



# 12 Dating Rules

## 1 Synopsis

Charlie, Robert, and April are making a documentary about dating. They interview people and ask them about their rules for dating. What should people do on a first date? Should you go out with co-workers? April doesn't think so. She thinks that people who work together shouldn't go out with one another. Robert is crazy about April and wants to ask her out, but he's afraid she'll say no. When he asks her if she would like to go and see a movie with him, she agrees to go, but warns him about her rule. So, is it a date or are they just good friends?

**Length of video:** 3:58min

## 2 Target Language

**Grammar:** *should/shouldn't*

**Vocabulary:** dating

**Language points:** *What's that supposed to mean? You know you're dying to ..., You've got to take chances in life. You're crazy about ..., It totally shows.*

## 3 Procedural Notes

### A Before you watch

**1 In pairs.** Give the students time to read the phrases and match them to their definitions. Explain that they will hear these phrases in the video. If necessary, encourage them to use a dictionary. Check answers as a class.

**Answer key:**

1 c 2 e 3 a 4 b 5 d 6 f

**2 As a class.** Explain that the word *date/dating* has various meanings in the U.S., which can cause confusion! Refer students to the four expressions with the word *date* in them. Elicit some possible meanings of the word.

**In pairs.** Put students into pairs to match the expressions with the meanings. Briefly check answers as a class. To check comprehension, ask students to write another sentence to show each meaning.

**Answer key:**

2 Who is your date for the party? 3 It's a date!  
4 They've been dating for five years now.

### B While you watch

**1 As a class.** *Don't ask* students to read the sentences before watching the video. Instead, make this into a game! Pause the video at specific intervals, have students read one sentence, and ask them to predict what is going to happen. Show the next few seconds of the video, in which the answer is given, and then have them answer the question. Pause the video at these points: **1** [01:02], **2** [03:10], and **3** [03:20]. Finally, ask students if they think Robert and April are "just good friends," or if it is going to be a romantic date. Elicit ideas from the class.

**Answer key:** 1 c 2 a 3 b

**2 Individuals.** Have students read the sentences and help with unknown vocabulary. Play the segment of the video [02:27–02:56] and have students write the order in which they hear the sentences. Have students check answers in pairs. (Note: Students discuss "Should people go out with co-workers?" in section E, so don't elicit any opinions at this stage.) Then, check answers as a class.

**Answer key:** a 3 b 2 c 4 d 1

### C After you watch

**1 As a class.** Refer students to the comments and read them aloud. Ask students if they can remember whether a man or a woman made each comment (a, b, and d are women; c is a man). Remind them of the meaning of the words *chew* (to break up food with your teeth) and *to split the check* or *go Dutch* (two people share the cost of a meal).

**In pairs.** Have students read the instructions. Point out that no two sentences can have the *same* "rank." Have them discuss people's opinions and choose a rank for each one. Take a class vote. If necessary, you can replay the video to hear these expressions in context [01:46–02:26].

**2 Individuals.** Give the students time to write four things about what they think people should or shouldn't do on a date. As you monitor, help students with vocabulary.

**In pairs.** Have students discuss their ideas with a partner. Encourage students to ask follow-up questions (e.g., *Why do you think that?*) and to say how they feel about things (*I agree. I think that's horrible. No, I don't agree. That doesn't bother me.*).



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**3 As a class.** Elicit what happened at the end of the segment and how they decided to behave (April and Robert planned to go to the movies. They agreed to be professional, like friends going out). Tell students they are going to write an email from April or Robert to a friend, describing what happened.

**In pairs.** Give students about five minutes to brainstorm ideas (e.g., Robert tried to kiss her; April didn't show up because she changed her mind; Charlie was there, too). Have them choose who the email is from (April or Robert) and who it is to. Then, ask students to start writing a draft version of their email. Monitor the pairs and help with vocabulary. Give them a time limit (or ask them to bring it to the next lesson completed). Finally, have students exchange emails with another pair and read at least two other "stories." Alternatively, display them on the wall for everyone to read.

