

New Survey reveals that Irish men are amongst the least generous when it comes to Dating

Does your date fit the bill?

Dublin, 14th February 2011 - Irish men are amongst the least generous in the world when it comes to paying for a first date, according to new research from Europe's largest matchmaking website, PARSHIP. The research also reveals that traditional chivalrous values are out-of-date in modern Ireland.

Only 66 per cent would pick up the restaurant bill after a first date, ranking them 10th out of 13 in a worldwide survey by **PARSHIP**¹, the online dating site.

This compares with 90 per cent of men in Mexico, 89 per cent in Italy and 82 per cent in Austria.

However, Irish women heading out for romantic meal tonight can take some comfort from the fact that their date is likely to be marginally more generous than his UK counterpart: just over half (51 per cent) of British men would offer to pay the bill on a first date, only slightly ahead of the lowest-ranking Netherlands, where just 45 per cent pick up the bill.

The survey of almost 6,000 adults across 13 different countries suggests that traditional chivalry is more important to Irish women than those in Britain: just 9 per cent of Irish women would offer to settle the bill themselves, compared to 18 per cent in Britain.

But men shouldn't worry about that awkward moment at the end of the date when the restaurant bill arrives because almost a third (31 per cent) of women in Ireland insist on going Dutch.

What's my date really thinking?

Deciding who pays the bill may seem an insignificant moment on a first date, but it can send out important signals to your potential suitor.

While very few people expect to have a meal paid for, over half (54 per cent) of women and over a quarter (26 per cent) of men in Ireland think it charming or courteous if their date does settle the bill.

The research revealed that even among those who insist on going halves, over a quarter of women (27 per cent) and almost a third (32 per cent) of men would take it as a sign the other person was not interested.

Paula Hall, PARSHIP's relationship and compatibility expert, said: "The findings show just what a minefield dating can be.

“The moment at the end of the date when it comes to settling up can be very awkward and it’s important to realise that who pays is going to send out important signals to your date.

“Wanting to pay the bill is not just about being generous but indicates how much you have enjoyed the date. Suggesting going halves may suggest to your date they’re not worth it. However, the survey results indicate that many Irish women are now only too happy to go Dutch. It’s all about reading the situation.”

Paula Hall’s advice for a successful first date is stick to what you can afford and enjoy it.

“The most important thing when you are dating is to try and relax and ultimately have fun.”

PARSHIP is an online matchmaking services aimed specifically at people aged 28 to 55 who are serious about forming lasting relationships. It operates in 14 countries across Europe as well as Mexico.

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Note to editors:

¹The PARSHIP.co.uk member survey took place in December 2010, and all respondents are aged between 30-55 years. A total sample of 5,922 adults took part across 13 countries.

²Q. Imagine you are on a first date in a restaurant. The bill arrives. How do you react? A. I offer to settle the bill.

Country	Men
Mexico	90%
Italy	89%
Austria	82%
France	80%
Spain	79%
Sweden	77%
Denmark	75%
Germany	74%
Switzerland	73%
Ireland	66%
Belgium	53%
Great Britain	51%
Netherlands	45%

Country	Women
Netherlands	20%
Spain	18%
Great Britain	18%
Belgium	14%
Switzerland	12%
Mexico	12%
Ireland	9%
Denmark	9%
Italy	8%
France	7%
Austria	6%
Denmark	4%
Sweden	3%

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