

# Down with boring dates!

Are you ready to get hot and sweaty in front of a sexy stranger or would you rather let fate do the work? Dating blogger Sarah Finley, 28, scours the world for the hottest new dating trends



**THE BLOGGER:** Sarah Finley, 28, blogs at [thelovesandlifeofalondongirl.blogspot.com](http://thelovesandlifeofalondongirl.blogspot.com). Her dating tip? "Men don't just appear on your doorstep – not cute ones, anyway. Step outside your comfort zone and go to places you wouldn't normally."

## ♥ FOR DO-GOODERS

Want to hook up with a caring, sharing kinda guy? Log on to [www.butterflysocial.co.uk](http://www.butterflysocial.co.uk), which runs monthly free events for socially conscious singles. Volunteer with children, small animals or for the planet – and don't worry, there's a trip to the pub post-tree-hug.

## ♥ FOR GYM BUNNIES

Getting sweaty with the opposite sex is the point of a date, not the way to bag one, right? Wrong. If you've got a thing about guys in Lycra, pound the pavements at Urban Vitality's Single Bootcamps, held monthly in parks across London. Including lunch and a glass of wine, it costs £29 ([www.urbanvitality.com](http://www.urbanvitality.com)).

## ♥ FOR IPOD ENTHUSIASTS

If your most meaningful relationship is with your iPhone, log on to [www.likeourselves.com](http://www.likeourselves.com) and use its global positioning system to find like-minded love prospects within walking distance, searching by area or mutual interests.

## ♥ FOR FLIRTOPHOBES

In the world of dating, flirting is the *only* skill that counts. If you want to brush up on yours, cultural anthropologist Jean Smith will get you starting chats in the supermarket on her Flirting & Walking tours, £25. Book at [www.flirtology.co.uk](http://www.flirtology.co.uk).

## ♥ FOR WAG-ABEES

You've got the tan, the 'It' bag and the hair extensions, but not the millionaire premiership hubbie. Now, wannabe



WAGs are falling over their Fendi heels to sign up at [www.becomeawag.com](http://www.becomeawag.com), which promises at least two big players looking for, erm, love – all for £19.99.

## ♥ FOR SHY TYPES

From across the Atlantic comes Cheek'd ([www.cheekd.com](http://www.cheekd.com)). Sign up and you get a pack of cards with flirty messages – we heart 'Let's call in sick tomorrow'. Give them to a guy that catches your eye and he can track you down on the website and send you a message. From \$5, with free international shipping.

## ♥ FOR BOOKWORMS

A cross between a dating site and the Richard and Judy Book Club, [www.alikewise.com](http://www.alikewise.com) matches you based on fave reads (best not to mention your *Nancy Drew* obsession 'til the second date...). So, if what's on his bedside table is as important as his bedroom skills, you may find your perfect man here. Visit [www.alikewise.com](http://www.alikewise.com) to sign up.

## ♥ FOR NY-LON LOVERS

Fancy a date up the Empire State Building or ice-skating in Central Park? Get in touch with single statesiders with a penchant for all things Brit at [www.iloveyouraccent.com](http://www.iloveyouraccent.com) and find your Green Card – sorry, soulmate – from £12 a month.

## ♥ FOR RED-HOT ROWS

Fancy a good old rant on your next date? At Speed Hating events ([www.downwithdating.com](http://www.downwithdating.com)), you can moan about traffic wardens or people who walk too slowly. The creators believe the way you argue is a big factor in your compatibility. We totally disagree. Joke!

## ♥ FOR UNUSUAL DATES

Fancy a first date sky-diving? Or learning the saxophone? Website [www.howaboutwe.com](http://www.howaboutwe.com) encourages members to invent unique dates. Beats going down the pub (again).

## ♥ FOR FOODIES

You don't have to be a budding Nigella to meet a man Speed Plating, but it helps. Stateside Celebrity chef Danny Boome founded the idea in his NYC restaurant, with singles eating each course with a different date. Hope spag bol's not on the menu... Go to [www.dannyboome.tv](http://www.dannyboome.tv).

## ♥ FOR STAR-GAZERS

Is the guy you locked eyes with in Starbucks in your head? Don't let a *Sliding Doors* moment pass – he might be on [www.fatepod.com](http://www.fatepod.com). Leave a message for him to find or hope he's left one for you.

## ♥ AND IF IT DOESN'T GO TO PLAN...

Awkward date? Don't stress – give new app, [Wakerupper.com](http://Wakerupper.com), a go. Punch in your number, a date and time, and your phone will ring with a message. Dessert? No, got to go – my hamster's escaped... ☑