

The Dating Game

Objective: After playing this game, participants should:

- Understand that the current and past sexual experience of a partner can put you at risk
- Understand that a healthy-looking person can still have a disease
- Know that condoms are the best way to protect yourself from HIV/STIs

Materials:

For men: Six game cards, each with a picture of a different woman on it. The woman's sexual history (and infection if applicable) is written on the back of the card.

For women: Same as above with pictures and stories of male characters.

Twelve question cards (six for male characters, six for female characters), on one side of which one of the six questions is written, on the back are the answers to that question for each character.

Directions:

1. All six cards should be laid out on a table or on the ground with the pictures facing up. The facilitator invites the participant to play "The Dating Game" and the participant can choose three contestants from the six cards to play the game and win a date with him. The facilitator will give the occupation and background of each contestant only at this point to help the person with their choice.
2. Once the decision is made, the three cards that were not chosen should be put away. Next the participant looks at the question card and chooses three questions, one at a time.
3. The facilitator then reads the answers to each question from the back of the corresponding contestant card.
4. The participant may choose a total of three out of the six questions for the contestants to answer. After the three questions have been answered by each contestant, you enter the "final round" of the game and the participant must choose which of the contestants he wants to go on a "date" with based on what he has learned.
5. Once the participant has made the decision, the other cards are taken away until only the winner remains. Ask the participant why he/she chose that character. Ask the participant if he trusts him/her (the character) and believes he/she made the right choice. Congratulate the participant and inform them that they can now learn more about the winner. The facilitator should then read the sexual history from the back of the winning character card and flip the card over to show

whether this “date” has resulted in a sexually-transmitted infection or whether it was safe.

6. Discussion: If the winner turns out to have an infection, the facilitator should ask the group “Although this seemed like a great date, it turns out that he/she was infected with HIV (or other disease) and did not know it. Now, because you felt you trusted him/her and it was safe to have sexual relations, you are also at risk of HIV (or other disease on card). How could this have been prevented?”

If the winner did not have an infection, congratulate the participant on choosing a safe partner and ask the group: “Although it turned out that your date was healthy, you were not his/her first partner. You were lucky not to be exposed to any infection. How could you avoid this type of worry in the future?”

Answers might include: Learn the history of your partner, use a condom, have both partners get tested, etc.

7. The facilitator should sum up by telling the group that you cannot guess who might be at risk by their age or their background. Although you may trust someone you’ve been with a short time, anyone could be at risk and the best way to have fun is without worries...use a condom! If you’re in a serious relationship and want to stop using condoms, get tested first and then stay faithful to each other.

Tips on using the cards in a group setting: Try to involve the whole group by having all the participants decide collectively on three contestants and the questions that will be asked. After the questions have been answered, different participants can choose different contestants as their favorites and all those finally chosen will have their background revealed.

Messages to emphasize:

1. Healthy looking people can still be infected with a sexually-transmitted disease.
2. Anyone can be at risk if their partner has or had previous unprotected sex.
3. Correct and consistent use of a condom can reduce the risk of disease and prevent pregnancy. Condoms are for everyone!

Men:

Front of Card 1: 王忠华 – Businessman, age 34

Back of Card 1: Wang Zhonghua is frequently traveling on business and often goes to karaoke with his business associates. Sometimes he visits sex workers, and when he does he pays extra to avoid using condoms. **Wang is infected with HIV.**

Front of Card 2: 张云 – Truck Driver, age 32

Back of Card 2: Zhang Yun sometimes picks up girls when he is driving. Although he usually uses condoms, he is too embarrassed to buy them and several times has had sex without them because he didn't buy any. Luckily, Zhang avoided any infection.

Front of Card 3: 谭强 – Policeman, age 43

Back of Card 3: Tan Qiang was married early and faithful to his wife for many years. He never had other partners while married. He has only dated one woman since his divorce.

Front of Card 4: 陈林 – University Student, age 21

Back of Card 4: Chen Lin has only had one girlfriend while at university. However, his girlfriend had a boyfriend before him that dated many women. Because Chen was faithful to his girlfriend, they did not use condoms. **Chen is infected with genital herpes.**

Front of Card 5: 李金辉 – Army Officer, age 28

Back of Card 5: Li Jinhui often goes out to dance and party with his other army buddies. Sometimes they bring girls home. However, Li's older brother told him how important it was to always use condoms. Li makes sure he always carries a condom when he goes out.

Front of Card 6: 郑逸 – Accountant, age 40

Back of Card 6: Zheng Yi is shy and works a lot and thus has a hard time finding a girlfriend. He often visits the same sex worker who he likes very much. Because he goes to her regularly and does not have any other girlfriends, she does not use a condom with him. **Zheng is infected with gonorrhea.**

Women:

Front of Card 1: 田红 – Nurse, age 32

Back of Card 1: Chen Hong has only had one boyfriend in her life and was together with him for five years. However, while he was with her he had an affair with another woman in his office. Chen did not know about the affair, and never used condoms with her boyfriend. **Chen has chlamydia.**

Front of Card 2: 李春美 – University student, age 20

Back of Card 2: Li Chunmei has had several boyfriends in university. However, her best friend introduced her to condoms before she starting having sex, and she has always used them.

Front of Card 3: 孙煜 – Hair stylist, age 25

Back of Card 3: Sun Yu loves to go out with her friends but dreams of the perfect guy and still has not found a man that she likes. She has never had sex.

