

“Pimpin’” —  
*Dating multiple guys*

“Save a boyfriend for a rainy day — and another, in case it doesn’t rain.” —Mae West

I’ve found that successful dating requires juggling several men at once. It is like sales — you have to have a number of prospects in the pipeline. I frequently date several men in the same time period until two of us decide to be exclusive or one of us decides to move on. If you only date one at a time, it takes too long to get the next one in the pipeline.

When I was explaining this to my teenaged nieces, they said I was “pimpin.” Now hold your hat — their definition of a pimp is not the same as mine. It merely means dating around. Let’s be clear here that *dating* around does not mean *sleeping* around. You can date multiple people and not sleep with any of them. In fact, I’d recommend you not sleep with any of them until you decide to be exclusive and you both agree that means letting go of all the others you’ve been seeing. It is not wise or safe to be a “player.”

You have to remember other details that each one



has shared, otherwise you'll ask the same things over again and he'll think you didn't pay any attention at all. Track this in your Date-A-Base (see page 7).

You need to have the discipline to not talk about your other guys while on a date. This is *déclassé*. While you can imply that you are seeing others, don't throw it in his face. He may think you are slutty.

But dating around gives you an opportunity to have multiple activity needs met. One likes foreign films, another opera. One likes to hike, another is a tennis buff.



He may be dating around, too. (See "Assume there are other women," page 17.) Clarify this on the first few dates just to be sure you're on the same page. When I do this, I always ask if he's sleeping with anyone. Multiple sex partners increase the risk of STDs. I recommend not sleeping with anyone until you've decided to be exclusive. Then you both get tested for STDs before going further.

Dating around has its pros and cons. I find the pros outweigh the cons. It takes special skills. You have to remember the guy's name when you're with him, unlike the time halfway through dinner that I couldn't think of my date's name (it was a first date).

# Multi-dating pros and cons

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When I've shared with single, dating guy pals that I'm multi-dating they say that there is a double standard. If a guy talked about having dates with multiple women, he'd be chastised and accused of being a player. Women know there are unflattering terms for them as well.

Isn't the reason for dating to find out who you click with and who you don't? Sometimes you have to go through a stream of single coffee dates to find someone with whom you want to have a second date — and who wants to see you again. Is it wrong to have a second date the same week you are having a first date with someone else?

In *Date like a Man: What Men Know about Dating and Are Afraid You'll Find Out*, authors Myreah Moore and Jodie Gould share that there is nothing wrong with seeing several people at once — as long as you don't lead them to think they are the only one. Men have been doing this for centuries and have earned titles like "ladies' man," "Casanova," "playboy," "Don Juan," "lover

boy,” and “lady killer.” Most of these terms are said with a smile and twinkle, even though some may get some negative feedback, like my male pals mentioned earlier.

A woman who multi-dates — let alone hot bunks (see page 11) — is called by different terms: “hussy,” “tart,” “trollop,” “hoochie mama,” “easy,” “floozy,” “tramp,” “tease,” “femme fatale,” “seductress,” “temptress,” “siren,” “enchantress,” “vamp,” “man-eater,” “home wrecker” and the now popular, “ho.” I couldn’t come up with a positive term for a woman who dates around. Perhaps we are ahead of society, so no term has been developed! I think we’ll just call her smart!



One of the issues with dating multiple men is when to let them know. While it would seem best to tell him even before a face-to-face, it seems awkward.

Recently, a guy handled this well. In his first email to me he said, “It is only fair for you to know that I am actively dating others. This however does not alter my interest in finding closeness with you, but don’t get mad at me if I don’t propose to you over our first coffee.”

Since I, too, am dating others, I appreciated his candor. I found it refreshing he was so upfront.



Another man told me on the first date he was seeing others. Again, I thought he handled it well. He told me he was attracted to me and needed to let me know he was just starting to date after his divorce, so was seeing a few other woman.

I never lie to a man, but I also don't like to rub it in his face if I'm seeing others. I drop hints that I am seeing others, and if things heat up, I will be explicit then.

Players date others but do not let you know. They would try to hide their involvement, lying and covering up. So you can see others with impunity as long as you are open about it and it is okay with the guys.





*Your Date-A-Base*  
— *tracking multiple*  
*suitors*

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When people hear that I've dated 91 men in 3.5 years and that I often date several guys at a time, they commonly ask, "How do you keep them straight?"

I respond, "With a Date-A-Base."

Since I'm a business woman, I've long kept a database to track my customers. In business it is also known as a Customer Relationship Manager (CRM). I've adapted my business CRM to my dating life.

In my Date-A-Base, I keep track of the man's name, email, phone numbers, address, and picture. I copy his online profile into the electronic file. And I update it after we talk and I learn important things. This prevents me from asking again where he grew up, his family details, kids' names and ages, alma mater, favorite hobbies, food, books, movies, etc. I review my notes before



I know we'll be talking again.

I start a database file as soon as we go from email to the phone. I enter as much info as I have at the moment and add to it.

When you have several people you're contacting, it takes some organization to keep them all straight. Some



people use a spreadsheet to track their potential dates before meeting. My friend George, also a businessman/salesman, kept a pre-date spreadsheet to track info on each woman with whom he was communicating. His was similar to how he'd track his prospects

and customers. He'd log where she lived, if she was divorced or separated, how many kids and their ages, who initiated contact and when, and when they'd talked by phone. He'd enter her screen name, height and age, general looks (based on her picture) and "overall plus/minus" comments.

Other people say they use index cards to keep people's details straight. Others just print out the profile and make needed notes on it. I'm a tech-savvy gal so prefer the electronic version.

Some of my dating friends have taken this tracking spreadsheet to the next level. They have a number

of categories across the top (looks, energy, intelligence, humor, etc.) and their dates' names down the side. They then assign a number from 1-10 for each of the characteristics for that person. It seems cold, doesn't it? But we all do that to some degree or another, just not so methodically. Then they can analytically decide if they want to continue seeing the person. I trust my gut more than my head, so this method wouldn't work for me.

The important point is do something to keep everyone sorted out. It's embarrassing to say, "Will you be seeing your parents for the holidays?" when his parents are deceased. Or, "I hope Stanford whips CAL" when he's a Berkeley alumnus.

