

♀ 1 ♂



Copyright © 2003 -2013 by LeeAnn Webster. All Rights Reserved.
Dating At the Speed of Life – How To Make A Date in 5 Minutes
www.DatingAtTheSpeedofLife.com



LEGAL STUFF

Dating at the Speed of Life *How to Make a Date in 5 Minutes*

Copyright © 2003 -2013 by LeeAnn Webster. All rights reserved. Version 7 (released 12/11/13)

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of LeeAnn M. Webster.

For information, contact:

LeeAnn Webster
Chicago, IL
(773) 687-8643
leeann@leeannwebster.com

Cover design by Bryan Coopersmith.

Examples and information in this book are based on true stories and interviews, although some of the names and details and have been changed to protect the innocent.

By purchasing this book, you acknowledge that the ideas included in it are solely the opinions of the author and are for entertainment purposes only. You are responsible for your personal decisions and nothing in this book should be considered legal or professional advice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to everyone who helped me through all the adventures that have resulted in lots of hard work, fun and (finally) a book. Everyday I say a prayer of thanks that you are in my life. I truly would not be here without the love, guidance and support of all of you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1 – Introduction & History

Introduction.....	6
History of Rotational Dating Events.....	7

Part 2 – Making A Date in Only 5 Minutes

Chapter 1: Plan Ahead – 5 Easy Steps to Prepare for A Rotational Dating Event.....10

Step #1: Research Your Options.....	10
Step #2: Find Out All the Details.....	13
Step #3: Look Your Best.....	13
Step #4: Check Your Attitude.....	14
Step #5: Leave Your Baggage At the Door.....	14

Chapter 2: It's Show Time – 10 Tips to Make The Most of Your Night.....16

Tip #1: Mix It Up.....	16
Tip #2: Listen to the Instructions.....	17
Tip #3: Ask Great Questions.....	18
Tip #4: Avoid Bad Questions.....	20
Tip #5: Watch Body Language.....	22
Tip #6: Keep it Light.....	23
Tip #7: Be Nice.....	24
Tip #8: Have Fun.....	25
Tip #9: Just Say "YES".....	25
Tip #10: Know How to Get Your Matches.....	26

Chapter 3: The Morning After – 5 Secrets For Turning those Matches into Dates.....29

Secret #1: Follow Up With Everyone.....	29
Secret #2: Clarify Your Intentions.....	30
Secret #3: Schedule Short Dates.....	31
Secret #4: Be Honest.....	32

Secret #5: For Those Who Get No Matches.....32

**Part 3 – From the Mouths of Babes: Interviews
with Attendees who received 5 (or more) Matches
in One Night!.....34**

Women.....36

Men.....68

Part 4 – Closure.....87

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION & HISTORY

Introduction

This book is dedicated to every single person who has ever wondered “are there any good ones left?” As a single professional, I was tired of the “traditional” ways of meeting men. Most of the services and events were frustrating (because they didn’t produce results) or insulting (they made me feel like a loser for being single). I am single, attractive, professional...and I knew there were others just like me. So I decided to take matters into my own hands. I started “Single Solutions” – a company devoted to hosting quality singles events.

After months of hosting wine tastings, dinners and other cool events...I finally realized that singles just needed a really simple, elegant event that gave them an easy way to meet each other and to follow up afterwards. “Rapid Dating” was born.

I modeled the event after the “speed dating” events for Jewish singles. I’m not Jewish, and I thought this method of meeting people was a good idea...so I created a new name and started hosting events. The results were incredible. Two and a half years (and thousands of singles) later, the popularity of this kind of event has exploded.

These events are unique from the host perspective, because you are able to see immediately when, how and why people are connecting. After observing thousands of these dates, I noticed that some people easily make lots of matches, whereas others struggle to make just one. There are, in fact,

basic skills that, once mastered, can greatly increase your chances for getting matches. I realized that although there were now plenty of opportunities to meet singles...there are no guidebooks on how to turn those meetings into dates.

The result is this book – a complete guide to rotational dating events.

To avoid confusion, I will refer to these events as “rotational dating events.” The term “Speed Dating®” is a trademark and refers solely to events for Jewish singles. Many people use the term “speed dating” as a general term to refer to rotational dating events. To make matters even more confusing, there are many different companies that offer these types of events – each with their own style and name.

History of Rotational Dating Events

This phenomena started in the Jewish community in 1999 as “Speed Dating®”. In 2001, I started holding the first events for non-denominational singles. It was a huge hit. Rapid Dating® and other similar events soon took off all around the country. Singles finally had a “no risk” way to come to an event and meet lots of people without the fear of rejection. There was no getting “stuck” with someone they didn’t want to talk to...no creative stories to tell to get away from the person nicely. After all, how many times can a girl go to the bathroom in one night?

This event also worked well for men. They could talk to 10 or more women in one night without looking like a player. What’s more, they didn’t have to close the deal when they met a girl – they had an easy way

to mark their sheets and find out exactly who was interested.

Today there are four national companies that host events all over the country. There are also many local and regional companies that have created their own version of the event.

In this book I will walk you through exactly what to do before, during and after the event in order to create a really fun experience. In addition to my insights, I've interviewed attendees who have created great results at the events. They will tell you in their own words how and why they were able to connect with so many people. Don't forget – you can also apply many of these skills to meeting people at the grocery store, the coffee shop – anywhere!

Are you ready to become a pro at meeting people in only 5 minutes? Then let's get started! If you have any ideas or comments you'd like to share, please e-mail me at leeann@leeannwebster.com - I'd love to hear from you!

PART 2 – MAKING A DATE IN ONLY 5 MINUTES

Going to a rotational dating event might seem simple enough. It's not rocket science, that's for sure. But there are some very specific things you can do to create optimal results.

Chapter 1: Plan Ahead – 5 Easy Steps to Prepare for A Rotational Dating Event

Before the event it's important to make sure you are adequately prepared. In this chapter I'll give you five specific steps to follow to make sure you have all your ducks in a row and you go in with a winning attitude.

Step #1: Research Your Options

Many companies now offer rotational dating events. While the overall idea is the same – you move from table to table meeting singles – the execution varies among companies. You should consider a number of factors to make sure you pick the right event for you. Key factors to consider are the number of minutes in each rotation, structure of the event, which gender rotates, organization of the rotations, total number of rotations and age (or other) groupings.

Use these factors to determine which event and company is best for you. Then find out as much as you can before the event – so when you arrive you can focus all your energy on meeting new people.

✓ Number of minutes in each rotation

Time is the major differential – some companies rotate every 3 minutes. Others rotate every 5 minutes. One company goes as long as 8 minutes. While a few minutes might not seem like a big difference, if you're not connecting with the person you're talking to, 2 minutes can seem like a lifetime! It's a good idea to try different services to find out which time frame works best for you.

✓ **Event structure**

Most companies offer a cocktail mixer period before or after the rotations. You'll want to take advantage of all time available to meet people – go early so can meet more people. Many companies offer a break between the rotations – to give you a chance to freshen your drink and use the restroom. Not all companies offer a break – some just move you through the rotations. Be sure to ask when you make your reservation.

✓ **Which gender rotates**

Most companies have the men rotate. This is in-line with "standard" gender roles where men approach women. One company has both genders rotate. Only a one or two have the women rotate. The bottom line is you want to know if you'll be moving or not. If you are moving, find a way to check or otherwise take care of your coat, purse and personal items.

✓ **Organization of the rotations**

Usually the tables are somehow lined up and numbered. Most companies follow a similar format where one gender moves to the next higher numbered table. Thus, if you start at #10, you'll move to 11, then 12, then 13, etc. One company gives you a random list of table numbers, so both genders move to different tables each time. Go early enough to scout out the layout of the tables and how you will move through the event.

✓ **Total number of rotations**

This depends to some extent on the number of total attendees at the event. Some companies guarantee that you will meet 25, others draw the line at 10. You'll want to find out how many people attend the event AND how many people you will rotate with. For example, at Rapid Dating we would often have 25 of each gender, yet we would stop the rotations after 15 (we learned that people get tired after the 10th rotation). The people who weren't met during the rotations could then be met during the mixer or break.

✓ **Age (or other) groupings**

Age is the dividing factor for most companies. Be sure to check the rules for the range to see if you need to attend the age you are or the age you want to date. Some companies have small age ranges, but they allow 1-2 "exceptions" – meaning 1-2 people who are outside the stated range may attend.

In addition, some companies offer special interest groups like single parents, Catholics, African Americans, etc. If you are interested in attending a specialty group, find out if you need to be a member of the group or if you just need to be open to dating someone in that group.

Regardless of the "dividing" factor – be open! One great aspect of these events is that you will get the chance to meet and talk with people that you normally would NOT meet. Be open to learning about yourself and others – you might find that some of the stereotypes you had simply aren't true...and you might be attracted to people you might have otherwise over-looked.

Step #2: Find Out All the Details

Sounds simple, but it's a good idea to make sure you have all the details - including date, starting time and location.

You'll want to plan your day so you have time to freshen up and still arrive at the event on time (or early). Make sure you have directions and parking information. You don't want to find yourself running around at the last minute trying to find the location or the parking - it will put you in a frantic state of mind that might cause you to look unfocused and ultimately cost you matches.

