

*If you vowed to find love in 2010, you likely want to do everything you can to meet the man/women of your dreams. From marketing yourself to keeping an open mind when meeting someone new, there are many ways to meet Mr. or Ms. Right this year. Take our quiz to know if you have positioned yourself well in the dating game to meet your soul mate.*

By Tracey Porpora

1. You're asked by a friend to go out to a great singles bar, but you are tired after a long day at work, so you:

- A. Rush home, take a hot shower, and psyche yourself up for mingling.
- B. Mull it over all day, and change your mind several times before begrudgingly saying, "Yes." You go, but you're not in the mood to really talk to anyone.
- C. You go home to eat chocolate and drink a glass of wine before falling asleep by 8 p.m.

2. A new co-worker of the opposite sex who you find attractive asks you to get a bite to eat after work, so you:

- A. Appear somewhat interested and say, "Yes." But don't let the co-worker know that you're really excited and hoping he/she means it as a date.
- B. Say, "Yes," and make sure to express to the person that you're not sure if this was meant to be a date, and then find yourself red-faced with embarrassment.
- C. Say, "No" even though you're dying to go because you really think it's best to play "hard to get."

3. Your mother says her boss has a single son/daughter she wants you to meet, so you:

- A. Trust your mother's judgment, and go out with him/her promising to keep an open mind.
- B. Ask for photos, and ask several hundred questions before reluctantly accepting the invitation.
- C. Tell your mother "Thanks, but no thanks." The thought of blind dates through your mother makes you cringe.

4. You are in a bar and two somewhat attractive members of the opposite sex send over a drink to you and a friend, so you:

- A. Accept the drinks, go over to thank them, and start up a conversation.
- B. Accept them, smile and wait to see if they come over to you.
- C. Say, "No thanks," and walk to another part of the bar where they can't see you.

5. You're dating someone for a few weeks when he/she asks if you would like to be exclusive, so you:

- A. Say you have been feeling the same way, and are ready to take your relationship to the next level.
- B. Question his/her motives, and say you would like to, but you need another month or so to be sure.
- C. Tell him/her you're not ready for that type of commitment and change the subject.

6. Your boy/girlfriend of three months asks what your thoughts on marriage are:

- A. You respond that you believe it's something that you need to be ready for, but explain that you want to do one day with the right person.
- B. Explain that you would like to get married one day, but after being with someone for a significant amount of time--surely not after three months.
- C. Say marriage isn't your favorite topic, and politely ask to discuss it at a later date.

7. You have a difference of opinion, which results in your "first argument" with the guy/gal you're dating for the last few weeks, so you:

- A. Decide to work through it and come to a compromise because you have feelings for this person.
- B. Not call him/her for a few days to see if he/she calls you first to apologize.
- C. Think to yourself that pursuing this relationship could be bad news.

Give yourself five points for every "A," three points for each "B," and one point for every "C."

Results:

If your score is 30 or above you're on your way to meeting the man/women of your dreams in 2010. "You will know that you have met the man or woman of your dreams when the connection clicks, there is a mental, physical and emotional attraction, and you build a strong, trusting friendship," explains T. Murray, author and creator of the Stuck on Stupid Book Series, including *Stuck on Stupid: A Guide for Today's Single Woman Stuck in Yesterday's Stupid Relationships* (Stuck on Stupid, 2006).

However, it's not always apparent that you've met your dream mate. "There are clues you have met someone compatible and good for you. How do you feel around him/her? Do you feel interested? Safe? Respected? Listened to? Equal? Paid attention to? Cared for? When you think of spending forever with this person, can you imagine paying bills, choosing a house, raising kids (or pets), putting up with all of his/her behaviors for years?" asks Kimberly Leatherdale, a Pluckemin, NJ-based licensed professional couple's counselor (LPC) and creator of the *Creating Rewarding Relationships* blog (<http://creatingrewardingrelationships.blogspot.com/>).

If you've scored 20 to 29 you may meet the man/women of your dreams, but will let him/her get away if you don't change your attitude. According to Leatherdale, the things you shouldn't do when you meet a potential mate includes: Being fake, acting desperate, lying, and staying at home. "Don't forget to take care of yourself--emotionally and physically. You need to take care of yourself. If you aren't interested in doing so, don't expect to meet someone who'll want to take care of you instead," she says. "It's also wrong to try to be what you think he/she wants you to be--if he/she is the person of your dreams he/she will love you for who you are. If not, he/she isn't that person. This doesn't mean you forget to continually work on yourself; always be open to improvement, but do it for yourself. Also, don't try to push another person into something he/she isn't ready for; you'll drive him/her away."

If your score is 19 or below you likely won't meet the man/woman of your dreams this year because you refuse to put yourself in places and positions where you're most likely to encounter this person. "The trite tried-and-true is yourself comes to mind first. But if you are yourself in your house watching television, you'll never meet anyone (except maybe the cable guy)," says Leatherdale. "So, you have to get out and interact with others--get involved in things, join a class, start a hobby, have fun, meet people, and make friends. This way you at least know the person you meet will have one thing in common with you. And you can have some fun times on your own, and maybe make some friends."