

BARBARA: I remember one of the first dates I ever went on  
There was nothing really exciting  
about it, but it seemed very special at the time.

I was 14, and I was very keen on a boy in my class. I  
wasn't sure he liked me  
particularly, but one day he wrote a note asking me to go  
and see a film at the cinema  
with him the following week. I wrote a note back, saying  
I'd like to, and we agreed  
where to meet. It seemed rather romantic that he didn't  
ask me directly, considering  
we saw each other at school every day. Somehow the fact  
that he wrote made it much  
more special. Of course, I was very excited, and spent the  
whole of the week  
planning what to wear, wondering what we'd talk about,  
and hoping it would go  
well.

When the evening finally arrived, I was all ready at  
least an hour before I needed  
to be, but I didn't want to arrive at our meeting place  
before he did. In the end we  
both arrived at the same time. We were both very shy and  
embarrassed, and hardly  
spoke to each other all evening. I paid for my ticket; I  
insisted on that, because  
neither of us had much money, and he didn't argue with  
me for long. The film wasn't  
very good, but that didn't matter, I was so pleased to be  
sitting next to him.

After that we went out together quite regularly for  
about six months, but we  
soon got more relaxed with each other and it never  
seemed quite as romantic again!

RICK: I had a very memorable date not long ago. I had only just  
started my job, and I didn't  
know many people in the company. Every year the  
company has a big party in  
December, just before Christmas, with dancing, and  
everybody dresses up and  
celebrates. All the staff take someone with them to the  
party - husbands, wives,  
boyfriends, girlfriends. Well, my problem was that I just  
couldn't think who to take.  
I was very worried, and I thought I would have to go  
alone, which I didn't want to  
do.

Two days before the party, a colleague in the office  
suggested that I should ask  
his sister to go to the party with me. He told me she was a  
student, and he thought I would like her. I agreed,  
because I thought that whatever she was like it would be  
better than being on my own. But I was rather nervous, I  
must admit. I'd never been on a blind date before.!

We met in a pub near the office before the party. My  
colleague was with his  
girlfriend, and he introduced me to his sister, who was  
called Ruth. I was feeling  
nervous and shy, but Ruth wasn't! She had plenty to talk  
about, and was very  
amusing. She was wearing a pink silk dress and looked  
fantastic.

We went straight to the party, and had drinks there to  
start with, before having  
a very good meal. Ruth and I were sitting on a table with

all the other people from my department. We laughed a lot and really enjoyed ourselves. After the meal the band started playing - it was a jazz band, Ruth was a very good dancer, and we danced till late in the evening.

It was great fun, a very successful evening. It was such a surprise, because I'd never met Ruth before, and I'd been worrying about the party for weeks.

That was our first date, and we've been going out together ever since!