Also, be mindful of scheduling - pick a time and date that make sense in light of your other time commitments. If you're going away for three weeks, wait until you return to go to the event - otherwise you won't have time to follow up with your dates.

Step #3: Look Your Best

This is your chance to make a great first impression! You will be meeting many people - so look good. You want people to remember you for the right reasons! Wear what you would wear on a first date - this usually means to stay away from shorts and sneakers.

Be sure to wear something you look AND feel good in. Keep in mind that you will be sitting, standing, moving around - so avoid clothes that are binding or tight. If you're coming straight from work, bring a different top, sweater, jacket, or shirt - something you

can change into or add so you'll look more relaxed and you'll feel different.

Hygiene is of course really important. Freshen-up your make-up, hair, deodorant, cologne...whatever you can do to shift into date mode. If possible, brush your teeth...or at least eat a fresh mint!

Step #4: Check Your Attitude

You want to enter the event with low (or no) expectations. It's almost counter-intuitive in a book designed to help you get better results...but it's true. When you read through the interviews of those with the most matches, you'll notice almost all of them say: "I had no (or low) expectations."

Here's the deal – if you walk in thinking you're going to meet your soul mate, your intensity level will be so high that you won't get matches. On the other hand, if you expect just to meet people and have a fun night, you will be much more relaxed and you will get lots of matches. The same is true for life – focus on the present moment and the beauty of the people in front of you. When your mind is somewhere else your energy shifts. Getting ready for this event is really simple – just be yourself!!

Step #5: Leave Your Baggage At the Door

If you've recently broken up with someone, lost your job or have an ill family member, you should NOT attend the event. You want to put your best foot forward – and major emotional occurrences will drain your energy. Besides being negative, you will also

probably be unfocused (your attention is elsewhere) – which will result in fewer matches.

The bottom line is that we all want to be around people who make us feel good. If you smile, appreciate the people you meet and pay attention to the person you're talking to...you will have great results.

Chapter 2: It's Show Time – 10 Tips to Make the Most of Your Night

At the event it's your time to shine! The 5 minutes will go by fast...so be ready to make the most of every second.

Be prompt – plan to arrive at or shortly before the start time. You will want a chance to get a drink, grab some food and “scope out” the location. It's also good to find out where the restroom is – and to hop in to freshen up right before everyone gets there.

This event does work – we've had everything from weddings to friendships to business deals result from the events. Many attendees also tell us that attending helps them to become more open to meeting people – the next day he/she is FINALLY able to talk to that cute guy/girl at the coffee shop. It's great practice for meeting people, flirting, etc. In fact, you can use many of these tips in your everyday life...you really can meet people everywhere!

Tip #1: Mix It Up

Some events start with a cocktail mixer first – this is a great chance to grab a drink and meet some of the attendees. Depending on the number of attendees and the event protocol, you might not rotate with everyone...getting there early will give you a chance to meet more people and “start” some conversations.

This is also time to look at the layout of the tables so you can understand how and where you will move. If

your gender is not moving, you can scope out a good seat early.

Maximize your time – the mixer is a great opportunity to start a conversation (to be continued during the rotations). It's also a great time to figure out who came with friends, who came alone, etc. You can practice chatting it up with people before it really "counts." But don't forget – the rotations might not have started, but your behavior certainly counts. If you are rude or negative to someone before the rotations begin, you probably won't be able to make up for it during the rotations. As the saying goes, "you never get a second chance to make a good first impression."

Tip #2: Listen to the Instructions

Check-in when you arrive and find out the procedure for the night (e.g. when will you get instructions, when do you fill out the form, do you need to turn it in at the end of the night, how will you get your matches, which gender rotates, etc.)

You'll need to understand how the night is going to flow and what you can do to facilitate the process. The rotations and order are key components. Equally important is what to do with your "score" card or sheet. Some companies collect them at the end of the night and send you the matches. Others ask you to log into their website and enter your match info, so your matches are sent automatically.

The key information to find out is:

- ✓ Which gender rotates?
- ✓ Which table will you start at?

- ✓ Where will you rotate to?
- ✓ Is there a break?
- ✓ How long is each rotation?
- ✓ When will the event end?
- ✓ How do you fill out the score sheet?
- ✓ Do you turn in the score sheet at the end of the event?

Once you find out all the above information, you're ready to start dating!

Tip #3: Ask Great Questions

It does help to have some questions prepared...especially if you are likely to get nervous in the beginning. Make sure the questions will give you insight into the person or a common interest (e.g. something you could do together if you are a match).

Following are examples of great questions:

- What do you do for fun?
- When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- What did you do last weekend?
- What are your radio station pre-sets?
- Where do you do your grocery shopping?
- What was the last book you read?
- What's on your nightstand?
- What was the last CD you bought?
- Where did you take your last vacation?
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?
- Do you have a favorite saying? What? Why?

The common factors with these questions are that they are easy to answer and should lead to other topics or questions.

TIPS FROM ATTENDEES - Here's what they listed as "good questions":

- ✓ What do you like most about meeting new people?
- ✓ The best questions are ones that are open-ended where you try to find out the person's interests, hobbies or career and then ask follow up questions on those hobbies to find out more about the person. I met a chemist and biologist who studied marine life and it turned out that he had traveled all over to scuba dive and had lived in Kenya for a long period of time. There are millions of follow-up questions to ask about that, and he was very interesting.
- ✓ What is the last movie you saw? Did you like it?
- ✓ What is a typical week-night like for you?
- ✓ What do you like to do for fun?

Tip #4: Avoid Bad Questions

Just as great questions can lead to great conversation, bad questions can quickly kill a conversation. If you ask the wrong question, your 5 minutes will seem like a lifetime – and you won't get matches. While you certainly can't know everyone's likes and dislikes, there are basic topics and questions that should be avoided.

Below is a brief list of questions to avoid, including reasons to avoid them and examples of better/different questions to ask.

- What do you do for a living? REASON: If someone had a bad day they will hate talking about work. Alternatively if someone has a really interesting job, your time will cruise by before you really find out something about the person. In addition, we make a lot of judgments about what people do and what that says about their personality. But beware -- most people ask this question anyway, it's an easy fall back for people. BETTER QUESTION: If you could make a living doing anything, what would it be?
- Where do you live? REASON: For safety reasons many people only want to reveal this information after they get to know you. BETTER QUESTION: What area of town are you near?
- Have you done this before? REASON: If the answer is "NO", this is an ok question. The

problem is that if the answer is "YES", depending on how the question is asked, the person might feel like you're insinuating that there's something wrong with coming more than once. There are stereotypes with singles events – even hip ones. BETTER QUESTION: How did you end up coming tonight? OR How did you hear of this event/company? Let THEM tell you if they've come before.

- Controversial topics – terrorism, politics, abortion, death penalty, marriage, children. REASON: You want to keep it light – save the heavy stuff for the later dates.

TIPS FROM ATTENDEES - Here's what they listed as "bad questions":

- ✓ Jumping right into why did your marriage fail and how many children do you want..."jeeze, we're just getting to know each other here, slow down!"
- ✓ Anything about sex.
- ✓ About past experiences in relationships. That discussion should be left for later, if there is a later.
- ✓ Where do you live?

Tip #5: Watch Body Language

We all know body language is important – most of us just don't realize HOW important. Here's the breakdown – communication is:

- 20% words
- 30% tone/attitude
- 50% non-verbal

All of your non-verbal clues are sending a louder, clearer message than what you are actually saying. The key is to watch both YOUR non-verbals and your date's – so you can make sure you are both on the same page.

Ways to show you are interested:

- ✓ Open, uncrossed arms and legs
- ✓ Leaning in
- ✓ Nodding head in agreement
- ✓ Eye contact
- ✓ Facial expressions
- ✓ Responding to what he/she says
- ✓ Lightly touching his/her arm or knee

Ways to show you are NOT interested:

- ✓ Crossed arms and/or legs
- ✓ Leaning back/away
- ✓ Avoiding eyes – looking down or around the room
- ✓ Turning away
- ✓ Frowning or no expression

If you are saying you are interested, but you are leaning back in the chair with your arms crossed, you are sending a stronger message that you are not

interested. Therefore, it's likely that the person will not select you as a match. You can use these techniques everywhere. It's also fun to watch others talking to see if you can judge by their body language whether or not they are connecting.

Tip #6: Keep it Light

Look through the questions discussed in both Tip #3 and Tip #4. The "great" questions are lighter and easier to answer. They are also less dangerous in the sense that they are not likely to generate a highly emotional response. If you start off with a question that is very "heavy" it will instantly lower the energy level of the conversation.

Let's face it – we all want to be with people who make us feel better when we're around them. No one wants to be around a negative person or a person who talks about things that are not appropriate for the time and place.

At one event an attendee decided she would ask a "moral" question that was important to her. So she asked "how do you feel about the death penalty?" Wow! It's definitely important, but it was WAY too much to discuss in only 5 minutes. In addition, some people were really offended by the question itself. Not everyone was open to discussing their views with a total stranger. She didn't receive any matches that night.

As you read through the interviews later in the book, notice the reasons listed for why people marked "YES" or "NO". Often they said "NO" to the people who

talked about their ex-girlfriend/boyfriend or who brought up “heavy” subjects. Stay with lighter topics that will be easy to answer and will lead to other questions.

