

# Dating Culture in the U.S.

## What is "dating"?

- Being in a romantic relationship
- Involves some commitment
- Usually public –your family, friends, co-worker know about it
- You call each other “girlfriend and boyfriend”



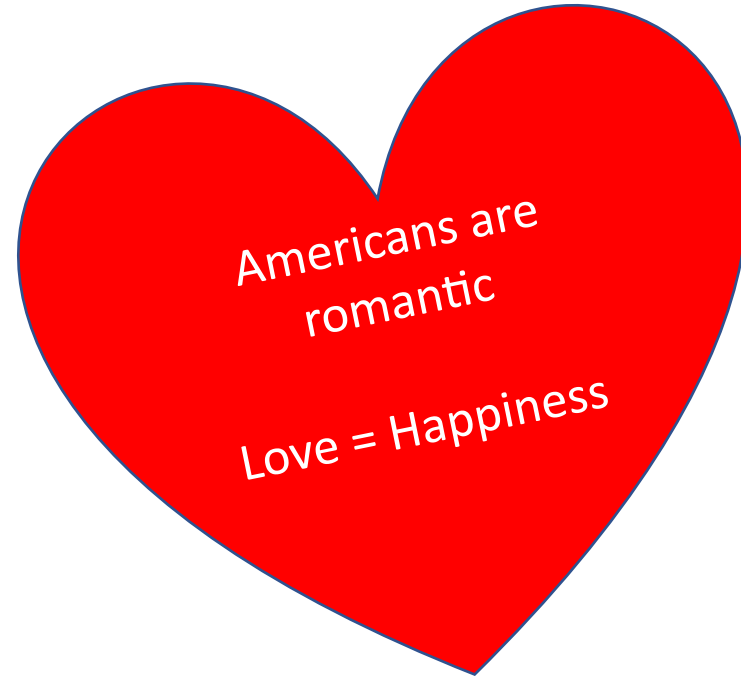
# Dating Culture in the United States

It all starts with “A Date”.....

- “A Date” - **two people** agree to go out together (do an activity)
- “A Date” is romantic –there is hope for romance.
- “A Date” is NOT about friendship!



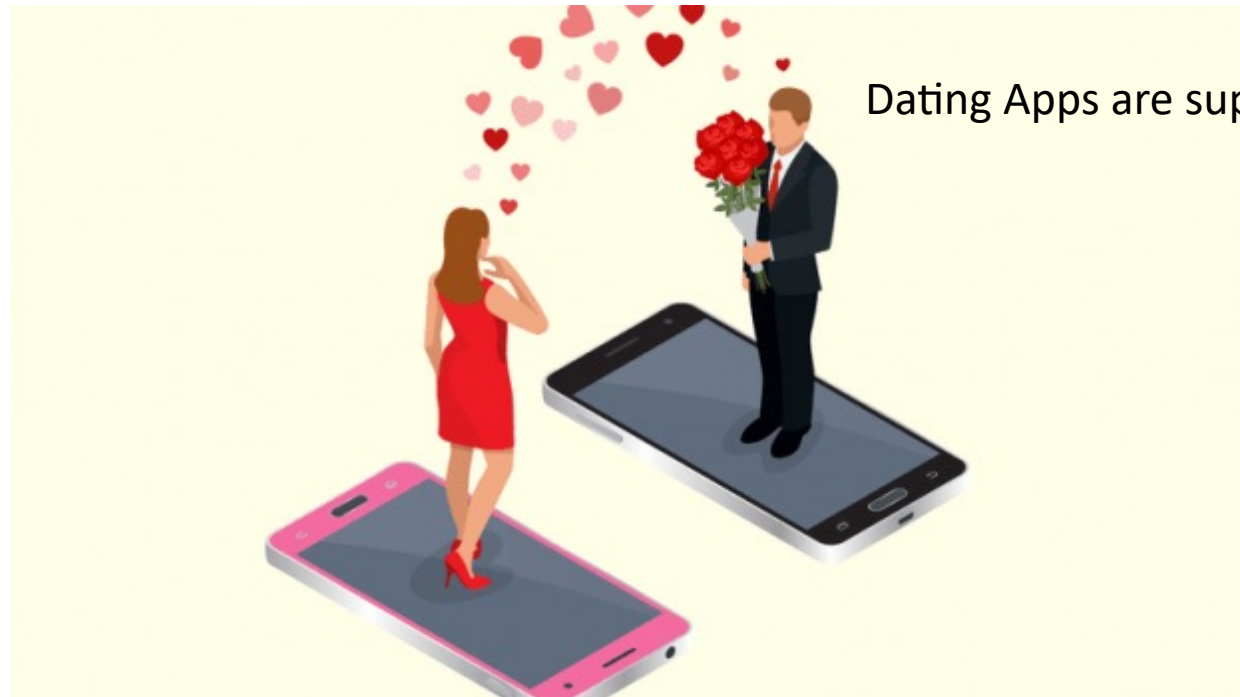
*Purpose of a date: looking for love!*



# Dating (Courtship) Culture in the United States

## Who can you date?

- Free to choose anyone. (Almost) anything goes!
- Usually based on **physical attraction**, personality, sense of humor
- No practical considerations needed
- Parents and family not involved

