



---

## Dating: A summary

### Types of dates

- Generally speaking, there are two types of dates: normal/casual dates and romantic dates.
- On a **normal date**, you just spend time with another person. Just by being that person's date you don't become that person's official boyfriend/girlfriend! There are no obligations.
- Normal dates can also be **group dates**: Several people go out together (although usually in even boy-girl combinations) and spend time together. On a group date, you might share a car.
- **Romantic dates** usually involve "exclusive time", e.g. going to a restaurant.

### Roles and expectations

- Since many American teenagers have a curfew (i.e. a time by which they have to be home) you will be expected to observe your date's curfew.
- A boy taking out a girl for the first time will be expected to have a chat with the girl's parents before they leave on their date.
- Traditionally, the boy is expected to plan the date, make arrangements and also pay for everything. He should make sure the girl feels "like a princess".

### Social function

- Generally speaking, dating means that you are a normal teenager with normal social contacts.
- If you don't go on dates, many people will assume that something is wrong with you, i.e. you are strange, an anti-social, deeply unpopular etc ...

### Difference to dating in Germany

- When you go out with someone in Germany, you usually have romantic intentions.
- Normal dating in the US, has no such implications. It isn't quite as "serious" as dating in Germany.