Tip #7: Be Nice

It sounds trite, but it’s true. The point is that you never know who you’re going to meet. Even if you’re thinking “no way would I date this person” – it’s only 5 minutes...not a lifetime! If you don’t want to ever see this person again – just circle “NO” and move on. But don’t forget – this person could end up being a friend...or he/she might have a friend who is perfect for you...or maybe you could do business together – the possibilities are endless!

We often hear that a “match” is really just a way to exchange information and facilitate a meeting with another person who’s not at the event. I call this a “referral date.” They are great because you have a mutual connection, so it’s a bit stronger than a random meeting.

Also, keep in mind that you might gain or lose matches based on how you treat everyone at the event. If a guy connects with woman, but sees her totally shut down another guy, he’ll circle “NO” for her because he doesn’t want to some day end up being the guy she turns away. It works the same way for women.

In addition, many people come to the event with friends. If you are nice to one you like, but you blow off his/her friend, the one you like will be influenced by the friend’s opinion. We’ve seen many people go from

“YES” to “NO” during the event. If a potential match connects with you – then sees you acting rudely to another person – you might lose the match. You’ll never get the chance to “prove” that you “really are a nice person.”

Tip #8: Have Fun

It’s not just girls...everyone wants to have fun! Relax and be yourself – keeping in mind that everyone is there for the same reason. Everyone is single, available and looking to meet others. Handle your rotations in a way that makes sense to you...but even if you come with questions, don’t be too strict about sticking to them. It’s not a job interview – just be open, listen to what the person has to say and go from there.

One aspect of letting go and having fun deals with your expectations for the night. If you come to the event expecting to “interview” all the potential “soul mate candidates” you are going to come off as too serious and intense. Unless someone is really looking for that kind of intensity, it will be too much and you won’t get matches.

Again, we all want to be with people who make us feel good. Notice in the interviews that the people with the most matches almost all said that they approached the event as a big party and they had little or no expectations.

Approach the evening as a no-lose situation. Best case scenario – you meet someone to date. Worst case scenario – you have a blast meeting and talking to people you otherwise would have never met.

Don't forget – this is also a great opportunity to learn about yourself. You might find that you are attracted to qualities and people that you otherwise wouldn't have experienced. This is a great opportunity to talk with people you wouldn't typically meet. Notice how you react to people – if you feel really strongly that you dislike someone (or one of their qualities) – ask yourself why. This can be a great starting point for self-exploration.

Tip #9: Just Say “YES”

You will only receive a match if you both say YES. So if you only say YES to two people (even though you met 15), the maximum number of matches you can get is two. If those two people said NO to you (or if they did not turn in a sheet), you will get zero matches. And there are probably people who did say YES to you.

Keep in mind that YES is not a lifetime commitment. YES basically means that you would like to have a drink or a cup of coffee with the person. You would like to continue the conversation or connect again. You can always decide later that you don't want to meet up with the person. But you'll never get a chance to make that decision if you cut it off with a NO.

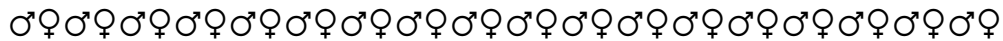
Tip #10: Know How to Get Your Matches

With most companies you find out your matches within 24-48 hours. Some companies have you log onto their secure web site to enter your selections, then wait to see who matches with you. Others check the sheets and you an e-mail with all the match information. With

most events you can only see who marked YES to you by marking YES to him/her...you can't just find out how many people said YES to you.

Some companies also give the option of finding out if you want the connection to be for dating, friendship or business (or a combination). If you are able to make those distinctions, keep your options open. As we discussed above, you are not locked into your decision – you can always change your mind after a few phone conversations or after another meeting.

Most companies release your name, e-mail and phone number to your matches. Both men and women get the information. Women will often wait for the man to make the first post-event contact. Next we'll discuss what to do with your matches next.



TIPS FROM ATTENDEES: Here's their advice for first-time attendees:

- ✓ Don't be desperate. If you are desperate for a relationship, you've got big holes to fill and it will show. Expect only to meet new people and know that if you put yourself out there someday it will happen. Take the focus off of yourself and work to make the other person comfortable. Don't judge them by their looks. In fact, don't judge them at all, just enjoy them. Everyone is wonderful in their own way. After the event you can take time to reflect whether or not there was a connection or compatibility.

- ✓ Learn the “3-Cs” of dating – Confidence, Compliments (1 or 2 only – and always keep it above the shoulders (e.g. “you have a pretty smile.”)), and Closing – you have to get her phone number.
- ✓ It is important not to be judgmental and to take a real interest in the other person, and to really have fun, be yourself, keep it light and smile. Make a joke or two, and remember that it is kind of like a job interview.
- ✓ Be yourself and smile. If you’re nervous, have a glass of wine. Smiling is very important. Most of the men I met commented on my smile. Be upbeat. But, don't go with expectations, just enjoy yourself, you will have a blast, even if you don't meet Mr. Right, you might make a great friend - I did!!
- ✓ A good quote to go by is: “It is better to be interested than interesting!” I had a great attitude going into the event and I just looked forward to talking with a lot of interesting people.

Chapter 3: The Morning After – 5 Secrets For Turning those Matches into Dates

So the big night has passed. You were prepared, you followed all the tips and the results are great – you have matches! [If you received zero matches, go immediately to #5] Now it's time to look at how to turn those matches into dates.

Secret #1: Follow up with everyone

It's up to both of you to get in touch with each other. Since you've already met the person, a phone call is the best way to make contact. It's best to make contact quickly and set up a time to get together to continue what you started during the rotations.

If you contact someone and they don't get right back to you, don't take it personally...give him/her another try. Sometimes people lose e-mails, phone numbers, etc...so they can't get back in touch with you. Sometimes they go out of town and are afraid to call when they return – they think they've waited too long.

MEN – be diligent! This might be the 21st century, but most women will still wait for you to make the first contact. If you don't connect the first time – leave a message. If you don't hear back – try one more time. Sometimes people lose (or never receive) e-mails or phone messages. Sometimes they are just out of town or very busy. The key is to not take it personally – 95% of the time it has nothing to do with you.

WOMEN – Be open to the men when they call and e-mail. If you don't hear from them – please contact them. They might be busy, or they might not want to risk rejection. Make it easy for them to connect with you.

Look through the interviews – some people talked with all their matches and met a few. Some met all. Some never talked to anyone. The reasons varied – they got busy at work, went on vacation, lost the e-mail, starting dating someone, got back together with the ex, etc.

Attempting to contact each of your matches at least once is simply polite. You have already met this person and you are both interested in some kind of connection.

Secret #2: Clarify your intentions

If you only want to be friends, or do business, or whatever...BE HONEST!! Be up front with people about your intentions both AT the event and after. If, after talking with the person (or even meeting him/her), you're not feeling the romantic vibe, just tell him/her – they will totally appreciate your honesty.

If you know you only said YES for business – be up-front about it. You will avoid any awkwardness by just stating your intention. If you are unsure – say so. You can always decide after a few conversations or after meeting again in person. You always have the option to change your mind based on getting to know the person better.

I work with many private clients on these issues. It's easy to say something simple like:

- ✓ "I really enjoyed meeting you at the event. I was so interested that you do ____ for a living. I've been looking for someone to do _____. I was thinking it would be great to do business together." OR
- ✓ "I thought you were so fun when we met. I actually think you would be a great match for my friend Bob because he _____. If it's okay with you, I'd like to connect the two of you." OR
- ✓ "I really enjoyed meeting you. It's great that we both have an interest in _____. I want to be honest, I'm not interested in pursuing a romantic relationship with you. I would love to hang out with you as friends – are you up for that?'

The keys to all the above conversations are honesty, directness, acknowledgement of the person and asking for their input. If they don't want what you are "offering" there's no need to go on because you both want different things.

Secret #3: Schedule short dates

Keep the first meeting low-key...coffee, dessert, drinks...something simple that will let you get to know each other better. Save meals and long blocks of time for later.

The goal is to just continue the conversation you started at the event and find out if you have anything

in common. You can also keep your time options open – that way you can continue (and lengthen) the date if you are connecting.

Secret #4: Be honest

It really IS the best policy. As we discussed above, if you meet or talk and THEN determine there's no connection, just nicely tell the person. It's polite and it will allow you to avoid awkwardness later. Here are some examples:

- ✓ "It was great getting to know you better. I'm glad we connected. I've realized that it doesn't seem like we have a long-term connection (OR it seems like we want different things OR I'm not interested in pursuing a romantic relationship with you). Thank you for your interest. I wish you luck in all your endeavors."

If you are honest you will leave yourself open to the "referral date" (discussed in Tip #7). On the other hand, if you blow someone off you leave yourself open to awkwardness later. What if you run into this person at the grocery store, coffee shop, or another event?! If you've been honest and graceful, it's no big deal. In fact, they might even introduce you to their cute friend.

Secret #5: For Those Who Get NO Matches

If you don't get any matches, don't take it personally...this happens from time to time. There are many factors that effect the number of matches you receive. A key factor is the number of people you said "YES" to. If you only said "YES" to three people, but

you met 15...you automatically lower your chances of getting matches (in fact, you are limited to a maximum of three). Be aware that many people only circle "YES" to one person – if that person was one of your three, but you weren't his/her one, you're out of luck. Finally, some people don't even bother to turn in forms...and that throws off the results.

