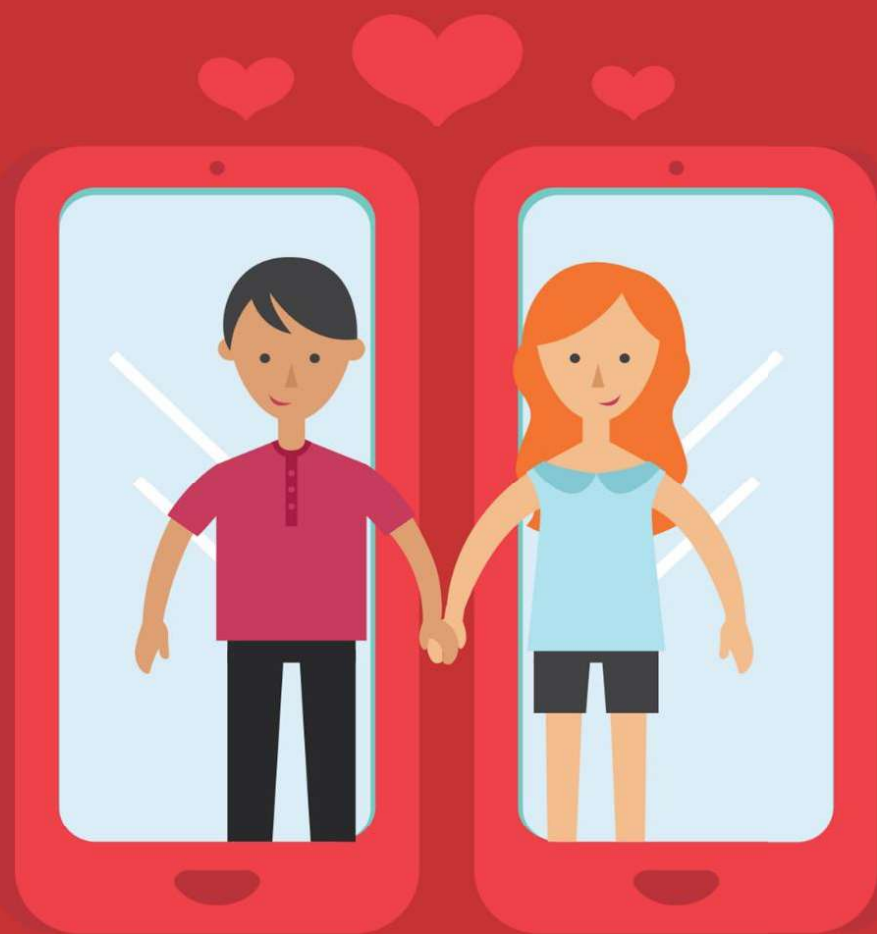


ONLINE DATING

FOR BEGINNERS



AMANDA WELLS

WHAT ONLINE DATING SERVICES ARE ALL ABOUT

You've heard all your friends talking about online dating services and even checked out a couple sites but still aren't sure if this is what you want to do. It seems like online dating services could be the perfect solution if you only knew a little more about how they work. Read this short article and you'll know everything you need to know to get started.

Online dating, also known as internet dating, is when individuals, couples and even groups communicate with each other on the Internet typically with the intent of developing a friendship or relationship of some kind. Relationships may be of a sexual nature, personal or even lead to marriage. Some people, on the other hand, come to online dating just to make friends. Online dating services are all about helping these people meet and making the process easier. Their contact with the members of their service is usually done by cell phone or computer.

When you join an online dating service, you're usually required to become a member if you want to take advantage of all their services. As a member, you provide the online dating service with personal information such as age, gender, interests, location and similar information. You also set the same kind of criteria for what

you're looking for as far as gender, age, location, etc. The online dating service uses this information to match you up with people that meet your specifications. You're usually allowed to upload pictures of yourself as well as look at pictures of others.

Online dating services will also offer services such as online chat, webcasts, message boards and telephone chat (VOIP). Online or internet dating services charge a monthly fee to become a member. You can check out online dating services without actually becoming a paid member, but you won't have access to all their services. For instance, you may be able to see a picture of someone but won't have access to information about him or her.

It's important to check out the sites before actually joining so you know they're the type of site you're looking for, as there are different kinds. While some may be strictly for those looking for a relation-ship, another site may be just for those seeking friendships.

Another thing to remember is that, like in all areas of our lives, nothing will happen overnight. Finding the person of your dreams is not going to happen overnight either, even with the help of an online dating service. The online dating service may be able to help you get started and show you the ropes, so to speak.



HOW ONLINE DATING SITES WORK

If you're like many single individuals, you may be tired of sitting home alone every night waiting for the perfect significant other to come your way. If you're not into the bar and nightclub scene, where does that leave you? Many people are turning to online dating sites. They're very popular, offer many opportunities and there are many to choose from, more almost a new site created every day.

Look for Reputable Online Dating Sites

Before you rush out and join the first online dating site you find, do your homework and research the sites to see what they have to offer and how others rate them. If they're a legitimate online dating site, you'll be able to find reviews others have left about them. Check them out. Each online dating site you find is going to promise you the world and swear they're the best. Look around or ask around until you find the right sites.

Do I Have to Pay for Online Dating Sites?

The good news is that you don't have to pay to become a member