

We are making progress - Men no longer feel the pressure to pay for the first date

June 28, 2017 | 38 upvotes | by [alphabachelor](#)

We are winning the long game, boys. I've cut and pasted from the WSJ in case the paywall strikes.

There was a time when Tinesha Zandamela would dig around for her wallet at a first date, anticipating that the guy would insist on paying.

That was before she went out with one who “forgot” his wallet, or the one who requested to split the check 50-50 after eating nearly all the food. Now when the bill arrives, she sits still, not even attempting what some call “the reach.”

“If you reach, you could end up with the entire bill,” said the 23-year-old in Provo, Utah. “No one is going to stop you.”

Love in the time of Tinder is upending an age-old tradition between men and women: that moment when the bill arrives and the woman feints for her wallet—but expects the guy will insist on paying.

The popularity of the dating app and others like it means single people are going on more first dates than ever. Many women say they have stopped doing the reach because they are not only more likely to end up splitting the bill, but also more liable to cover all of it. Now when the check arrives, both people often brace themselves for a gunfighter’s staredown.

On her 18th birthday, Jaelyn Suchta, an account supervisor in Rochester Hills, Mich., found herself on the losing side. She said she was invited to a movie that day, but at the ticket counter, her date looked at her blankly for several uncomfortable moments, until she ponied up cash for both tickets, plus popcorn and sodas.

“It was so awkward,” she said. “Who makes you pay on your birthday?”

Alex Paull, 19, said she recently went on a date with a man she met on Tinder and chose not to reach for the check since he had picked the place and initiated the date.

After the man took her home, he sent her a \$20 invoice via the mobile-payment app Venmo for her portion of the meal, she said. The West Virginia University student said she blocked him on Venmo and didn’t pay the bill.

On Grindr, a dating app primarily for gay men, people are often opting for cheaper dates, such as coffee and cocktails, said Byron Norton-Wolf, a 51-year-old in Orlando, Fla.

It is a “good thing” when both people do the reach at the same time, the singing waiter said, though he added age can be a determinant on same-sex dates. “The person who doesn’t reach is usually younger.”

One of his dates, however, circumvented the whole process. Before the check arrived, he went to the restroom and said he would be waiting outside.

The rules aren’t complicated, according to etiquette experts. “If you invite, you pay,” said Diane Gottsman, author of “Modern Etiquette for a Better Life.” “But the reality is that the other person may not know the rules or realize it’s a date.”

Alexz Poole, a 30-year-old lawyer, said that since moving to New York four years ago, she has noticed a gradual change in the way the reach was being received. At first, her dates would typically intervene and pay the bill, she said, but over time she ended up covering more than her fair share.

At a recent drinks meetup, she asked her date if they were planning to order food since they hadn’t

specified beforehand. His response: “Don’t you have food at home?”

Thanks to the growing number of online dating services, the economic dynamics of playing the field have changed. According to analysis conducted by Deutsche Bank, paying for two people in New York or San Francisco to go to a movie and have a meal, plus a few beers and taxi rides, comes to about \$130. Three of those a week can cost more than \$20,000 a year.

Some people say they are embracing what they consider to be a more progressive view on gender roles. “I almost feel like it’s rude not to let them pay,” said Miles Bird, a 27-year-old who works in venture capital in San Francisco. “I’d be falling into stereotypes.”

Mr. Bird said he usually suggests splitting the check before the reach is an option, though he has been forced to pay the entire bill on occasion.

“Not reaching when reaching is expected is a kind of reverse power play,” said Chase Amante, founder of Girls Chase, a website aimed at providing dating advice to men. “Rather than the man asserting power by paying, the woman asserts power by forcing the man to pay.”

A woman who refuses to reach, however, could come off as a “gold digger,” he said. “There’s a certain subset of the population looking for free meals.”

The custom of a man paying on a date is a relic of chivalry that is several centuries outdated and connotes ownership, said Julia Long, a sociology lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University who specializes in feminist theory. “Women are not commodities to be bought.”

Ms. Zandamela, who considers herself a feminist, said that since women still tend to earn less than men, it isn’t unreasonable for guys to cover dinner and a movie. “There’s a huge gender pay gap,” she said. “The least a guy can do is pay for a date that he initiates.”

Some men say they expect to cover the check on a first date, but still hope the woman will reach. “You don’t want to feel like you’re being used,” said Amir Nobakht, a medical doctor in Los Angeles.