If none of the above applies, you might want to look at what you're saying (verbally and non-verbally) during your rotations. As we discussed in Part I, often we talk about things that are too heavy or that give off bad "vibes" and we don't even realize it. Find a dating coach who can give you specific feedback about what you're saying (or not saying) that might be turning people away. Also, check out Part III of this book – there are great tips and insights from people who have had 5 or more matches in one night. In addition, look at whether you are physically putting your best foot forward. Did you wear something that you look and feel good in? Did you comb your hair, brush your teeth, fix your make-up, etc. These are basics but they make a difference!

After reading this book – try again and implement the tools and tips given. If you still don't get the results you want, call me or another dating coach/consultant. I will talk with you and give you specific feedback that will help you generate different results.

PART 3 – From the Mouths of Babes – Interviews with Attendees who Received 5 (or more) Matches in One Night!

I've interviewed lots of attendees who have produced great results. Keep in mind that a "match" means BOTH sides said "YES." I asked each person to describe his/her experiences before, during and after the event. What's fascinating about this section is the range of people, experiences and results. Some people took lots of time to prepare, others went at the last minute. Some people met with all of their matches, others didn't follow up with anyone.

There are many consistencies...notice that most people interviewed said they went in with little or no expectations - they treated it as a party at a friend's house. This attitude is key – those who go in looking for "the one" are putting off such a strong energy that it turns people off. Pay close attention to why they said "YES" or "NO" to someone – there are great tips in here for both genders!

The notes from my interviews follow. Answers are given in their own words to each of the following questions:

- (1) What (if anything) did you do to prepare for the event?
- (2) What did you do at the event and how did you handle the rotations?

- (3) Why did you circle "YES" or "NO" to someone?
- (4) How many matches did you get?
- (5) Did you follow up with your matches?
- (6) What advice would you give someone attending for the first time?

Alicia, Finance

PREPARATION:

No formal prep - I made sure I looked nice.

AT THE EVENT:

How I handled the rotations really depended on the vibe from each person. I took the direction of the conversation from their personality – so if he seemed fun I asked what he did for fun; if he seemed serious I asked about business. It varied from guy to guy. I have the “gift of gab” so it really wasn’t hard to talk with everyone. I really just went there to meet people and have fun – I didn’t look at it like I was searching just for dates.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If he was creepy – definite NO. If I felt that I had something in common with him or there was a connection or he would be fun to hang out with, I circled YES.

THE RESULTS:

At 2 separate events I had 5 matches each. Out of the 10 total, I didn’t talk with all of these guys – some never contacted me at all. I spoke with 4-5 on the phone. I went out with 2, but we really didn’t connect so it didn’t go any further.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Dress nicely – try to look your best. Don’t go with the intention of meeting “Mr. Right” – just go like you’re going to a party and want to have fun. Even if you don’t think there’s anyone there for you – stay at the event!! Just chat with everyone and have a nice time – you’ll be surprised at the connections you make.

I LOVE rotational dating – it’s SO much better than internet dating – because the person is RIGHT THERE, in front of you, face to face. It’s MUCH harder to lie right to someone’s face.

Andrea H., 40s, TV Writer

PREPARATION:

Nothing. I went by myself – at the suggestion of a friend. I had no agenda.

AT THE EVENT:

I was really nervous at first – so I grabbed a cocktail. After the first couple of rotations I was much more comfortable. Five minutes was never a problem to get through – there were a GREAT bunch of guys there that night.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If there was rapport with a guy - a similar sense of humor, view of the world, common ground – I circled YES. Also if he asked about me – if he seemed interested in what I was all about...if he participated in the conversation and wasn't just "phoning it in." If the conversation flowed, I circled YES.

THE RESULTS:

7 matches. I never heard from 1, connected at least once with each of the others. One guy called at midnight! One guy I'm STILL dating!!!

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Take good notes – it's hard to remember everyone. Smile. Pay attention to whether the person is engaged in the conversation with you. Be yourself. Keep it light. Be interested in the person you're meeting. Keep your energy high. Remember it can be for anything – dating, friendship, business.

This way of meeting is great – I felt SO good after the event – I felt so wanted and desirable...even before I knew the results. This system works great.

Brittany E., 32, Children's Therapist

PREPARATION:

I made sure I looked my best and went in with a positive and open attitude.

AT THE EVENT:

I was just there to meet people – for fun or anything else. I let the guys lead the conversations – just let it flow. I noticed that the men seemed really uncomfortable if the women had lists of questions. I figured that the more people I meet, the better my network will be...and you never know when you'll get "referrals" – even for dates.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I made all the "iffy" ones a YES. I figured I could talk to them and decide later. I said YES to those who had a positive attitude and weren't too drunk. I also said YES if they seemed to be in a similar place in life and had common values or interests. I really tried to listen to find out what they were all about.

THE RESULTS:

5 matches. I only responded to 1 of my matches – and we dated for a couple of months.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be open and approachable. Going to events like this really helps your "dating karma" – keeps your circulation going. It also helps you to put less pressure on your dates because you have so much going on – you're more open because you're not just trying to figure out if THIS guy is "the one."

Carmen H., 38, Human Resources Director**PREPARATION:**

I spoke with a friend who had attended one of these events and asked her what she would want or not want to be asked. We actually practiced and did mock interviews. I also read the suggested questions and tips on the web site. Mainly my friend suggested that I just go there to have a good time and get "out there." I had to get over the stigma – I realized it wasn't about desperation at all – just about meeting people.

AT THE EVENT:

Attitude is key. If you go in negative, everything you experience will be negative. During the rotations, the guys asked the first question – almost always about occupation. The bad questions were the boring ones – "what do you do in your free time? What are your passions in life?" – this is not a 5 minute question! I tried not to mention my kids during the rotations – I felt like that was a different side of me...and I wasn't looking for a husband. I searched for mutual interests.

I met a few women at the door and walked in with them – it made it easier for us to all circulate and approach men during the mixer.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I marked NO if the 5 minutes seemed long, if there was an agenda from the beginning or if the person was pushy, too eager or negative. I marked YES if I really enjoyed the conversation, it was free-flowing and didn't feel forced. I basically went with my gut.

THE RESULTS:

7 Matches. I talked with one who was divorced and had kids – we didn't get together because I wasn't interested. I had a great short relationship with another guy. I didn't meet the rest because of the relationship.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

This event is a total win-win. It's like a party – have a drink, relax, have fun. If you don't like someone, it's no big deal – it's only 5 minutes! Don't push or be too eager. Don't come with a friend because you will stick with that person and you won't be as open to meeting others. Go with an open mind. Take good notes and be receptive to everyone.

Danielle M., 34, CPA

PREPARATION:

I took a friend for support. I talked with lots of friends before the event – to get their input on questions to ask. I must admit – I really didn't want to do it...I was very nervous. I had really low expectations.

AT THE EVENT:

When I arrived, I went straight to the bar to get a drink. I didn't really mingle before the rotations started – I felt awkward, so I just hung out with my friend.

The best question I asked was "what did you do last weekend?" This gave me great insights into the person and how he liked to spend his time. I also got some fun stories...and one guy couldn't remember!! The key for me was to just have fun.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I had a very open mind about who to say YES to – even if there was only a 5% chance that I would go out with him – I figured I could always change my mind later (and that's also why I only gave out my e-mail address – so I could give my phone number later if I was definitely interested).

I circled NO if basically I thought "never in my life would I go out with him." Big turn-offs were guys who didn't know themselves or who had a wimpy handshake. It's so important to stand up for the woman when she approaches and to have a strong handshake – this really made a big difference for me. Chivalry is very attractive. One guy was very pushy and rude – when I sat down he said "what do you want to talk about, sex, religion, politics?" What a jerk! He was so pushy – there was no way I would have gone out with him. He also offended lots of other women that night – at the break in the bathroom, we all heard horror stories about him.

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches. With one I realized after the event that I didn't want to meet with him. Two are friends – so I won't go out with either one – there was a bit of a drama between the two of them since they picked the same women. I just didn't want to deal with it. I have dates this week with the other two.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be sure to have a drink or water with you at all times – your mouth gets dry from talking so much. Take good notes because it's really hard to remember everyone.

This is was such a fun event – I have told so many of my friends they should try it.

Diana C., 27, Website Producer

PREPARATION:

I was really mellow before the event – I really had no expectations. I just went for fun and figured whatever happens, happens.

AT THE EVENT:

I was very nervous right before the event started. I befriended some people on the way up the stairs – that helped me ease into the event. Once I was in the event, it was easy to approach people because we were all there for the same reason. During the rotations, the guys mostly lead the conversations. I was asked a variety of questions, including “What do you do on weekends?” “If you were a candy bar, what would you be?” and “What do you do for fun?”

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I say NO to one guy because he spent the whole 5 minutes talking about his ex-girlfriend who was “the love of his life”!!! I circled YES if the conversation was interesting and I wanted to continue it. I was looking to meet people just for dating – I was very open.

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches. I had dinner with one and have talked with or e-mailed four others.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be open and don't pre-judge people during the mixer portion - when you actually talk with people your perception of them changes.

The beginning mixer was a bit hard because no one knew each other. The ending mixer was much easier because you could continue the good conversations that you had started.

Ellen M., 26, Production Assistant

PREPARATION:

I was a last minute addition (called off the waiting list), so I just went with the flow. I really wasn't there looking for my soul mate.

