



**SWIPE™ SUNDAY  
SUMMER CRUSH  
TIP KIT**

# SET UP THE BEST PROFILE, TAKE THE BEST PICS AND GET DATING-READY IRL

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Whenever someone tells me they don't like dating, I'm genuinely dumbfounded and ask why immediately. I adore dating. At the end of the day, the worst\* thing that could happen is that you'll have a great story the next day. Sometimes you've just got to do it for the plot, because even a bad date is just a good tale at the end of the day!

Many moons ago, I moved home from the States, broke up with a long-term boyfriend, and downloaded Tinder. I was ready to get back into dating and the online platform made it more accessible than ever, with a plethora of suitable (and not-so-suitable) potential suitors at my literal fingertips.

But this isn't about my history, it's about your future. So here are my top tips for a banging profile and IRL dating experience.

# THE PERFECT PROFILE

## PICS

To avoid the inevitable confusion and time-wasting, do not put a group photo up as the first photo on your profile. There are many reasons why but the most important are that a) it's not clear who you are and people don't want to play Guess Who as they swipe and, b), the last thing you want to see is a 'hey is the brunette single' message because the swiper has vibed more with your pal.

What you want to lead with is a clear photo that showcases the best version of you, making sure to lay off the filters because that's not what you actually look like and if/when you do meet up IRL you don't want to be accused of catfishing.

On that note, not to sound harsh, but if you have a gorgeous pic of yourself from that one time you went to a fancy event but only look like that version of yourself 0.5% of the time, don't use it as the main pic. Put that photo further back in your profile to almost say 'yo look at me slaying here' but still be a little bit realistic about what you look like most of the time.

If you don't have a cute pic of yourself, ask a trusted family member or friend to snap one of you! One super simple yet super important detail is to make sure the camera lens on your phone is clean! Any grimy smudges will make your pics look like they were taken on a potato.

Whenever you're next feeling yourself, get your appointed personal photographer to snap a pic in natural light, and just smile and pose in a way that feels natural - you do not need to do anything gimmicky. Try to take pics from the waist up or, even better, closer head shots so people can get a clear idea of what you look like.

Whatever photos you choose, make sure they're high quality, not blurry and have some variation! You can use a group shot later in the series of shared pics, but make sure you're the main character, and that the pic matches your vibe.

***TINDER TIP: Make sure to verify your own profile and connect with others who are Photoerified and/or ID Verified themselves. No more catfishing!***

## **BIO**

Your bio is basically your chance to elevator pitch yourself to a match. Be clear about what you're looking for and your general interests. Adult life is simply too busy to waste time chatting to someone whose values are the polar opposite of yours.. Try to tell as much about yourself as you can so that you're attracting the attention of people who are on the same wavelength as you. I would also say try not to say too much - leave some questions for later down the track. You need to write more than a few words, but you don't need to write an essay. You should always include your top 5 interests and a good dose of the lifestyle descriptors like Relationship Goals, love style, pets, and maybe even your family plans.

# BANTER

## ***YOUR OPENER***

For the love of god, please don't open with "hey", "how are you?" or "how was your weekend?". You're not offering anything of substance and it's an unimaginative opening line that puts all the burden of crafting a conversation on your match. Instead, read their bio, look at their pics and their interests and come up with something you know will be relevant to the person you've matched with. Say that your match has a pic of them walking Machu Picchu and you've also done that trek – open with a wild or funny story about your own experience. If you want to keep it even more simple, take a look at their Interests and see what you have in common. If they've said they love a horror flick, talk to them about your fave.

## ***PUT IN THE WORK***

When people tell me they don't have time to chat to people, I'm like "Okay but you sent me 16 TikToks last night, so perhaps it's actually your priorities, not your time". Dating is work, fun work, but it does require time and effort. Sunday used to be my Swipe day, and I'd put a few hours of banter in per night after work. But hello, I was single and, as per the above, had fun conversations with people, which made it just as entertaining as any other social media app.

## ***MEET IRL***

Don't dilly-dally too much on chatting digitally. If you're vibing with your match, get a date locked in ASAP. If the other person is being slow, drop it because they're either not serious about actually getting to know you IRL or just incredibly lazy, which we just don't have the time for.

## **THE DATE**

### ***BE SAFE***

Once upon a time, a guy asked me to go for a hike as a first date. "Sir absolutely not, that is an incredibly Wolf Creek-y idea to suggest". He laughed and said he hadn't thought about it like that, and we ended up having a beverage like many people do. It turned out he was, in fact, much lovelier than his initial date idea suggested, but it's a good reminder nonetheless that safety is the most important part of dating. Always meet the person in a public place, avoid sharing any personal information like an address or workplace, and make sure trusted friends or family know where you're going and when you're expected back.

# **BE SMART ABOUT YOUR DATE CHOICE**

By the time you've planned to meet IRL you should have a vague idea of how interested you are in someone, and how interesting they are as well. Try to match your date suggestion to your perception of them. Don't book in a dinner date with someone who has come across as a bit boring, you don't want to have a dud 2 hour sit down dinner. A coffee date or even a cheeky drink is a great option to assess the vibe and, if it ain't there, you can skedaddle after a polite 45 minutes.

