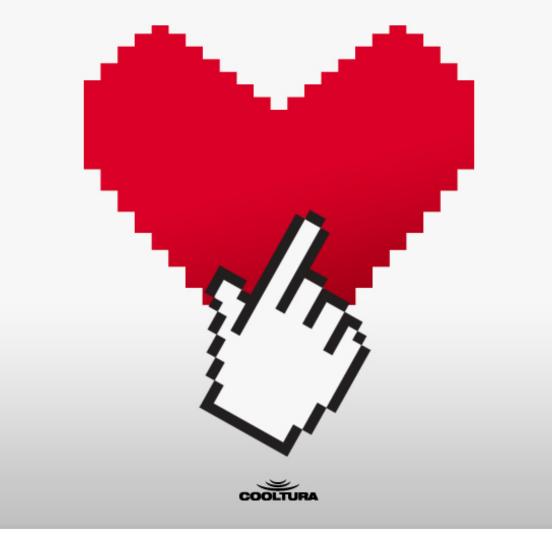
Alexandra Kirkpatrick

ONLINE DATING

Everything you need to know to find your m@te on the web



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Introduction

The days of traditional families trying to marry off their children for convenience with juicy economic agreements and little romanticism are long gone. In addition, the age of dreaming about finding Prince Charming at a party has also passed. Although, for some people, tales of princesses still garner hope, current times lead us to reconsider the way in which we connect with others. What if our other half is not around the corner? Do we have to resign ourselves to be alone just because we don't find someone compatible with us? For many people, technology, apart from solving many issues of modern living, has also become a way of entertainment. This silent companion is, even if we don't notice it, at our fingertips whenever we get bored -- for instance when it starts raining heavily and we feel melancholy or when we miss someone with whom we don't talk anymore. Without questions, our telephone or computer is there. That is why, even though it may generate many insecurities, getting to know a person through the different options offered by technology is not as crazy as it used to be. If we use telephone applications that indicate to us how the weather will be during the following weekend; if the first thing we do when we get home is to turn on the computer; if we can learn about the day of a friend living in another continent in a second looking at his photographs in Facebook; or if we exercise with an application for the iPad . . . why can't we extend the use of technology for those matters related to our love lives?

We live surrounded by a lot of devices that were created to simplify everyday life because we never have enough time, we always want to do more or because it gives us fear to slow down a bit. Being this hyper-connected can, instead of separating us, create bridges to make contact with kindred spirits that, perhaps due to shyness or feeling ashamed, do not dare to show themselves before others.

The question is therefore repeated: Can the love of our lives be behind a screen? We are here to offer several tips so that you, at least, might dare to try.