AT THE EVENT:

During the rotations I let the men start off with a question – then I would just ask them the same one. For example, if they asked what kind of music I listened to, I would answer and then say “what about you?” I really didn't have any agenda or plan – I just went with the flow of the conversation.

Some conversations definitely didn't flow as well – with those I HAD to ask lots of questions. Some bad questions were “tell me who you are?” – in 5 minutes???! Or “what do you want to be remembered for?” – what is this a eulogy??

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I tried to stay open – I circled YES unless the person was objectionable. If he could carry on a decent conversation, I circled YES – I figured I could find out all the other important things in later conversations. If they were uncomfortable or asked strange questions (like the eulogy question), I circled NO.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I spoke with one on the phone, only once – not really interested. One e-mailed to say he is out of town – we might connect later. I went out with one and had a great time. Two never contacted me.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be yourself, be open to meeting different kinds of people. Ask simple questions – keep in mind that you don't have to get married if you say YES. Don't circle NO because you don't fall in love with someone in 5 minutes. Go in with a good attitude. When you meet

someone – make eye contact, shake hands and say your name (e.g. “Hi, I’m Ms. Smith. Nice to meet you Mr. Smith”). It’s seems like such a simple thing to do, but it makes the other person feel more comfortable.

This was so much better than internet dating – where you spend time and money meeting too many people you’re not interested in.

Kappy K., 31, Theatre Director

PREPARATION:

I went with a friend – on the way in we talked about questions to ask.

AT THE EVENT:

We walked in and got food and a drink and joined others at a table...we just walked right up to the first guy we saw. The beginning was the most stressful part – until we started talking to people. I went into the event with the attitude that it was just about meeting lots of new people – NOT that I was looking for a relationship. This made me more interested in the men I met – because I wasn't trying prove myself or be impressive. I didn't want it to be like a sorority rush – so I tried to ask different questions. By the third rotation I was totally in a groove. A lot of the guys had good, random questions to ask. The standard questions (i.e. "where do you live, what do you do") got old fast. Better questions were "what did you do last weekend" "what was the last movie you saw" "what do you want to do but don't think you ever will?" It was SO easy to talk in 5 minutes. There was a really great group of guys there.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES to the guys who were funny, intelligent and if their interest in me seemed genuine. I went with my gut – did I want to spend more time with him?

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches. I didn't meet any of them – I had a big project at work right after the event, then I was out of town for three weeks...so I didn't really follow through. When I came back I figured so much time had passed that I didn't really bother to contact them.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Cocktails are great to start, but DON'T overload – remember you are making a first impression. Be yourself. Look at it like it's a party that a friend is throwing – try to get to know the people at the party. Stay after the event to mingle and meet more people. Make sure you look nice and present yourself well.

I really enjoyed myself – this was all about meeting a new crop of men that I otherwise wouldn't have met...it was great!!

Kris S., 34, Legal Secretary

PREPARATION:

I had low expectations going in – just wanted to enjoy myself and go with the flow. I made sure I covered up my body a bit – I tried not to dress too sexy because I wanted men to focus on me – not my body! I read the newspaper before the event so I would have different topics to discuss.

AT THE EVENT:

I smiled at everyone, shook hands, treated everyone equally – just tried to relax. I didn't drink – I kind of laid low during the mixer portion. I didn't talk with anyone before the rotations because I wanted to deal with people solely during the rotations. During the rotations, the guys told me that they really liked my openness and that I was easy to talk to – they said they felt a lot of pressure with the other women at the event. I wasn't looking for a "type" – I just went with the flow of the conversations and followed the lead. I always closed by saying "it was wonderful talking with you" – I wanted to make sure I showed my appreciation for their time.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if the conversation flowed without much effort and we found common ground. If he made negative comments about himself or was hard to talk to, I circled NO.

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches. I went out with a couple but didn't pursue it further for various reasons.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Don't wear "naked clothes" – dress properly. Read the paper or magazines that week so you're up to date. Mostly LISTEN to the guy – let him feel needed and heard.

Laura C., 40, Vice President of Sales

PREPARATION:

I looked at it as just another way to meet people. I went in with the attitude of "I know they're all going to pick me." I had NO expectations – just wanted to have fun.

AT THE EVENT:

I wasn't attached at all – I figured if they like me, great...if not, whatever. I asked the basic questions – "where do you live," "what do you do," "do you have kids," "have you been married", "do you have siblings." I totally ignored the suggestions on the site. I would ask lots of questions and then say "okay, what do you want to know about me?" I tried to make it very easy for them to talk to me.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

Based on attractiveness, chemistry, ability to speak well and intelligence.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I didn't call any of them – I waited for them to contact me. I had first dates with all five but second dates with none.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Don't get too heavy (i.e. "what are you looking for?") – just keep it light...save heavy for later dates. Act like you're going to a party – just have fun! Take pride in your appearance and look like you're going on a date.

Laura F., 39, Investment Banker

PREPARATION:

I had no expectations going in – I just looked at it as something fun to do. I registered early...and ended up meeting someone five days before the event – we totally clicked – but I still came to the event to support a friend.

AT THE EVENT:

I played it by ear on the questions I asked – went with the vibe off each person. I asked a different question of each person: “what do you do with your free time,” “what is your ideal weekend,” “what do you watch on TV,” “what is the favorite vacation you’ve ever taken.” Then I had a secret set of “bimbo questions” that I only asked a few men (if they seemed like they would get the joke)...and only after a few cocktails – “are you a legs or breast man,” “what’s the strangest place you’ve ever had sex,” “what’s your favorite position,” “if you could do it anywhere in the world, where?” I had lots of fun!

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if he was easy to talk to or we had similar interests.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I didn’t go out with anyone from the event because I was totally hooked on the guy I met right before the event. We’re STILL dating!!

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Really just look at it as a fun experience. Try to take some notes because you will totally forget who you meet!!

My friend is engaged to a man she met at a rotational dating event – so I know it works!

Lee E., 36, Executive Assistant

PREPARATION:

I did nothing to prepare – I just came to the event with an open attitude...not really looking for my “dream” guy. Being open lessens any potential disappointment.

AT THE EVENT:

I mingled a little before the event started. The most important thing is to be really open. Too often we judge others based on “am I totally attracted to him.” It’s better to just be open and look for something beyond the physical. It might not work out in the long run, but those guys have friends...and they can introduce you to others.

Some of the guys seemed really nervous and not confident during the rotations. I tried to ask of a lot of questions, listen and keep the conversation flowing.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If there was a common interest (e.g. travel, etc) I said YES. If there was nothing in common or if we seemed to have totally different lifestyles, I circled NO.

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches. I talked to five and made plans with four. One guy didn’t call at all.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Go with an open mind and plan to just have a good time. Look your best, be yourself – you want people to like you for YOU! Ask lots of questions to try to hone in on a common interest.

Leeza, 29, Entrepreneur

PREPARATION:

I put on my favorite music, a great outfit and got ready like I was getting ready to go out. I only gave myself 45 minutes to get ready because I wanted to do it "on the fly" and not totally focus on it. I wanted to make sure I looked great and felt really comfortable.

AT THE EVENT:

I went early and mingled. I kind of played "hostess" – met some guys before – this made the rotations easier. During the rotations, the main question I asked was "what do you like to do?" This was a good question but it was sort of hard to narrow down in only 5 minutes. One asked me "what are you looking for in a relationship?" – I loved this...I'm looking for a relationship, so I loved that he just got right down to it.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if there was some element of chemistry and if he had some personality. I thought about it as whether it would be fun to go out with him. Some of the guys were just so sweet, I had to say YES. All of the YES guys HAD to be comfortable in their own skin. I circled NO if the conversation didn't flow – if we can't talk for 5 minutes, there is no way a date is going to happen. If 5 minutes felt like pulling teeth, it was a definite no. I also said NO if it seemed like our lifestyle just wouldn't work or if we seemed like we just wouldn't click.

THE RESULTS:

10 Matches. I had one great long date with one guy. I just booked a second date with another. I talked with one guy, but we won't go out because he's not comfortable with who he is...he seems like he's trying

to be someone he's not, and that's very unattractive. I still need to connect with the rest of them.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Don't expect the world – just be yourself and have a really great time. Your true self is going to come out eventually...it's much easier to just bring it out in the beginning. Everyone is on the same page from the start – most people are there because they are looking for a relationship – that makes it easier going in and takes the tension off. Try to just have fun and be in the moment. You don't have to marry the guy on the first date – just look at it as “do I want to talk with this guy again?”

This event is so great because there is so much variety and it was fun to meet BOTH the men and the women!

Linda P., 32, Financial Sales

PREPARATION:

I read the confirmation e-mail – it had very helpful tips. I was very open going into the event. I tried to think of interesting things to talk about – not the typical questions. I'm in sales so it's easy for me to talk with people.

AT THE EVENT:

During the rotations, I searched for common interests. I like to travel and skydive – I tried to find out the interesting things that people like to do. The questions I was asked definitely got better as the night went on – as people became more experienced with the whole process. If I was asked a good question, I would use that one during my next rotation. A great question was "what was the last concert you attended?" A bad question was "what do you do for a living?"