He said his guest on a recent date ordered two entrees—pasta to eat at the restaurant and a grilled fish to go. When she went to the bathroom, he asked for separate checks, he said. “I always pay on the first date, but you have to draw the line somewhere.”

The practice of a man paying on a heterosexual date has proved more resistant to change than other gendered norms, said David Frederick, a psychology professor at Chapman University. In a 17,600-person study he published with colleagues in 2015, 39% of the women surveyed said they hoped the man would decline an offer to help pay the bill.

“I never expect them to let me pay, but more often than not, it’s happened,” said Katie Hart, an accounts payable manager in Indianapolis. “They’re like, sure, and, I say, oh, OK, sure.”

The 37-year-old recently went on a date to a downtown restaurant, and the man suggested splitting a burger and fries. When the burger showed up, she said, “he cut it very unevenly, looked at it for a few minutes and then took the bigger side.”

When the check arrived, Ms. Hart said she performed the ritual reach for her credit card, and he agreed to let her pay half without any hesitation. “Even the waitress looked at him, like, are you serious?”

Source:

https://www.wsj.com/article_email/who-pays-on-the-first-date-no-one-knows-anymore-and-its-really-awkward-1498488525-lMyQjAxMTI3NzIwNzgyMTc2Wj/

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Comments

Omnibrad • 51 points • 28 June, 2017 07:16 PM

What a time to be alive. Men are expected to abandon all the benefits of chivalry while upholding all the responsibilities of chivalry.

Even a woman offering to pay is just a fucking mask of deception. They don't merit chivalry anymore.

alphabachelor[S] • 18 points • 28 June, 2017 07:25 PM

Men are expected to abandon all the benefits of chivalry while upholding all the responsibilities of chivalry.

That's been the case for the last 20 years. What I find interesting is all these men who no longer feel the obligation to pay for the entire date.

From the article: "At a recent drinks meetup, she asked her date if they were planning to order food since they hadn't specified beforehand. His response: "Don't you have food at home?""

This would never be spoken 20 years ago. Hell, 5-10 years ago it would be taboo.

MattyAnon • 15 points • 28 June, 2017 08:21 PM

"Don't you have food at home?"

Haha great line.

Now that men are not trying to buy a wife, it's clear that the deal is paying for sex. We don't like that one tiny bit, and most won't do it.

aanarchist • 8 points • 29 June, 2017 01:35 AM

it's a first date, not an actual date with your girlfriend. early on people understand now that you gotta gauge if she's even worth pursuing, dates where you do fun stuff together is for when you have an established relationship. it's now on women to show the men that they are worth being in a relationship with, that includes showing him that she is more than a whore and bring something to the table. buying him lunch and showing interest in who he is as a person, well that's a good start. maybe this flip of the script will teach women as a whole to be more respectful towards their men, and more grateful when one treats them well instead of running off with chad.

MattyAnon • 1 point • 3 July, 2017 11:19 AM

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Women never learn, and there is always other male competition.

The only solution is to be very attractive.

MagicGainbow • 8 points • 29 June, 2017 03:23 PM

From the article: "At a recent drinks meetup, she asked her date if they were planning to order food since they hadn't specified beforehand. His response: "Don't you have food at home?""

Its so clear there she was angling for a free meal on top and the guy knew it.

[deleted] • 27 points • 28 June, 2017 07:41 PM

The article goes to great length to avoid stating the obvious: as women make it clear they will give it away for free, more and more men realize they would have to be chumps to pay.

Now is a great time to be a man learning about women. I think women will soon learn to go back to hiding their true natures and all the TRP confirming behaviors of women that are on display everywhere will largely disappear.

max_peenor • 12 points • 29 June, 2017 02:55 AM

Why buy the cow when they will milk your balls for free?

I lost frame and got very drunk at a family event some years ago. I said this in front of my mother, brother, sister-in-law and aunt. The odd part is that I never took any shit from any of them for it, despite the fact that I clearly said something inappropriate and I am not happy with my behavior.

Okool74 • 4 points • 30 June, 2017 11:10 AM

how is that losing frame? You spoke the truth. But I'd of loved to have been a fly on the wall and seen their reaction

max_peenor • 6 points • 30 June, 2017 03:52 PM

But in front of your mother?

Okool74 • 1 point • 30 June, 2017 03:59 PM

ok yea maybe it could have been a bit more tactfully worded....as it's commonly heard why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free. but are you more concerned about your choice of wording or that you spoke the truth? if it's the former, i'll go along with you. if it's the latter.....you still have a long ways to go.

max_peenor • 1 point • 30 June, 2017 04:25 PM

I just don't think a man should discuss his balls in front of his mother. Though there was the time I apologized to my brother for destroying some of linens because I got myself a squirter and didn't realize she was there until later. So maybe balls are a boundary well past.

