

# ELLE

## Dating tips: Why dating against your type can result in a relationship

Dating men you might normally bypass could mean a shot at a love connection.

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Dating can be a lot of fun but it can also be exhausting after one too many nights out that go nowhere. If you've been going out on date after date with no desire to get a call back from any of the men you're meeting it could be time to date against type. The best way to get out of a dating rut is to focus your attention on people you might normally overlook. You never know where it could lead.

We asked **April Masini**, relationship expert behind the AskApril advice column and author of *Think and Date Like a Man*, for her dating tips on meeting someone outside of your comfort zone – and some important reasons why you should.

Dating tips: Your type has changed – and you don't know it

According to **April Masini**, sometimes we decide who we should be with and discount the fact that we change and evolve over the years (or even months). "Who you thought you should be dating might have been right last year, but this year, with changes in your personality, lifestyle and goals, someone else entirely could be a better match," **April Masini** says. Think about who you dated ten years ago and who you date now. There is likely a fairly significant difference. **April Masini** suggested that "dating outside our pre-conceived type may remind us that what we thought we needed in a man is no longer true."

Dating tips: You could meet someone great

Automatically dismissing someone because they don't fit into your type could mean you're missing out on meeting someone great. "Chameleons abound," says **April Masini**. You may not normally look twice at a suit-wearing financial planner but he could be closer to your type than you realize, according to **April Masini**. Maybe he actually shares your passion for hiking or weekend camping trips. "Just because he looks a certain way or even presents a certain way on first meeting doesn't mean he's the type you think he is," **April Masini** explains. That three-piece suit might just be part of his day job and not a good representation of his whole personality.

Dating tips: You need to expand your dating circle

**April Masini** told us that ruling out certain types of people based on the wrong reasons can really limit your options. Just because the first guy who broke your heart was a musician doesn't mean every musician should be off your dating radar, explains **April Masini**. Or if your family has always told you to date someone with an office job and you feel they're controlling and meddling, you may have decided long ago your type is anything but what they suggest. "This type of thinking doesn't serve you well," **April Masini** says. You may bypass a potential match simply because he happens to be a type you previously ruled out.

Dating tips: You need a dating boost

If you start dreading dating it's likely because you're stuck in a rut, said **April Masini**. Every guy seems the same; you talk about the same things, go to the same venues and at the end of the week can't decipher one date from the last. In other words, you're bored. "By dating outside your type you can refresh yourself and your outlook on dating," **April Masini** says. If you usually date lawyers or doctors, consider a firefighter or a blue-collar employee instead to get a new perspective. If you usually go for artsy, creative types try dating someone who wears a suit for a change. The only way you can really break through the boredom is to date someone who falls outside of the dating parameters you have set for yourself, explains **April Masini**.

Dating tips: You were right to begin with

When enough time passes without making a love connection some people switch types all together, noted **April Masini**. This can be beneficial (as we have already indicated) but it can also put you off course. **April Masini** pointed out that dating outside your (current) type may actually remind you that you were right to begin with. "You didn't meet Mr. Right so you changed your type, but the reason you didn't meet Mr. Right doesn't mean you were dating the wrong type. You just hadn't met him yet," **April Masini** says. Dating a few different types can also help lead you full circle right back to where you should be.