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I basically said YES if it was someone I would want to sit down and talk with more. I said NO if I thought they talked too much or not at all – either extreme.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I didn't go out with any of my matches because I went out of town for two weeks right after the event. I spoke on the phone with a few of them, but we never connected due to conflicting schedules.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be open minded – you have nothing to lose for \$35 and one night. Don't put YES if you really don't want to go out with the person. Dress nice, wear some make-up – make sure you're putting forth a nice image...it can make the difference between a YES and a NO. Try this more than once.

Lori A., 45, Writer

PREPARATION:

I just went with a friend to have a fun night – wasn't there to get results, just to meet people and have fun.

AT THE EVENT:

I made the whole thing just a joke – I would sit down and say "what's up with you?" Some guys were nervous. I just went with the flow and had fun. For me it wasn't really about trying to find someone. I did make sure I wore comfortable, cute clothes – with a purpose to attract men.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if he was interesting to talk to and I wanted to know more. If he seemed intelligent, established, in a similar phase of life and interested in me.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I spoke with all but one of them. One was only really a business connection. I have plans with one for this weekend. One left town just after the event for business.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Play up your assets – it's important to be proud of who you are. Just have a good time.

Lynne J., 42, Senior Manager in Health Care

PREPARATION:

I came with a friend who didn't want to come alone. I really liked the Single Parent event – it was great to be so up-front about that topic.

AT THE EVENT:

I was looking more for friends than dates – so I was very open.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I was very open – I said YES if it was someone I wanted to have coffee with. Some were business connections.

THE RESULTS:

7 Matches. One was too old, so we didn't get together. One had met someone else right before the event and now didn't want to date anyone else. I never heard from one guy. One man was looking for just an S&M relationship – and that's not what I wanted! The rest were all just 1-2 dates each and didn't lead to more.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be really sure what you're looking for and don't judge people too soon. Present yourself well – dress nice and don't be too casual. Mostly – have fun.

Nora W., 35, Script Supervisor

PREPARATION:

My boss helped me prepare – she gave me some really good questions to ask. We also practiced the questions – but I made sure that I was flexible with what I asked in light of the people I met. I really had no expectations. I just tried to relax and check out what others were doing at the event. I looked for laughs.

AT THE EVENT:

During the rotations, most people asked me what I do for a living – I told them to guess. I just flowed with the conversation. It seemed like the guys wanted the women to ask the questions...I would very subtly just turn the tables to ask them questions. This event was great because it gave me access to lots of different people. It seemed that some questions were designed to find out age (i.e. "how long have you been in LA?" "when and where did you go to school?").

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If he was boring, I circled NO. If he made me laugh, I circled YES. I went with my gut for the most part. If I had more to say and wanted to keep the conversation going, I circled YES. Some guys just tried too hard – one guy brought a book of poetry that he wrote – it felt like he was trying too hard.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I spoke on the phone with most of them, but didn't meet any of them. The plans have never seemed to work out because we were too busy or lived too far away.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Keep in mind, you're not at the event to find a husband – just to meet people and have fun. Everyone there is in the same boat – all there for the same thing.

Be open and have fun. Wear something comfortable because you are moving around. Have a couple of back-up questions just in case you need help getting started – then go with the flow.

This is the BEST way to meet people – because you actually get to SEE them...and face-to-face is always best.

Rachel F., 33, Theatre Artist

PREPARATION:

I picked out clothes that were comfortable and cute – but not too sexy. I had one question ready for everyone – “what did you do last weekend?”

AT THE EVENT:

I asked my question and then ran with it. One guy couldn't remember what he did last weekend! That told me a lot. During the rotations I let it flow and just tried to get a sense of the person. One guy asked “where do you see yourself in 5 years?” One guy noticed my very unique purse and look...he commented on my individuality – I liked that.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if I thought I would want to talk more with him – if he was interesting. I asked myself if I was sorry the conversation ended. There were no “instant” “NO”s. It was really hard to say NO because everyone was so nice and friendly and easy to talk with.

THE RESULTS:

7 Matches. In hindsight, I should have been more selective. I didn't call any of them – I waited for them to contact me. One I didn't call back because I wasn't interested. I went out with one who was 23 years old – really great guy, but just too young. I had a breakfast date with one guy, but didn't see him again. I had lunch with one guy – he didn't call for a month after the date. Then he called and we went out again – but he was just out of a relationship and he spoke very negatively, so I didn't want to go out with him again.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Go just to have a great night and have fun. Know that even if you don't connect with anyone, you will have a really fun night. Relax, and don't bring too much stuff to carry around.

This event really opened the door for more possibilities – made me realize how many great people are out there. It was inspiring to get out there and do something – to actually pursue dating. I felt like it was a great kick-start to dating – and it was really fun! This really is an amazing idea and a great opportunity – it really opened up my energy!

Robin G., 39, Magazine Editor**PREPARATION:**

I didn't do anything to prepare. I had no expectations. I came with a friend – more to help her out than for myself. In all honesty, I thought there would be a bunch of losers there.

AT THE EVENT:

I love talking with men – especially those who can carry on a good conversation – with lots of give and take. I tried to find similar interests and things in common. I asked about hobbies, how they like to spend time, pets. I have two dogs, so it was important that they like dogs.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If I liked him and he wasn't weird, I circled YES. Also, if he wasn't too rigid in his beliefs, could carry a conversation and didn't drink too much. I want to be with someone who can carry a conversation. I circled NO if his interests were watching TV (he said it without passion – just sounded like a major couch potato), there was no rapport or chemistry, he seemed too closed off to trying different things/activities, or he seemed like too finicky of an eater.

THE RESULTS:

7 Matches. I connected with six (I already knew one guy). One guy lived too far away, one only e-mailed and never called, I spoke with one once. I went out with three. I had a few dates with one of the three, but he lived too far away. I only had one date with one guy – he was way too finicky of an eater and was too rigid in his life. I'm still dating one guy – he's great!!

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Watch what you say...if you seem like you are seeking validation you will come off as insecure (i.e. "do you think I'm pretty"). Keep your expectations low

♀ 62 ♂

and your mind open. Be willing to look beyond the superficial – don't make a judgment too quickly. Give everyone a chance.

Samantha L., 32, Project Manager for Web Design Firm

PREPARATION:

I talked with a friend who had attended before. Tried to really not prepare – just to be myself.

AT THE EVENT:

During the rotations I tried to find common ground. I tried to avoid work questions and focused on “how did you hear of the event,” “what do you do for fun,” “what do you do after hours?” I focused on fun, light questions. Everyone was really fun, open and friendly.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if I laughed, had fun, enjoyed the conversation – if it wasn’t boring. If the guy seemed lively, active, someone I would have fun with. I circled NO if he had a formula or plan – or if he seemed too stiff.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. All five contacted me via e-mail really quickly. I haven’t connected with one yet – but I’ve been out with all the others. Everyone has been really open and fun.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be yourself. Get a drink, relax – don’t have any expectations. Treat this just like a friend’s party and have fun. Enjoy yourself. Be open...don’t have a one-track mind. Don’t close yourself off from the people you meet.

Just go with your gut – there are no strings attached...it’s just fun to meet new people.

Susan D., 42, Technical Support for Voice Messaging Company

PREPARATION:

I didn't prepare any questions. In fact I wish I would have prepared more (i.e. 2-3 questions). I went by myself.

AT THE EVENT:

Some guys found out lots of information about me – other guys, not as much. I felt like I rambled at times. The bad rotations were the ones where the guy rambled and felt like I didn't find out as much information as I could have. One guy talked about a lot of negative things – that he had sleep apnea, etc. I'm thinking "why are you telling me this??!!!"

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If I liked the guy, if I enjoyed the 5 minutes and would want to have coffee with him to get to know him better, I circled YES. I was very open-minded. If I knew at first when I met him that I wouldn't be interested, I circled NO.

THE RESULTS:

6 matches. I talked with all of them, but I really didn't follow through. I went out with one guy a few times. He had two kids, but this didn't come up for awhile. We didn't continue to date. I didn't meet with any others – things just kind of fell off. I didn't want to pursue it because I didn't want to chase men.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Prepare 2-3 good questions to lead the conversations better. The mixer was a bit awkward for me because I went alone – if you go alone you might want to show up closer to the rotation starting time. Stay after the rotations to mix more – people are often more open then.

♀ 65 ♂

5 minutes was definitely enough time to find out what I needed. I would definitely do this again – there was a good selection of men at the event.

Terrin M., 28, Economist for Federal Government

PREPARATION:

A friend registered me and took me to the event. I checked the web site to get the basic tips and questions.

AT THE EVENT:

I was very open at the event – I was really just looking for someone to talk with. I asked more questions with the quiet men, let the conversation flow with the more talkative ones. Everyone seemed to ask “what do you do for a living?” This is a bad question – one guy went on and on about how much he hates his job. Only one guy didn’t ask that question – he’s the one I’m still seeing!

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If the conversation seemed okay, I circled YES. I figured I could always decide otherwise later. If I didn’t get to talk during the 5 minutes, I said NO.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I e-mailed one guy but it never went further. I never connected with three men. I’m still dating one guy.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be yourself. Eat and drink – so you don’t get drunk. Keep it light. Don’t ask questions that are too far out – some people just can’t answer them. Relax, be open to the experience – just try to have fun. Don’t take it too seriously – like you’re going there to meet the man of your dreams. Give people chances that you normally wouldn’t. If you go with a friend, don’t sit next to each other – spread out so you meet different people.