[deleted] • 1 point • 30 June, 2017 04:11 PM

Putting your mom on a pedestal.

Just because she pushed you out of her vagina and wiped your ass doesn't mean she's not just another woman in your life and should be treated as such.

You're, hopefully, an adult. You don't owe anyone shit, not even your parents.

pophatpill • 6 points • 29 June, 2017 06:48 AM

The article goes to great length to avoid stating the obvious: as women make it clear they will give it away for free, more and more men realize they would have to be chumps to pay.

Huh. I just realised from that comment that *paying for a woman on a date is actually a form of economic rent* to the woman, because it doesn't change her decision as to whether or not she's going to fuck you.

MattyAnon • 26 points • 28 June, 2017 08:19 PM

Many women say they have stopped doing the reach because they are not only more likely to end up splitting the bill, but also more liable to cover all of it

This is quite the subtle lie from women: pretending they are no longer even feinting for their wallet... and guess whose fault this is? Men of course, for insisting she pays for it all.

Here's the truth: she's not feinting for her wallet because she doesn't even want to go 50-50. If she reaches for her wallet, she might end up paying half. She doesn't want to do that, so she just sits there and waits for the guy to pay.

Gentlemen: agree this in advance. Tell her you're splitting the meal 50-50 before you even step foot in the restaurant.

But really - don't go out for a meal on a first or second date. This kind of intimacy is reserved for girls you're already fucking lest you fall into the dual trap of "loser who won't pay" or "loser who pays".

Never forget that provider behaviour triggers LMR.

It's HER investment that triggers her sexual response, not yours.

askmrcia • 15 points • 29 June, 2017 12:12 PM

The worse part is when the fuckin waiter brings the check before even asking if we want it split or not.

And on multiple occasions when I told them to split it, the waitress gave me shit for it saying I should just pay for the whole tab m

OSaraiva • 15 points • 29 June, 2017 06:08 PM

How the fuck is a waitress entitled to say whatever about a paying customer? That person has no business working in a restaurant.

UnKnownSurviving • 7 points • 29 June, 2017 07:02 PM

That's why I always op for a *WAITER*, a male who understands. And I *will* pay him handsomely for his exceptionally *good* service. Women, not so fucking much. Waitress are fucking cunt, and expect *me* to pay for women, I'm with. Know *WHAT*? FUCK YOU. I don't like you. No one tells me *who* to pay.

OSaraiva • 4 points • 29 June, 2017 07:12 PM

The only thing a waiter or a waitress should expect is politeness, a payment and perhaps a tip.

20CharactersAintEnou • 1 points • 8 August, 2017 12:43 PM **[recovered]**

The perfect response to that would be: 'well that's your tip gone' with a little smirk.

MattyAnon • 1 point • 3 July, 2017 11:22 AM

Right.

This is how the world works, so don't put yourself in that position.

RedDeadlift • 12 points • 28 June, 2017 08:57 PM

It's HER investment that triggers her sexual response, not yours.

This is a great line for me to remember when out with a women and I feel the beta bux creeping up.

Philhelm • 2 points • 28 June, 2017 10:18 PM

Yeah, the main issue is to not eat during the first meeting.

MattyAnon • 1 point • 3 July, 2017 11:18 AM

Right.

You paying counts against you.... HER paying counts against you.... so just don't meet for food or at a bar where you get the bill at the end of the night

aanarchist • 2 points • 29 June, 2017 01:38 AM

what are some ways to get investment out of her?

MattyAnon • 3 points • 3 July, 2017 11:21 AM

Look like you're worth investing in.

This means you NOT investing. Any efforts of investments you do make you INSTANTLY write off.

Never expect any return. Always be prepared to walk away.

Her investment triggers further investment (fear of loss). Be attractive. Lead. Etc.

blackoutedfast • 17 points • 28 June, 2017 07:51 PM

lol at making the girl pay for her own movie ticket on her 18th birthday.

alphabachelor[S] • 9 points • 28 June, 2017 08:15 PM

LOL indeed.