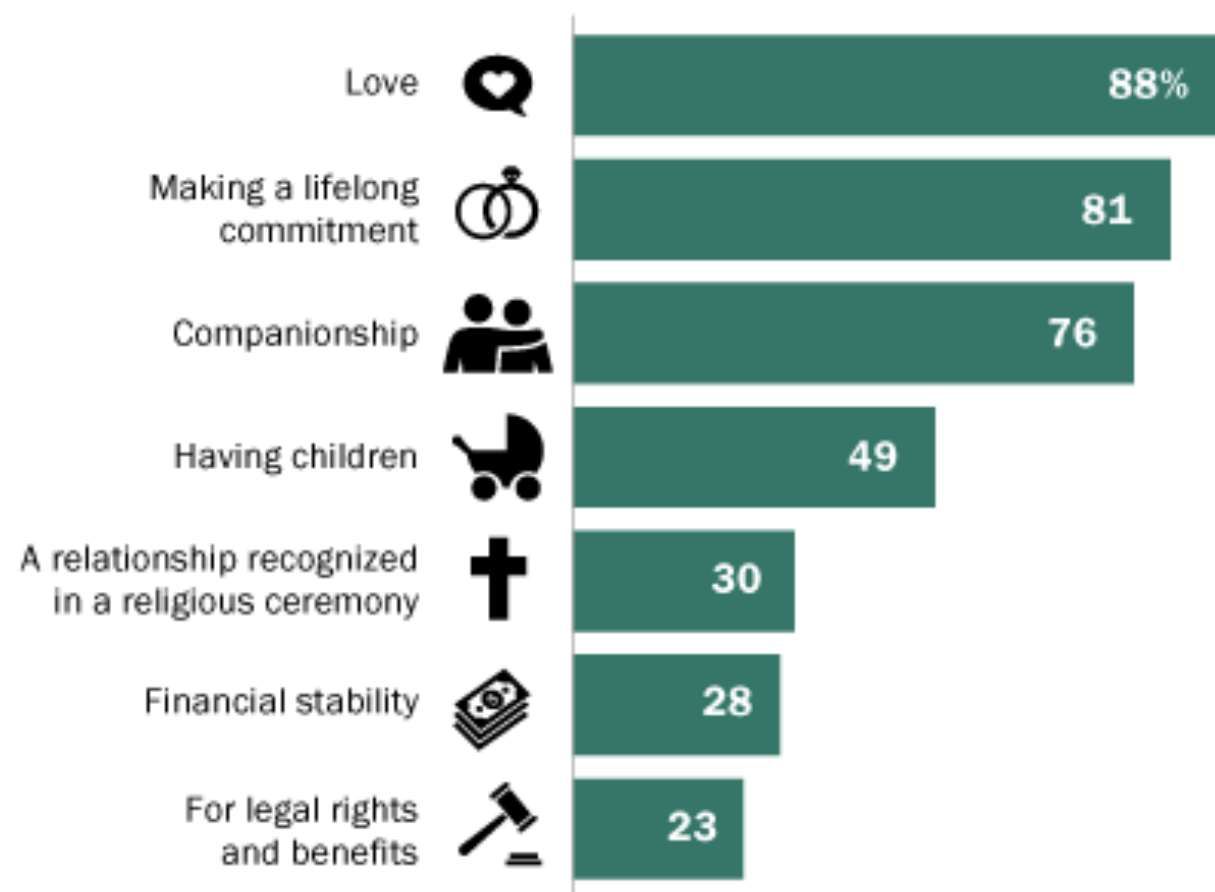


Dating Apps are super popular!



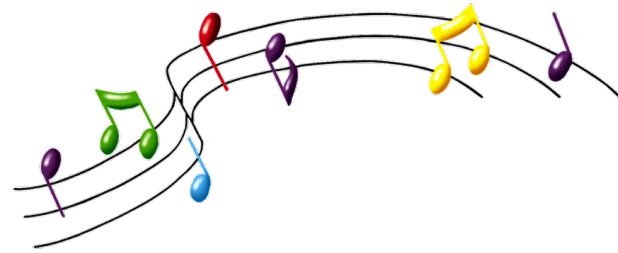
## Why get married?

*% of the general public saying \_\_\_ is a very important reason to get married*



Source: Survey conducted May 10-13, 2013 (online poll).

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One day my prince will come

And away to his castle we'll go

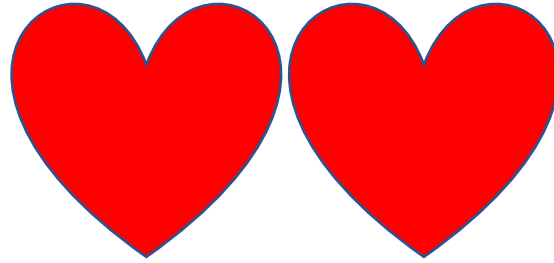
To be happy forever I know

--Snow White



# Conversation Practice

## Dating (Courtship) Culture



### Questions:

1. What are some dating taboos in your home culture?
2. What role, if any, do parents and family play in selecting a partner?
3. Do you agree or disagree that the most important reason to marry is for love?

Three steps to go from **single** to **committed relationship** –American style

### Step #1 The First Date

Julie and John are two **single** people

Julie is **attracted to** John

Julie “**asks John out on a date**”

Step #2 –The courtship

Julie and John “hit it off”

More dates follow. . .

They spend more and more time together

They become “a couple”

Step #3 – The committed relationship

They say the all important words "I love you"

Julie and John agree to become exclusive

Julie and John refer to each other as girlfriend and boyfriend

They are recognized by their family and friends as a couple

Gender neutral; terms: significant other, partner,