Victoria R., 24, Secretary

PREPARATION:

I thought of questions that would help me find out the information that I wanted. I wanted personal information, but not too much.

AT THE EVENT:

What I discussed varied from person to person – depending on the vibe I got from the guy. I didn't really look for specific information – I just asked the guys questions they seemed open to. If I wasn't into the guy, I would ask less intimate questions and would avoid leading questions. Some guys weren't prepared, so they would ask the same questions as other guys.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if he was friendly, made me laugh and seemed fun to be with. I'm a bit shy, so if he helped me come out of my shell, it was a definite YES. I'm also a single parent, so it was important if the topic of kids came up. The guys' occupation didn't matter – for me it was more about whether he was sincere (i.e. was he speaking from the heart or just saying what he thought I wanted to hear?) I look for a mixture of things – including basic attraction. I circled NO if the guy seemed cocky, not interested or had a bad attitude.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I talked with one. A few others e-mailed, but we didn't go beyond that. Two never contacted me at all.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Time is really fast, so prepare some questions. Don't write them down in advance – just have them in your head. Arrive early so you can get some appetizers. Just have a good time and don't expect too much. I felt really safe at the event.

Adam R., 28, Marketing Executive

PREPARATION:

I find preparation removes any chance of being natural. Also, you can't prepare to just be yourself.

AT THE EVENT:

I was one of the last people up the stairs. The first thing I did was grab a quick drink. During the rotations I had no specific plan or questions. As it was my first time I found adrenalin quite important in maintaining energy, fun outlook (the alcohol didn't hurt either). As a guy you aren't rotating so really the ball is in the women's court. I found that the ladies did most of the work and the first impression I wanted to display was nice, friendly, British guy. As soon as that was established, it lead to a relaxed environment and a fun few minutes. The main things I tried to find out from each woman was firstly whether they were psychotic and secondly if they wanted to play by my rules of nice and friendly. If they did, there was a mutual understanding and an easier conversation. If they didn't (i.e. they were too uptight), it lead to a more strained conversation.

Many questions felt like they were from a book. The best ladies were more spontaneous. Most focused on my British accent. I was really looking for whether they were happy to laugh at themselves. If they are, they are much more my kind of person, not someone who takes themselves too seriously. I like a self-deprecating sense of humor.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

In retrospect I was rather "YES" happy on that night - which I attribute to Mr. Jack Daniels. I was only in LA on a short-term contract before returning to the motherland [London, England] so my remit was fun. I believe I ticked yes to 11 girls. I ticked "NO" if they (a)

took themselves too seriously which would detract against my short-term goal of fun or (b) I wasn't attracted to them.

THE RESULTS:

11 matches. I met with one. Ironically she was one I met at the bar (I missed her on rotation). She was fun, intelligent and stimulating. Unfortunately, I saw her three days before my return to London. I was due to meet another woman but she freaked out at me on the phone when I said I would be 10 minutes late (my "psychodar" clearly wasn't activated that night).

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Just to be yourself and have fun. It becomes very apparent when someone is trying too hard. I met one lady who had a list of questions which she just couldn't deviate from (despite my attempts!!). I must admit, I was rather nervous though it was nervous excitement. If you can channel that in to relaxing and having fun, I believe you will at the very least enjoy yourself and then possibly you are then more open and likely to appeal to someone else.

Ben, 38, Actor

PREPARATION:

I prepared by not preparing. I find that in this day and age everyone seems to be selling something. If you come off as too planned you seem like you're selling something and that seems cheesy. I went in planning to just keep an open mind and have no expectations on the people I met or on myself. You really can't plan how meeting someone is going to go anyway – better to just relax, have a drink and NOT have a plan!

AT THE EVENT:

I really just tried to have a conversation – to NOT “interview” people. I had some basic questions to ask – but I didn't have a list or any “stock” questions – that would have made it too much like an interview. I mostly asked things like “are you having fun tonight?” – that let me know if someone was taking themselves too seriously. If they could be light about the whole situation that says a lot about them as a person. I also asked about what others were asking – i.e. “what's the most stupid or the most interesting question you've been asked tonight?” That would also get the ball rolling.

The worst question was “so what do you like to do in your spare time” – this is so cliché – it's just like asking “what's your sign?”

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I said YES to those who were having a good time – I felt that spoke to their outlook on life. If I thought it would be fun to hang out with them again or to go out with them, I said YES. I didn't think anyone there was “the one” – I just looked at it as whether I would want to date her.

THE RESULTS:

12 Matches. I think I had too many "YES"s. Lots of people never responded to my e-mails or phone calls. The next day I had to whittle down the list to 6-8 prospects...12 was just too many to deal with. I went out on dates with three total. One person I dated for about a month.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

People respond to humor – so just focus on having a good time. It's that simple. Totally get over any stigma you might feel about being at a singles event. Just keep an open mind.

Brian F., 44, Writer & Business Owner**PREPARATION:**

I didn't do anything specific to prepare. Before an event like this I will remind myself of what's important when dealing with people (humility, respect, genuine curiosity). One of the universal truths of life is that people will be drawn to you if you keep those traits in life. So I tried to remind myself of this before the event. When I go to these events I am not interested in the results – I'm more interested in just having a good time. I try to get OUT of the "I really want to meet someone attitude."

AT THE EVENT:

I like to present myself as individually as possible – really don't want to be classified by looking or acting a certain way. I think of how I'm presenting myself. I often don't mingle before the event starts because I want to save my energy for the rotations. I figure I'm going to meet these people anyway – so I'll just wait. Also, it can sometimes be hard for me to hear people in a large room – so I instead try to scope out a table that will be a bit more quiet so I'll be able to hear the women during the rotations.

With the questions – I find that it's nice to kind of roll lots of questions into one big one (i.e. "give me the scoop – where do you live, what do you do, do you have kids, etc"). That way I either get lots of information or we get totally sidetracked with a conversation. It gets all the basic stuff out of the way early.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I only circle YES to those who tell me enough during the rotations that I believe I could be very attracted to the person. I'm not interested in casual dating, so the "maybes" all become a NO. I'm looking

at compatibility on all levels – intellectually, physically, sense of humor, similar goals.

THE RESULTS:

5 matches each at 2 different events. I e-mail all my matches. I usually meet with one or two. Sometimes the interest just fades or the person quits responding.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Know what you want going in (i.e. relationship or casual dating) – keep this in mind while going through the process. Mostly just have fun.

Hugh M., 48, Chief Financial Officer

PREPARATION:

No preparation. I went as if I was going to be entertained for the night. I looked forward to having people come to me and being able to talk with them. I took a very easy-going approach.

AT THE EVENT:

During the rotations, I didn't ask "canned" questions like "where do you live," "where did you grow up" or "what do you do." I tried to flow more with topics that came up in the conversations. I didn't like the suggested questions, so I asked ones that tell me about the person and whether we have something in common – for example "where do you grocery shop?" Shopping at Costco is totally different than Whole Foods – and it tells me a lot about the person. I also asked about whether she invests in the stock market (shows risk level) and whether she balances her checkbook (financial responsibility). Bad questions are the ones that were given with registration because it showed that the person put no thought into what they were asking.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

The key for me was whether I could speak with her, as well as the speed and intensity with which she moved and spoke. If we had a compatible personality, I circled YES. Key for compatibility for me is personality. How you talk with someone and act with someone (myself and others) says a lot.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I went out with all five. I'm more visual, so I didn't have long phone conversations with any of them before going out. Since I had already met them, I was already interested and knew we would have a good conversation. Besides, it's too easy to be a

different person over the phone or via e-mail – it's better to be face to face. Three were only first dates. I'm still seeing the other two.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

I highly encourage everyone to try this and not waste time with the Internet or other forms of dating. People that you really want to meet will come to events like this because it's a non-invasive and easy way to meet people. This is absolutely the best alternative to being at home. You meet 20 people for only \$35.00 – it's the best money I've ever spent meeting people. And the best part is – it's easy to say no and not have to connect with the people you don't want to meet.

Jack M., 39, Global Fixed Income Analyst

PREPARATION:

I just primped a little – no real preparation.

AT THE EVENT:

During the mingling portion I scoped out a table and chose one in the corner – felt like a power position. I asked different questions of each woman I met – really just chit-chat. I kept it light and didn't ask about kids or bigger issues like that. One interesting question – “if you could be a car, what would you be?”

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I had been once before and I was too picky, so this time I was much more open. Looks were key. Also, if she was friendly and I would want to go on a date with her, I circled YES.

THE RESULTS:

7 Matches. I met with two women, exchanged e-mails with the rest. I went on more than one date with one woman.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Make sure you get a full beer at the start of the event or during the break. Get ready for lots of small talk.

These events are great because it's not cut-throat and if you don't like the person it's over in 5 minutes.

Jamin G., 30, Writer

PREPARATION:

I registered that day, so I had no expectations. I was looking more to expand my social circle and meet new people. I was just trying to be open.

AT THE EVENT:

I let the women lead the conversations – I mainly tried to just answer questions (instead of ask). If there was a lag, I just asked the standard questions off the company site. I was really open and not attached.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If she had a good personality, I circled YES. Some were good for networking and business, but not for dating.

THE RESULTS:

9 Matches. In hindsight, there were 3-4 strong connections, the rest really should have been "NO". You forget some people after awhile. I met 2-3 for coffee. I had dinner with one and six months later I'm still dating her!