**As a class.** Discuss the emails. Ask students which emails they preferred and why.

## D Language points

**As a class.** Ask *Who suggests that Robert should ask April on a date? (Charlie) Why? (Because Robert's feelings for April are obvious).* Point to the five expressions that Robert and Charlie use (the first column). Have students match the expressions to the meanings in the second column. Help with vocabulary where necessary. You can replay the video [up to 01:06] for students to check their answers.

**Answer key:** 1 c 2 e 3 d 4 a 5 b

## E Your viewpoint

**In groups.** Put students into small groups. Have them read the questions and check comprehension. You may need to pre-teach or elicit the meaning of *break up*. Give them enough time to discuss the questions, and encourage them to give reasons why.

**As a class.** Ask each group to choose one point and tell the rest of the class something interesting/unusual they discussed.

## 4 Video Script

**Charlie:** April looks so fantastic today.  
**Robert:** The camera loves her. She doesn't have a bad angle.  
**Charlie:** So, you know the topic for today's interviews, right?  
**Robert:** Of course ... dating.  
**Charlie:** Well, I suggest you pay attention. Maybe you'll learn something.  
**Robert:** What's that supposed to mean?  
**Charlie:** You know you're dying to ask April out.  
**Robert:** Excuse me?  
**Charlie:** It's so obvious.  
**Robert:** It is not. I ...  
**Charlie:** Look, I'd ask her out myself, but I don't think my girlfriend would appreciate it very much. Look, you're single again, right? So ...  
**Robert:** You're crazy!  
**Charlie:** So are you ... crazy about April.  
**Robert:** I am not. Does it show that much?  
**Charlie:** Totally. What are you afraid of?  
**Robert:** Who said I'm afraid?  
**Charlie:** Then ask her out.  
**Robert:** What if she says no?

**Charlie:** You've got to take chances in life.  
**Robert:** I don't know ...  
**Charlie:** You are such a coward.  
**Robert:** Oh, really?  
**Charlie:** Yeah.  
**Robert:** April. Hey. Actually, I ... I was wondering if ... if you're not busy this weekend, there's that new Jim Carrey movie. And I just thought if you wanted to go Saturday night ...  
**April:** Oh, thanks, Robert. I was planning to see that. Can I tell you later? I have to check my schedule.  
**Robert:** Sure.  
**April:** I do have one problem.  
**Charlie:** Could we start shooting now?  
**April:** Yeah ... Later, OK? I'm ready.  
**Robert:** And rolling ... and action!  
**April:** Dating! What are some of your rules? What should people do and what shouldn't they do on dates?  
**Woman 1:** On first dates, I think that if two people go out to dinner together, they should both split the check.



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**Woman 2:** Always be polite. You should always go Dutch on a first date. You should do something easy and make sure you can talk to each other.

**Man 1:** I think there needs to be communication between both people. I also think that you should chew with your mouth closed on a date.

**Woman 1:** The guy should never insult a woman on the first date, either. No criticisms.

**April:** Should you go out with co-workers?

**Woman 2:** Yeah, it's fine. I mean, my boyfriend and I are co-workers, and we go out, and it's fine.

**Woman 3:** You should not date your co-workers if you like your job.

**Woman 4:** Dating co-workers is generally not a very good idea, but I have seen it work for some people, so, depends on the situation.

**Man 2:** I don't go out with co-workers. I think it's a mistake.

**April:** Robert, can I talk to you for a minute?

**Robert:** Sure.

**April:** So, it turns out I am free this weekend ...

**Robert:** Good!

**April:** But I ... I have this one rule. Maybe it's dumb, but I've always believed that people who work together shouldn't go out with one another.

**Robert:** Oh. Well, well, I can understand that. Look, you don't have to say yes. I ...

**April:** But I want to. I want to see the movie, and we're both professionals, right?

**Robert:** Right.

**April:** So it wouldn't be a date, actually.

**Robert:** Absolutely not.

**April:** It would be more just like ...

**Robert:** ... two friends ... uh ... professionals ...

**April:** ... going out ... just going out, OK?

**Robert:** Right, yeah. I'll meet you Saturday night.

How about 7:00, in front of the movie theater on 3rd between 10th and 11th?

**April:** It's a date.

**Robert:** Oh, no!