

# Dating.

## Who pays?



## Moorpark College Student Health Center

## Food for thought

Some people are comfortable with the idea that "the man pays." You can stick with this, but here are a few things to consider.

- It is fairly heteronormative
  - Some dates don't include a man.
- It puts a lot of pressure on the "man."
  - While some men may want to pay, others may not see it as fair or be in a financial place to pay each time.
- It can create a power dynamic.
  - If the "man" always pays, it can remove a sense of being on an even playing field.

**Chivalry doesn't mean taking someone else's autonomy or power away. It's okay to challenge courtship norms.**



## Contact Us

### Website

[www.moorparkcollege.edu/health](http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/health)

### Phone

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### Address

Administration Building Rm 111

The MC Student Health Center has a full medical and mental health team. We can help you with dating anxiety/stress, social anxiety, sexual health, and more. Call us with any questions.

**Talk about paying before! You don't have to wait for it to be awkward. Use clear language when asking someone out. Talk about it before the bill comes. Explain how you feel and listen to how your date feels. If it isn't working, change it!**



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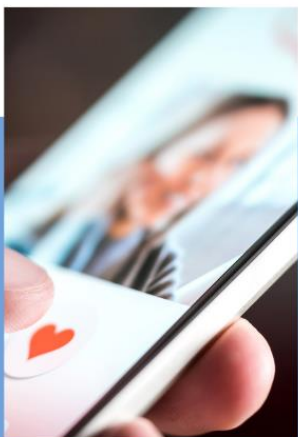
# Whoever asked, pays

# Split it/Alternate

# Whoever wants to

*Here are some reasons it works.*

- **Affordable date**
  - The asker *may* have more say in planning the date and can pick something that is affordable for them.
- **It helps eliminate heteronormativity**
  - It gets rid of "the man asks and pays" and can be applied to couples of any gender/sex.
  - It shows that anyone can initiate a date.
  - It still allows for someone to be the one to treat.
- **Why it may not always work**
  - It may set a precedent that the one who asked always pays/takes control of dates.
- **Phrases to try:** "I asked you out, so do you mind if I get this one?" Or, "Thank you for doing \_\_\_ with me. Since it was my idea, I would love to treat." Perhaps, "I set up this date, so I would love to pay this time, and we can always change it up in the future."



*Here are some reasons it works.*

- **Fair**
  - Splitting the bill is equitable and fair.
  - Alternating who pays can feel less friend-ish and more romantic.
- **No dominance**
  - It gets rid of any power dynamics.
  - It eliminates feeling like one person has to do something for the other since they paid.
- **Why it may not always work**
  - It can feel friend-zone-ish.
  - It can upset someone who wanted to take the other person out and treat them.
- **Phrases to try:** "I got dinner, and then if you want, maybe you could get dessert?" Or, "While we are getting to know each other, how do you feel about splitting the bill so that no one feels any pressure?" Or, "I am used to go split-zies on dates. Are you okay with that?" Perhaps, "I got this date, and maybe you can plan and treat for the next one?"

## Free

Consider going on a "free" first date like hiking, biking, going to a park, or exploring a public place. This can help establish the dynamic before money gets involved.

*Here are some reasons it works.*

- **More money**
  - One person may have a bit more financial security for the time being, and therefore, they may want to pay.
  - But, be careful not to make the other person feel like they do not have enough money or cannot afford it.
- **Appreciation**
  - Some people express their love language by buying things. Perhaps, paying for the date is an expression of care for that person.
- **Fairness**
  - Someone may not always want to pay, but feels it is appropriate to pay occasionally out of fairness.
- **Phrases to try:** "I would like to treat this time. I just got a raise at work." Or, "You are always so generous, I would like to get the bill this time." Perhaps, "As much as I appreciate it, I want to make sure you are not always paying." To flip it, try, "I usually pay for the date, and I am happy to do it. But maybe we could occasionally alternate if you would be open to it?"