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Have a good attitude, be open. This is not for players. Don't put too much pressure on yourself (or others). Just go to have a fun, good evening. Keep an open mind and be open to meeting everyone. You don't necessarily need to have a "love connection" in order to say YES to someone – keep other things in mind.

This was a great confidence builder for getting back in the game.

Jeff T., 31, Financial Consultant

PREPARATION:

I didn't prepare any questions. At the cocktail mixer before the event I asked other attendees about the event.

AT THE EVENT:

I really just chatted during the rotations. I didn't like the question "what do you do for a living" because it doesn't really tell you much about the person. I could tell by their questions that some women had a checklist in mind – they were trying to figure out too much in just 5 minutes.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

If I still wanted to talk with the woman after the bell rang, I circled YES. Basically, if she was fun to talk with, easy to have a conversation with – if she would make a good date. I circled NO if she wasn't my type or if she talked about things I wasn't interested in. With some I got a vibe of low self-esteem. One woman said "I'm not going to find anyone here – I don't know why I came here." I spent the rotation building her self-esteem...if I had to do that in a 5 minute meeting, I can't imagine what a whole dinner would be like – she was definitely a NO.

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches. I had a great relationship with one woman – we dated for a few months. I'm still seeing another woman.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Take good notes. Don't stress – just look nice, get in there and start talking. Don't be too picky – you're not looking for your wife, just whether you want to go on a date with this person (the same as if you met her at a bar). Don't make more of it than it is...it's just going out to meet a lot of women.

John T., 42, Architect

PREPARATION:

My neighbor had been to an event before. She gave me pointers – to go early and nibble, take notes.

AT THE EVENT:

I tried to be light during the rotations. I was really nervous – so I just told everyone I was nervous – I was very upfront about it. The women were really good about keeping the conversation moving. A great question I was asked is “what are you reading now, what’s on your bedside?” A bad question was “do you have kids.” I was too shy to ask that one.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled YES if I wanted to continue the conversation and keep it going. Also, if she was attractive and had a sweetness about her – there was a certain something about her. I circled “NO” if there was no spark or if she was pushy. One woman was really abrasive – she demanded to see my sheet to see how many women I said YES to!!

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I didn’t see one at all. I had two dates each with two of the women – we didn’t continue because they weren’t my type. I slept with two of them – they were lots of fun!!

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be yourself. Relax. Let it be whatever it will be. Don’t worry and don’t be attached to the results. It’s really great practice at dating and bringing your personality out. This event was great because it put me in the mode of being really receptive and open to dating. I am divorced, so I was a bit out of practice. Rotational dating really snapped me out of it. After attending the event I ended up meeting another woman and things are going great with her now.

Mark G., 45, Tax Manager

PREPARATION:

I came unprepared. I spoke with a friend who attended to get the basic information on how the night would go and what to do.

AT THE EVENT:

I mingled a little before the event. I totally ignored the suggested questions and asked everyone "how did you hear of this" and "have you done this before?" Then I went on to "what do you do" and "what are your interests?"

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I tried to be open and err on the side of YES versus NO. I circled YES to those who were enthusiastic, had a positive attitude, were interested and shared similar interests. If the 5 minutes was slow – I circled NO.

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches. I spoke with all except one on the phone (she never returned my phone call). I had dinner with two. The rest I never followed up on because they weren't good matches for me due to age differences, family obligations or different interests.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be prepared to think quickly – it's hard to take notes in between. Be yourself and be open.

Marty S., 27, CPA

PREPARATION:

I didn't prepare before the event. I thought a little about what to say – and what the women might be looking for...a guy with a sense of humor, stable, nice – I tried to portray those qualities.

AT THE EVENT:

During the rotations, I focused on the basics – did she have a job (I didn't want to date a student) and where did she live. I played it by ear and took control of the conversation immediately. I wasn't comfortable asking about kids, but it would have been nice to know before the event. I was surprised about how much you can learn in 5 minutes.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I was really open and had an open mind. I said YES if there was a flow in the conversation. I was looking for women who are attractive, very confident, outgoing, great conversationalists with good careers. I went with my gut. If it felt like 5 minutes wasn't long enough, that is a good sign.

THE RESULTS:

7 Matches. I contacted all of them. Two I never went out with (they were friends and law students – didn't work for me). I went on vacation soon after the event, so I never connected with one of them. I dated two of the women for three months, and I'm still dating one of them.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Be yourself. Arrive early so you can meet the hosts and they can help you break the ice. Get a drink first. Be open and relax. Everyone is there for the same reason – all interested in meeting people, so the ice is already broken.

It was great practice for dating.

Michael L., 32, Student (candidate for teaching degree)

PREPARATION:

No prep – I just went in with good spirits and in an up mood. I prepared to have fun – as if I were going out for a fun night on the town.

AT THE EVENT:

I just tried to simply talk with people. During the rotations I asked women what they do for fun, outside of work. Great questions: “What CD is in your car today?” “What CDs did you just listen to this week?” “Where was the last place you visited outside of CA?” These were great for opening up the conversation. Many women asked if I had been to an event like this before. I’ve been twice (three months apart) – when I told people this I got a bad vibe – like they thought I was desperate.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I said NO to one woman because she made a really weird reference to my last name being in a kama sutra book – she was trying to be funny, but it was just in bad taste. I felt like she was making fun of me. I circled YES if the conversation was decent and flowed naturally. I wasn’t looking for a girlfriend – just fun people to hang out with. I wanted to meet intelligent, active, fun people. If the conversation died, I circled NO. Usually if they were interesting and had something going on in their lives that they enjoyed and inspired them, I circled YES. I looked for people who had a life and weren’t just trying to find one. People who liked to do things and try new things.

THE RESULTS:

6 Matches (at each of 2 different events). **FIRST TIME** – I realized 6 matches is tough to deal with. I talked with three and played phone tag with the other

three- I never met them...we just stopped trying to connect. I had coffee dates with three, but nothing stuck. They were nice, but not my type. SECOND TIME – I realized I made some really random selections. Two girls I didn't call – one I realized I just didn't want to see again; the other was trashed by the end of the event and that was unattractive. One has been busy so we haven't connected yet. I just had a dinner date with one last week – we had a nice date and I'd like to go out with her again.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Take pride in your appearance – look nice, spruce up a bit – show your self-esteem. Open up and be ready to mix and mingle. Mainly just look to have good conversations – it goes fast, so have fun in your 5 minutes.

The evening itself was a lot of fun.

Scott O., 50, Software Engineer

PREPARATION:

The first time I attended it was overwhelming to meet so many people in one night. I had many more matches the second time I attended. The second time I was less nervous because I knew what to expect. Also, I attended a better age range for me – the attendees were more in line with me.

AT THE EVENT:

The first time I attended, I had a whole list of questions – it was way too much and wasn't effective. The second time I asked what area of town the women lived in (I wanted to meet someone "geographically desirable"). I was more open to whatever came to mind and I didn't try to structure it as much. I paid more attention to the person – I just let it flow naturally.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I wasn't looking for Playboy centerfolds or models – just attractive women who caught my eye. If the conversation flowed, we had things in common and she seemed grounded, I circled YES.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches (from the second event). I went on single dates with three of the women. I had a few phone calls with one woman, but we never connected because of our schedules. I had 6-7 dates with one woman – but the distance made it ultimately undesirable for us to continue – the drive could easily be over an hour in traffic.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Go just for fun – be light about the whole thing. Go for the experience and just see what happens. Don't make a big, formal deal about it. Make sure you look good, in a casual way. These events are head and shoulders above other singles events.

Trishul S., 24, Graduate Student

PREPARATION:

I had no expectations. I really just went to have fun. I was very relaxed – just kicked back and enjoyed the event.

AT THE EVENT:

90% of the people asked about my name and background. I asked every woman what her greatest passion in life is. I looked for more interesting questions...most people just went for the fall-backs. The bad questions were the common ones (“where do you live?”) – these don’t peak a person’s interest.

WHY DID YOU CIRCLE YES OR NO:

I circled NO if I couldn’t wait for the bell to ring – if it was hard to talk with her and I felt like I was just nodding my head. I circled YES if I we couldn’t stop talking. If you get upset when the bell rings, that’s a good sign because you want to continue. I was looking also for body language – did she seem interested in me or like she was just going through the motions. I went with the vibe I got off the person.

THE RESULTS:

5 Matches. I first contacted the women I was most interested in. I never contacted one woman. One women went out of town and we never connected. I had great e-mails and one date with one woman – but we didn’t have more because there was no chemistry. I spoke with two women, but they were friends – so we had drinks but didn’t get together again.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS:

Make sure you look good – put your best foot forward (so no shorts or Hawaiian shirts). Don’t go in with nervous attitude or lack of self-confidence because people will totally read that. Have a drink first to loosen you up.

It's a great way to have fun. After these events I'm always in a great mood – they really get me full of energy.

Part 4 – Closure

So there you have it – everything you need to create a great experience at a rotational dating event. Have fun collecting stories and tips on your own dating journey. I know the tools and tips in this book will help prepare you to make the most of your experience.

Please let me know what you think of this book. I'd love to hear how my ideas worked (or didn't work) for you. Also, let me know if there's anything I can do to help you. The best way to reach me is via e-mail: leeann@leeannwebster.com.