

What are the rules of dating in terms of who pays? The guy or the girl? Nowadays with both sexes fully immersed in their careers and making almost comparable salaries, is the expectation for the guy to pay (especially on first dates) still applicable? — Jennifer P.

Etiquette expert **Michelle Sterling** answers: **my motto is, "You pay, I play."** When in doubt, the man should pay during the beginning dating stages, and especially on the first date. If you date Asian men, they almost always take care of you. Now if you asked him out, proper etiquette would be for you to pay. However, if he is a gentleman, he'll take the bill from you. Men do appreciate it, though, when women offer. If you met a guy on the Internet and he's the type to go on many Internet first dates, then he might make you pay. You laugh, but it's a true story! If that happens, I say ditch him! When a man takes a woman out, he's making an investment in her and showing his appreciation for her. Traditional men never let a woman pay for anything. If you've been in a longer-term relationship, you should offer to pay or treat your man.

instance, if you have amazing skin, then utilize textures to draw more attention to it. Using illuminating foundations or shimmer powders will create a fresh dewy look. In most cases if you are Asian and Caucasian, you actually have more options with your features. Many women would consider that a blessing. Don't be afraid to try different colors and textures on your eyes and lips. It's important not to change who you are, but to enhance what you have and make the best of it.

Q I recently had a date and didn't have time to get a manicure at my usual nail salon, so I went to a salon near my office. It was the worst manicure ever. The next day, my nails started to chip. Got any quick fix suggestions that doesn't involve taking off the polish and starting all over again?

Jin Soon of Jin Soon's Nail Salon answers: If it's a very minor chip (just on the tip of the nail), you can touch up the chipped spot with the same nail polish first, wait about a minute, and then apply the topcoat. If it's a big chip, you can quickly dip your chipped nail into a non-acetone remover and "brush" the nail color over the chipped nail surface to smooth it out. Also try Sally Hansen Smudge Repair to smooth the chipped area, then touch up with your polish, apply one more layer of the polish, and then apply the topcoat.

lifestyle and etiquette

Q I recently went to a restaurant with a friend and an acquaintance of hers from whom she wanted to ask a favor.

This acquaintance ended up suggesting that he and I "hang out" and he asked for my number. While he's cool as a friend, I'm not interested in him "that way." Anyways, he called me, but I never called him back because I wasn't sure if he was trying to ask me out on a date. Well, I guess the acquaintance was a bit put off by my not calling him back and my friend wasn't too happy with me because she felt she couldn't ask him for the favor anymore. What should I have done in that circumstance? Just go on the date once?

Etiquette expert **Michelle Sterling** answers: Proper protocol and etiquette would have been to return that gentleman's call and briefly chat with him as a friend. If he then asked you out on a date, you could have politely mentioned that while you are flattered by the gesture, you are not interested in pursuing that type of relationship with him, and that he should focus on finding someone who will appreciate him. Men like it much better when women are direct and to the point, especially when it comes to rejection. To soften the blow, you could have made sure to emphasize that it's not about him, that it's about you. Always be straight. Had you done that, he would have appreciated your honesty. His ego may have been a bit bruised, but he would have gotten over it sooner. You would have also created more of a win-win situation for all three of you. ☸

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Our Experts

Margaret Kimura is a makeup pioneer, having worked on several magazines and in entertainment. She's also owner of her own makeup school in Southern California, and wrote the book *Asian Beauty*.



Jin Soon is the owner of the very chic and stylish Jin Soon Natural Hand and Foot Spa in New York City, a calming space with a modern aesthetic, where clients are treated to luxurious treatments for tired appendages.



Richard Ching has worked with *Audrey* magazine since its inception. His style sense won him a VH1 video award and has been spotted on Destiny's Child, Faith Hill, Wu-Tang Clan and ~~xxxxxx~~.



Certified image consultant Michelle T. Sterling is a principal of Global Image Group, a worldwide image consulting firm dedicated to helping men and women define and refine their image and style through wardrobe, communication and protocol skills.