She lives with Daddy. She ain't starving.

https://www.google.com/maps/place/1738+Spring+Creek+Dr,+Rochester+Hills,+MI+48306,+USA/@42.7082664,-83.1685044,3a,75y,18.87h,84.97t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sQ3-rSKqOWfDwAKyOiRHwJA!2e0!6s%2F%2Fgeo2.ggpht.com%2Fcbk%3Fpanoid%3DQ3-rSKqOWfDwAKyOiRHwJA%26output%3Dthumbnail%26cb_client%3Dsearch.TACTILE.gps%26thumb%3D2%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D46.023247%26pitch%3D0%26thumbfov%3D100!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x8824ebd77ad92595:0xded8d164550f059a!8m2!3d42.708488!4d-83.16819?hl=en

aanarchist • 4 points • 29 June, 2017 01:38 AM

shit that's a really nice place, that bitch pampered as fuck.

pherislore • points • 29 June, 2017 01:47 AM **[recovered]**

Guys, seriously, lesson to take away from this is -- NEVER PAY!

Either 50/50 or SHE PAYS. Don't let awkwardness or social pressure get to you. She reacts weird when you tell her? Fuck her! She refuses to pay? Walk away.

You are not an ATM. I repeat, DO NOT PAY. I would only pay if I expect nothing or if it's a friend. And even then it's ONLY ONE drink. Nothing more.

I see girls here in London getting fucking wasted and they haven't spent a penny. Then I see them smoking cigarettes throughout the night and they haven't even paid for a single one. I've even seen girls ask guys for pills/weed (free of charge, of course)...

If a guy asks me for a cigarette and he is cool, I'll give him one. If a woman asks, 99% of the time I say no. I don't tell her "I don't have any"...I simply stand there making my smooth lung gainz and exhaling smoke whilst saying no to her. So she knows I definitely have cigarettes but WILL NOT give them to her. Been offered a few

bucks and still haven't given a cigarette.

DO NOT FEED THE MONSTER. This entitlement is here because they know guys will reward them...

UnKnownSurviving • 10 points • 29 June, 2017 07:13 PM

Fuck yeah. I'm done with being a fucking gentlemen. I'm only going to get used in the process, so no. I'm not going to pay. If you have money on your own, and *able* to have and earn that much money, because of your "independence as a woman", you can PAY for yourself. You're not entitled to my fucking, hard-earn money. Period.

God, the level of audacity, they have, and they always say they don't have any money, when *they do*. Then they stare at you awkwardly. No, Bitch.

aanarchist • 16 points • 29 June, 2017 01:23 AM*

"it would feel rude not to let her pay, it would be falling into old stereotypes". this boys is called master level frame. you're letting her pay for the date because you want her to know that you're not sexist cis male scum and that you respect her. honestly i feel the same like if i'm making her feel special the least she can do is buy me lunch.

regardless actions speak louder than words. if they wanted to date a traditional guy then they would. they're attracted to men who took the pussy off a pedestal, and that's starting to come at a premium, including paying for the date.

WeaponXL • 15 points • 28 June, 2017 08:02 PM

Although I've only been on a few - I can say with absolute certainty that I have never gotten laid on any tinder date where I paid. The ones where there were separate bills I got action that night, or eventually a few dates later. Lesson it took me forever to learn - if you pay for her you seem like you're desperate and don't respect yourself.

newName543456 • 16 points • 28 June, 2017 08:28 PM

Reduced pressure for paying is also a sign providers are less in demand, so it's time to get your physique and dressing style up to par and aim for being a lover.

aanarchist • 9 points • 29 June, 2017 01:41 AM

none of that matters if you don't have game. you can be a normal physique and dress in normal clothes, you can game the shit out of a woman. not being a bitch wins over a beta biceps. honestly i'm done with the pussies on here that lift hoping it'll get them pussy. if you're gonna do anything do it for you, not because you're still looking for female validation despite everything trp has shown you. as disclaimer i lift and dress well, but it's because i enjoy doing so.

Gettingaware • 6 points • 29 June, 2017 02:05 PM

You lift and dress well, and whatever else you do, because it increases your odds with women. Sorry, but you're a slave to your biology just like every other mammal. Its really not a bad thing either. It means your instincts are functioning properly

newName543456 • 1 point • 29 June, 2017 08:53 PM

If your physique + style is really good, you don't need anywhere near as much game. You just need to not be an autist.

In fact you could easily overgame in such state.

