

# Meeting the parents

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Vincent Muzzio



Vincent Muzzio  
Fort Worth Men's Relationship Advice  
Examiner

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It doesn't matter what age you are, when you are in a relationship, chances are, at some point, you will have to meet the parents of your date or significant other. This can be a very intimidating event. Being prepared will help increase the odds that her parents will like you.

That first time you meet her parents may be gut wrenching and fill you with butterflies. Do a little research before you meet them. Find out if the mother likes any particular type of flower or if the dad likes a specific brand of whiskey or wine. Presenting the parents

with a small gift is similar to getting flowers for a girl on the first date. It shows that you are thoughtful and respectful. However, do not get anything too extravagant or expensive as this may lead the parents to think that you are trying to suck up to them.

Be respectful and honest with the parents. When they ask you questions don't just give your response and leave it at that; engage them in conversation. Ask the

parents questions that show you genuinely want to get to know them. Talk about your upbringing and what your hobbies are. Discuss how you met their daughter and what you like about her. For example, the two of you met at the University of Texas while you were teamed up on a science project and found out how much the two of you had in common. Parents want to know that their daughter is in good hands and that you will take care of her and treat her well.

You will need to be prepared for the chance that the parents may not like you. If the parents don't like you it's not the end of the world. You are dating the daughter not the parents, so the best you can do is try to get along with them. In the case that the parents don't like you, give it time and continue to be respectful to them. They have a reason (valid or not) why they don't like you and they will need to get past that on their own. The best thing you can do is show them by example that you treat their daughter with respect and that their daughter enjoys spending time with you.

The more prepared you are to meet the parents the better you will be. For all you know the parents are just as nervous to meet you. Remember to be respectful, be yourself, and try to have a good time. These folks may be your in-laws some day.

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