very beginning, before you are officially a couple.

To go out with someone can literally mean that you are going to meet in a public place or it can mean that you are dating. Here is an example:

Ben: I'm **going out with** this great girl.

Pete: How long have you been **seeing** her?

Ben: Just over a month.

In this case, Ben is not actually going out with her tonight, but he is dating her in general.

Partner

Partner is the new gender-neutral name for long-term boyfriends or girlfriends. Of course, **partner** can still mean working partner or school partner, but now it can also be used for romantic partner. As there are fewer and fewer marriages and more and more acceptance of same-sex couples in North America, the word **partner** continues to become more popular.

To make up/To get back together

After a couple argues or **breaks up**, sometimes they decide to be a couple again. After a couple argues or breaks up, we can say that they **make up**. To say that a couple **got back together** can only be used after a **break up**.

Here are a couple of examples:

Jen: So did you hear from Gerry?

Lynn: Yeah, he called this morning and we **made up**.

Glen: How long were you **broken up** before you **got back together**?

Mike: We **got back together** one month later.

The bill

The bill and **the cheque** are some of the words we use to talk about the paper we get at the end of a meal at a restaurant that tells us how much we need to pay. This can be a confusing time on a date, because there is no rule about who should pay.

There are three general ideas about this. Some people believe that each person should pay for what they ate, or **split the bill 50/50**. **To split the bill 50/50** means that the bill is shared equally between the two people. Others believe that whoever asked the other out on the date should pay. More traditional people believe that the male should always pay.

If you're not on a date, generally people pay for what they ordered or **split the bill** with the other guests. In some cases, some people might insist on paying.

Every single one

This expression is used to emphasize everyone or everything. **Every single one** means everyone or everything, but puts extra emphasis on the fact that it's all of them. Harp uses this expression to emphasize that every friend has a different idea about what is right when paying the bill on a date.

Here are some examples with **every single one**:

Teacher: **Every single one** of you is going to finish your homework by Friday.

Tonisha: Have you seen any good movies lately?

Leslie: Every movie I've seen this year has been terrible. **Every single one**.

The three-day rule

Harp and Maura say repeatedly that there are not really any strict rules for dating. There is a general rule that most people in North America know, but this does not necessarily mean that everyone, or even most people, follow this rule.

The three-day rule is that after a date, usually one of the first dates, that people should wait three days to call each other. Harp and Maura disagree with this rule in this episode.

Quiz**1. What is this episode about?**

- a) setting people up on dates
- b) paying bills
- c) rules
- d) the world of dating

2. There are new ways of dating _____ all the time.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) coming out
- b) going in
- c) coming in
- d) going out

3. There are lots of languages out there.

What does *out there* mean in this sentence?

- a) in existence, in the world
- b) in outer space
- c) in movies, in books
- d) in New York

4. Adam's friend set him up last night.

What does this mean in dating terms?

- a) Adam's friend took him speed dating
- b) Adam's friend arranged a date for him
- c) Adam's friend broke up with his girlfriend
- d) Adam's friend wants to use a dating website

5. When you're camping, it's a good idea to _____ for animals.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) keep an ear on
- b) keep an eye on
- c) keep an eye out
- d) keep an eye in

6. Which of the following is NOT a way of saying that a guy is dating someone?

- a) He's seeing someone.
- b) He's going out with someone.
- c) He's making someone.
- d) He's dating someone.

7. Who should always pay the bill at the end of a date?

- a) the person who arranged the date
- b) The bill is split in half.
- c) The male.
- d) There is no set rule about this.

8. What is the three-day rule?

- a) A person should wait three days after meeting someone to ask them on a date.
- b) A person should wait three days after a first date to call the other person.
- c) A person should wait three days between dates.
- d) A person should wait three days after breaking up to go on another date.

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Answers: 1.d 2.a 3.a 4.b 5.c 6.c 7.d 8.b