

JEN & FRENCHIE'S RULES FOR POSTING YOUR PROFILE ON AN ONLINE DATING SITE

I will not respond to you if you don't...

1) PROOFREAD YOUR AD

- Although I don't need to be reminded that spelling acumen is not correlated to intelligence or that Einstein was a bad speller, I am really only attracted to people who learned how to spell when they should have: in grade school.
- Aside from misspelling, proof your ad for errors in syntax, grammar, usage, punctuation, and spacing.
- *You are not texting.* You are writing. Leave the emoticons to teenagers, and save the shortcut acronyms for your smartphone. (This isn't the newspaper. You are no longer charged for personal ads by the letter or column inch.) So take some time, put forth some effort, and write out what you feel. And consider that if you really did "Laugh Out Loud" that many times while writing your profile, you might be undateable.
- Your personal ad is a reflection of *you*. Hello!?! It should look nice.

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2) POST A CLEAR CLOSE-UP PHOTO OF YOURSELF TAKEN BY SOMEONE ELSE WITHIN THE LAST YEAR

- No, I didn't want to post a photo of myself either, but I did. So can you.
- No one looks good in an autophoto: *no one*. What autophotos tell the world about you is that you don't have a single friend (not one) to take a picture of you. People with no friends are unattractive.
- Do not include photos that show the faces of minor children. This is a dating site, people!
- Do not post photos of you with your ex-partner (no, not even with that person's permission). And if the person you're posing with in the photo merely appears like they *could* be an ex-partner, explain in your ad that the photo is of you & your "attractive adult niece"...or whomever it may be, etc.
- If you don't know how to crop out the faces of minor children or ex partners with photo editing software, get a friend to help you or *don't use that photo*. Poorly edited photos are another unattractive reflection of self. (Again, take some time, put forth some effort, your ad is a reflection of *you*.)
- Do not post photos of yourself taken more than 15 yards away, inanimate objects, your pets, your vacations, or nature shots. I am not looking to date a sunset, a mountain range, or coral. If you are proud of your talent for photography, have a gallery night, list it as a hobby, or just say so.
- Do not post photos of yourself at radically different time periods or ages. We all looked better in our twenties, you're not fooling anyone, nor do I want to see your baby picture.
- Posting a photo of you performing an activity does not prove that that activity is one of your hobbies.

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3) AVOID STATING THE OBVIOUS & PERSONAL AD CLICHES

- Please don't open your profile by writing how hard it is to write about yourself. This is a waste of bandwidth.
- That you've "never done anything like this before" may be true, but you don't have to beg out of being a loser. News flash: *We're all on an online dating site together.*
- Please don't write that you "love to laugh" or that you "like to go out but also like staying in." These are 100% content-free statements that rule out *nobody*. You're going to need to go farther out on a limb than that.
- Don't bother writing that honesty is the most important thing. If that were true, you wouldn't be on an online dating site, where people are free to misrepresent themselves, and honesty is about the last thing you'll find.
- Don't write that you are as comfortable in jeans as you are in a little black dress, or that you are looking for someone who is as comfortable in jeans as she is in a little black dress. No one is as comfortable dressed up as they are in jeans.
- Please don't tell me how your friends describe you: in all likelihood, they are just being nice.

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4) AVOID WRITING THINGS THAT ARE GENDER BIASED, JUST PLAIN ICKY, OR TURN OFFS

- The correct relative pronoun to use when talking about *people* is the word "who" not the word "that." If you're "looking for a woman that [this]" & "a woman that [that]," you're reflecting that you believe women to be objects instead of thinking, feeling, human beings who possess souls.
- If you are in search of a woman, please do not write that you are looking for "a female"...unless you have stock to breed. (HINT: Not done on a dating site!)
- Never use the word "lover." Ever. Anywhere.
- Sexy, punny, or overly cryptic usernames are turn offs.
- Little children fall in love with puppies & kitties. Adults attempt to love other adults. If your dog or cat truly *is* "the love of your life," you're not ready to date.
- Do not list "sex" as one of your "hobbies."

5) MOST IMPORTANTLY, DON'T BUST ON ME IF I BREAK ANY OF THESE RULES OR CHOOSE TO DATE SOMEONE WHO BREAKS ANY OF THESE RULES.