

## International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Dating

### **Cultural Differences in Relationships/Dating**

Read through the first three questions. Then invite a person in your group to choose one of the questions they would like to talk about. Afterwards, they will invite someone else to contribute until all have had a chance to say something. Say “pass,” if you don’t want to talk.

*How would you describe dating practices from your country/culture?*

*What is the purpose of dating in your home country?*

*Are there alternative traditions or current practices to find a marriage partner?*

*Is there a difference between building friendships and dating? What might that be?*

The following information is from the Pew Research taken in the United States.

Dating today reflects a tapestry of cultural shifts and modern attitudes. A survey<sup>1</sup> indicates that a majority of people hold a positive view of dating, with 60% feeling somewhat to very positively about it. Notably, personality has overtaken looks in importance for many, signaling a deeper search for connection beyond mere physical attraction. The timing of love confessions also varies by generation, with younger people tending to declare love earlier than older counterparts. Intriguingly, the perception of what constitutes cheating has expanded to include online behaviors, illustrating the complex interplay between digital interactions and relationship boundaries.

Invite someone in your group to read through the questions and choose one to answer before inviting another person.

*The survey found 60% of the people interviewed had a positive outlook about dating. On a scale of one to ten, ten being the most positive, how do you feel about dating? What factors influenced your perspective?*

*According to the survey, personality is becoming more important than looks in today's dating scene? Is this your experience?*

*In your cultural background, how do people determine the right time to express love in a relationship?*

*How do online behaviors, like 'liking' photos on social media, fit into our definitions of cheating? Where do we draw the line in digital interactions?*

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<sup>1</sup> Dating Statistics In 2023 – Forbes Health

Globally, societal pressures to marry by a certain age have lessened, allowing individuals more freedom in choosing when to settle down. This trend towards later marriage is seen as beneficial by some experts, as it may contribute to partnerships where both individuals have established their identities and careers, potentially leading to more equal and satisfying relationships<sup>2</sup>.

*How do societal expectations regarding marriage and dating affect our personal decisions about relationships, and do we feel they contribute to or hinder our readiness for commitment?*

*Do you think it is advantageous to marry young, say before twenty-five, or is it better to wait?*

*In what ways might establishing one's career and identity before getting married impact the dynamics of a relationship, and do we view these impacts as largely positive or negative?*

Dating procedures when moving from one culture to another can be confusing. What signals friendship in one culture can signal dating intention in another. Choose one question to answer before inviting someone else to talk. Feel free to say “pass” if you would rather not contribute.

*What has been confusing to you about dating relationships in a new culture?*

*What has helped you navigate dating expectations and habits in a new setting?*

*Would you consider marrying someone outside of your culture, country, or religion? Why or why not?*

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<sup>2</sup> Dating Statistics In 2023 – Forbes Health