Front of Card 4: 张玲 – Fashion Designer, age 28

Back of Card 4: Zhang Ling meets a lot of attractive men in her line of work. She travels a lot and sometimes has sex with interesting men she meets while traveling. She doesn't use condoms because she feels it ruins the beautiful experience of love-making. **Zhang has Hepatitis B and gonorrhea.**

Front of Card 5: 王玥 – Dancer, age 23

Back of Card 5: Wang Yue had one love, a boy from the village where she grew up and neither of them was with anyone else before.

Front of Card 6: 吴秀红 – Businesswoman, age 35

Back of Card 6: Wu Xiuhong has not dated anyone for the last three years. She owns her own business and works very hard. However, when she was younger she dated a man who was injecting heroin and she did not know it. **Wu is infected with HIV.**

Questions and answers for question books:

1. What is your idea of the perfect date?

Men:

王忠华: Dinner at the finest restaurant with a bottle of champagne followed by a night in a king-size bed at a five-star hotel.

张云: Baijiu and karaoke and lots of laughter.

谭强: A dinner of spicy food followed by a night of Peking opera.

陈林: Staying up all night dancing at the concert of my favorite band.

李金辉: Riding on my motorcycle along the ocean and sleeping on the beach under the stars.

郑逸: Swimming and fishing in the lake and grilling freshly-caught fish for dinner.

Women:

田红: A car ride out to the country and a hike in the forest with a picnic lunch.

李春美: Climbing to the top of Huangshan and watching the sun rise.

孙煜: Dancing all night at my favorite club, going to shaokao and then falling asleep together in the grass in the park.

张玲: Flying to Paris for a fashion show, having dinner on the Eiffel Tower and then a moonlight walk along the river.

王玥: Swimming in the ocean, a long walk on the beach at sunset and a candlelight dinner outside under the stars.

吴秀红: A home-cooked dinner and snuggling on the sofa while watching a movie.

2. What is your ideal man/woman?

Men:

王忠华: A woman who respects and listens to her husband and is a good mother.

张云: A woman who knows how to cook and laughs at my jokes.

谭强: A woman who enjoys music and can cook delicious spicy tofu.

陈林: A girl who loves rock music and loves to dance.

李金辉: A girl who likes adventure and danger.

郑逸: A woman who is quiet and likes fishing.

Women:

田红: A man with a stable job who is a good father and will respect me.

李春美: A guy who makes a lot of money and likes to travel and see new places.

孙煜: A guy who brings me flowers and treats me like I'm the most important thing in his world.

张玲: A man with money who wears designer suits, drives a fast car and knows how to charm a woman just by looking at her.

王玥: Someone creative and beautiful that shares my dreams.

吴秀红: A man who is intelligent and caring.

3. What do you like to do in your free time?

Men:

王忠华: Go to dinner with my friends and go to nightclubs.

张云: Sing karaoke, drink and tell jokes with my friends.

谭强: Gamble and play mahjong.

陈林: Listen to music and chat with friends on the internet.

李金辉: Ride my motorcycle and play basketball with my friends.

郑逸: Read books and practice calligraphy.

Women:

田红: Reading and drinking tea with my friends.

李春美: Hiking and visiting new places.

孙煜: Go dancing at nightclubs and play mahjong with my friends.

张玲: Visiting art galleries and drinking wine with my friends.

王玥: Listening to music and writing poetry.

吴秀红: Cooking and going to the movies.

4. What is your dream in life?

Men:

王忠华: To be a millionaire.

张云: To be a famous singer.

谭强: To have a son who will take care of me when I'm older.

陈林: To own a recording company.

李金辉: To travel to America and meet Yao Ming.

郑逸: To own my own shop and sell my calligraphy.

Women:

田红: To have several children.

李春美: To travel to Europe and Africa.

孙煜: To own my own beauty salon.

张玲: To have my own fashion show in New York.

王玥: To dance at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

吴秀红: To expand my company to over 500 employees.

5. If you were given 5 million RMB, what would you do with it?

Men:

王忠华: Buy an apartment in Shanghai.

张云: Record a CD of myself singing Chinese nationalist songs.

谭强: Buy a house and retire.

陈林: Buy a recording studio and travel around China looking for new bands.

李金辉: Quit the army, buy a new motorcycle and travel the world.

郑逸: Buy a boat and a house on a lake.

Women:

田红: Buy a house and a car and save the rest for my children.

李春美: Spend two years traveling the world.

孙煜: Study hairdressing in Europe and then open a salon in Beijing.

张玲: Move to Shanghai and open my own clothing store.

王玥: Start my own dance troupe and tour all of China.

吴秀红: Buy a second apartment and expand my company.

6. Some people say making love is like driving a car. How do you like to drive?

Men:

王忠华: With me at the wheel, everyone enjoys the drive.

张云: I don't care how the drive is as long as I get to the destination.

谭强: I always drive slowly and carefully.

陈林: I drive slowly and take good care of my car.

李金辉: I like to drive fast in a car where I can shift the gears.

郑逸: I'm not a very good driver. Driving is fun but kind of scary.

Women:

田红: I can't drive. Wait. Huh? I don't think I understand the question.

李春美: Wow I like wild and fast driving.

孙煜: I think I would like any kind of driving as long as I was with a good driver.

张玲: I like long drives in big, luxurious cars.

王玥: I'm too embarrassed to answer that question.

吴秀红: I think that question is offensive.