I did it multiple times when my appearance was better (now it's pretty mediocre TBH, getting it back on track slowly).

aanarchist • 2 points • 29 June, 2017 09:03 PM*

that's just it is if a woman is focusing on my physique and style as opposed to my game it means she has a brain imbalance and doesn't have her priorities straight. in fact i've seen dudes who were probably next level autists like they were complete retards but they had a physique and people flocked to them, it was kinda sad to watch. there's always going to be someone who looks better, has more money, dresses better, taller, fitter etc. she'll just branch swing so your method works exclusively for pump and dumps. game is fluid and unique to the individual, my game is completely different from that of another person unless we're both mindless puas running scripts in our heads, and frankly i've never met anyone who could pull off my game because they would look like a fool and a fraud unless they are being 100% authentic in their actions. if anything i've made the choice to wear clothes that hide my physique and don't talk as much about my history in lifting and fitness, because it filters women that filter for looks alone. i've had experiences with women like that who've been like if you weren't hot i probably wouldn't be into you, and women like that are a complete and utter waste of my time they're stealing the most valuable commodity from me, which is time, and providing nothing in return. valuing yourself and your time means having filters in place for low quality people. imagine how many people who are high on the social ladder would be considered the worst of degenerates if they didn't look like royalty. think of like the kardashians or some of those pop stars, they're the worst humanity has to offer, but people put them on a pedestal because of how they look. it takes a lot of strength to let such classism go and judge a person exclusively on the content of their character, their actions etc. when i see a dude wearing some flamingo suit, i think less of him because i know it's an optical illusion and he's making the choice to interact with people wearing an illusion, and peacocks are rarely good people. the same goes for women who put on too much makeup wear too much fancy clothes, they are devoid of any good qualities. the people who flock to them based on appearance alone are low consciousness slaves, and it's an easy tell to avoid them. like i said being a nasty slob is a bad thing, but being over prettied up is equally bad, need a balance. plus chips are kinda nice sometimes and having a psycho routine that you always follow to the letter doesn't really bring me any sort of happiness. lift because you enjoy it on your terms, not because you have something to prove. if more people lived that way the world would be a way better place, and we wouldn't have so many problems. gotta love yourself enough to not constantly think that you have to be you + something extra to be "worthy".

popthatpill • 11 points • 29 June, 2017 06:46 AM

The practice of a man paying on a heterosexual date has proved more resistant to change than other gendered norms

Oh look. The "gendered norms" that benefit women and/or disadvantage men just coincidentally happen to be the ones "more resistant to change". I bet that's just a coincidence (*eyes roll out of head*)

OneRedSock • 8 points • 29 June, 2017 05:19 PM

"If you invite, you pay," said Diane Gottsman

Funny how that will directly correlate with men paying.

A quick google search will show that ~93% of women preferred to be asked out, and that ~83% of men preferred to ask women out. So both genders agree, the men are the ones who have to initiate. Further, an average of men

will have at least asked 4-5 women out in the last year on a first date, and the majority of women will have asked: zero.

“There’s a huge gender pay gap,”

FALSE. Of course, there's always an excuse with women. They'll want all the benefits of equality, and simultaneously the power of victimhood.

yummyluckycharms • 3 points • 29 June, 2017 06:52 PM

It boggles the mind as to why people go to restaurants for a first or second date....its coffee first followed by a bar for second date but only for drinks and only past 8:30. Most reasonable people will have had dinner by then....so its smooth sailing at that point

[deleted] • 5 points • 29 June, 2017 09:10 PM

Man I don't even hold open the door for women anymore.

AllahHatesFags • 3 points • 29 June, 2017 02:24 PM

Equality is a bitch, isn't it ladies?

0kool74 • 2 points • 30 June, 2017 11:08 AM

“Don’t you have food at home?”

DAYUM!!!!!! Like a BOSS!

“There’s a huge gender pay gap,”

Yea FTS!!!! That horse crap has been debunked so many times it's not even funny.

EscortSportage • 2 points • 28 June, 2017 08:48 PM

9 times out of 10, she aint worth it, Dont pay!

[deleted] • 2 points • 28 June, 2017 07:23 PM

Even discussing the sharing the first date's bill issue is extremely beta, even bitchy in my opinion. I have enough money to feed myself and my girl. I do not need her fucking twenty bucks. She is going to act like a lady and respect me, or she will get the fuck out.

"I share the bill and do whatever I want, I am an independent woman!" This is feminism. Do not let them feel like they are equals.

Perrero • 13 points • 28 June, 2017 07:53 PM

No, why be beta bux when women are willing to pay for a Chad?

[deleted] • 3 points • 28 June, 2017 08:02 PM

I perceive beta bux on a larger scale. A real gold-digger will never let you pay for her dinner while you are flirting, but she will drain your soul once she puts the ring on. Do not hesitate to make small jests as they come up, they are not worthy of any consideration. This is my perspective.