

Speed Dating

Name:

Date:

Mr Bassi, from Hereford but of Italian descent, decided to get serious about finding a partner on reaching his mid-thirties, having spent the previous four years focusing on building up his management consultancy business.

He and a friend paid £20 for tickets for a speed-dating event run in the Zeta cocktail bar at the Hilton hotel in Mayfair, central London.

Mr Bassi, 36, said: "When I saw Caroline there was an immediate physical attraction. She was confident, spoke first and took control.

"We quickly moved beyond the surface level and talked about values such as honesty, empathy and passion which we were both looking for.

"I can honestly say I knew after those three minutes that I wanted to have a long-term relationship with her."

Miss Eversham, a special needs teacher from Reading, was there with two colleagues from St Mary's Primary in Islington, north London.

Her first potential suitor spilt his drink over her. "The first two or three encounters were a bit awkward," she said. "They were nice enough but there were a few too many hedge fund managers in suits.

"I spotted Mario across the room and felt a strong attraction, almost a sense of recognition. The three minutes passed quickly but we covered a lot of ground. I felt thoroughly entertained."

There followed a modern whirlwind romance involving e-mails, text messages and long telephone conversations.

The relationship blossomed and 20 days later, after a few glasses of wine, Miss Eversham told Mr Bassi that a psychic had told her a year earlier that she would meet, marry and have two children with a tall, 36-year-old man with an Italian connection, strong values but not much hair. He immediately proposed.

The couple's understandable enthusiasm for speed dating is shared by growing numbers of Britons.

Susan Quilliam, a relationship psychologist, said: "It might take you six to 12 months to meet as many eligible people in the course of everyday life as you would at a speed date event."

Adapted from *Three-minute speed date has couple rushing to the altar* by Nic Fleming, as published in the Daily Telegraph on 10 April 2004 <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1458947/Three-minute-speed-date-has-couple-rushing-to-the-altar.html>>

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A Join the words to make expressions in English.
How many can you find?

a bit	attraction
a long-term	awkward
an immediate	blossomed
a speed-dating	enough
a whirlwind	event
they were nice	life
everyday	physical attraction
felt a strong	relationship
the relationship	romance

B Look for the expressions in the article. Do you have the same?

Now, without looking at the article again, use the expressions above to tell your partner the story of what happened.
What do you remember?

C