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*\*My stance on this obviously doesn't include the very real nature of dangerous situations that you could run into on a date. If you ever feel uncomfortable or experience inappropriate behaviour in any way, please report it to both Tinder and your local police. You can also find further safety tips and features in Tinder's in-app Safety Centre or via its Dating Safety Guide ([datingsafetyguide.com/au](https://datingsafetyguide.com/au)).*

# PROFILE AND CONVERSATION TIPS TO HELP YOU LOCK DOWN THAT FIRST DATE ON TINDER

**Sera Bozza**

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Your dating profile can make (or break) your entire dating experience. An uninspired profile can drain you, cost you dates and turn swiping into a chore. But if you set up your profile the right way... you can not only get clearer on defining (and closer to finding) your dating goals, attract awesome matches you genuinely vibe with, but also avoid as many of the pitfalls associated with dating apps as possible.



# BOZZA'S TIPS FOR DATING SUCCESS

## **MIX IT UP**

Use each profile feature to express yourself in as many ways (and angles!) as possible. It's the variety that builds trust and piques the interest of potential matches. Not every shot needs to scream "thrill-seeker." Show your day-to-day life - the space between the adventures - so your potential match can imagine themselves in it. Don't hide behind the same selfie angle, filters, sunglasses or other objects that aren't you – these will only take the attention away from you.

## **CHECK YO'SELF AND THOSE DATE CRITERIA**

Let's get real about deal breakers versus nice-to-have preferences. Because most of what you think you care about, you would trade, in a heartbeat, for an incredible connection. Interrogate your filters and challenge your checklist, paying special attention to age, height and hobbies. Where did you come up with them? Have you checked how tall your favourite celebrities are?! Are your criteria helping you or hindering you?

## **GOOD VIBES ONLY**

The biggest red flag is listing your turn offs in your bio. The best way to attract who you want is to be the type of person you want. Don't just demand your values; embody them! Know your boundaries? That's great, but always spin them into something positive. Swap the "don't swipe on me if you..." with a more upbeat "I value..." Turn that "No hookups" into "I'm looking for something meaningful." We've all been hurt, but dragging that baggage into your bio blocks you from new adventures.

## **LESS AINT BEST**

Are you playing it cool with a barely-there profile? Time to rethink that strategy. The more you share about yourself and state your true intentions, the better your matches can understand you and connect with you. Remember to utilise Tinder's built-in interest and lifestyle descriptors – they're brief but to-the-point and easily understandable! The result of all this? Matches that swipe right are more invested (and equipped) for more meaningful conversations that convert into more dates.

## ***SPIN YARNS, NOT JUST FACTS***

Profile descriptors are great for sharing bite-sized facts, but the beauty of your bio is that it allows you to share your stories and stand out. It's the difference between saying you "enjoy reading" and explaining how one book, or author, flipped your world totally upside down. Draw in your match by letting them hear the 'why' behind the 'what'.

## ***MATCH, PACE, LEAD***

Ever asked a simple question, and bam! you're hit with an overwhelming essay-length reply? When your messaging rhythm is off, the result is ghosting and missed connections. Mirror your match's messaging style, adapting to their pace, length and tone. Staying in sync allows for much smoother conversation. And when the time is right, don't be afraid to take the lead and ask them out.

## ***DON'T SET IT AND FORGET IT***

Your profile should be as dynamic as your swiping. Adopt new features, switch up your photos and stay current by updating any pop culture references in your bio. Old and outdated references scream that you've been around for a long time. Holding on to photos and a bio that aren't getting you the results you want? Let go! If your profile starts to look like everyone else's - think typical dating cliches - it's time for a makeover. You're not here to blend into the background.

## **DELAY MEANS DISINTEREST**

A “match” is a mutual high-five, so don’t hesitate to start the chat and shoot your shot. A personalised conversation opener and speedy replies signal your interest in connecting. Generic or delayed messages, on the other hand, say “meh” to your matches. An endless match queue leads to burnout and generic one-liner responses. Instead, focus your energy on just a few matches at a time and give them your full attention - at least until the connection loses momentum or becomes one you want to invest all your time in. It’s all about quality over quantity.

***TINDER TIP:** Pause your profile or choose not to be seen when you need to recharge. When you’re ready, jump back in with all guns blazing.*

## **READY, SET, CONNECT**

Hit that sweet spot when you’re curious (enough) to meet up? Great! Meet in person rather than sidestepping to another social media platform. The more you spread yourself across social media, the slimmer your chances to meet up.

***TINDER TIP:** Need reassurance? Look for that Photo Verified or ID Verified badge or profiles who have already integrated their Instagram or Spotify. It’s a sneak peek into their world while staying snug on the app.*

# ***ELEVATE YOUR CONVERSATIONS***

The best conversations happen when you're both building up each other and each other's ideas, not just playing a ping-pong game of Q&A. Ditch the interview-style daterview. Active listening is your golden ticket, so pay attention to what they're saying and follow up with open-ended questions that lead to more than simply "yes" or "no" dead-end questions. Ask questions that invite stories, not just nods.