

# Chapter 5: The Adolescent in Society

**Case Study:** [Teen Violence](#)

**Section 1:** [Understanding Adolescence](#)

**Section 2:** [Teenagers and Dating](#)

**Section 3:** [Challenges of Adolescence](#)

**Lab:** [Applying What You've Learned](#)

# Objectives

Content:

**SWBAT**

1. **Compare and contrast** dating and courtship
2. **Identify** the main factors that caused the emergence of dating
3. **List** 5 important functions of dating
4. **Explain** how dating patterns have changed in the U.S. overtime

Language:

**By**

1. **Writing** in a Venn-diagram
2. **Writing** in a cause and effect chart
3. **Note taking** in class
4. **Reviewing** notes

## Section 2 at a Glance

### Teenagers and Dating

- Dating, or the meeting of people as a romantic engagement, is most commonly found in societies that allow people to select their own marriage partners.
- Before the development of dating in the United States, the courtship system was the most common means through which unmarried men and women interacted.

## Section 2 at a Glance *(cont.)*

### Teenagers and Dating

- Traditional American dating patterns date back to social changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution and new forms of technology.
- Dating today serves many functions, including entertainment, socialization, the fulfillment of basic psychological needs, the achievement of social status, and the selection of a spouse.

# Teenagers and Dating

## Main Idea

Dating, which has undergone many changes over time, serves important social functions for many teenagers.

## Reading Focus

- What are dating and courtship?
- How did dating emerge as a form of social interaction?
- What are some of the social functions of dating?
- How are traditional and contemporary dating patterns different?

**SOCIOLOGY  
CLOSE UP**

## A Story of Star-Crossed Lovers



**How did a story of teenage love become one of the greatest romantic tragedies of all time?**

The story of Romeo and Juliet has inspired artists, poets, musicians, and writers for hundreds of years.

## Dating and Courtship

**Dating** is a recent phenomenon in the United States. It has become a more common form of interaction between the sexes.

### ***Dating***

- Main purpose is entertainment and amusement
- Can lead to serious relationship and/or marriage
- Most common method for selecting spouse in modern United States

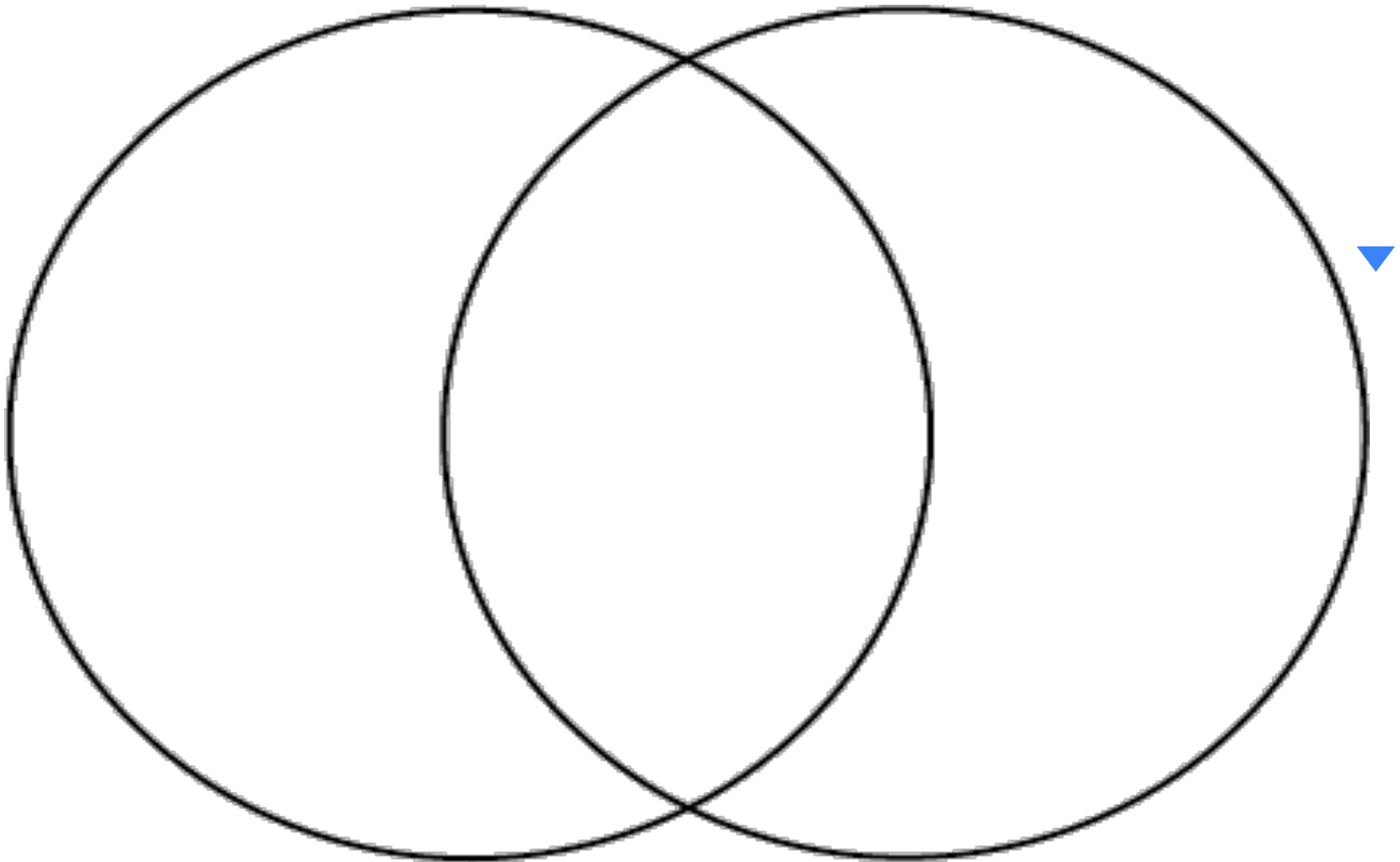
### ***Courtship***

- **Courtship** is less flexible than dating
- Designed to end in marriage
- Strictly defined roles for both parties
- Couple rarely left alone

# Reading Check

## Compare and Contrast

How are dating and courtship similar,  
and how are they different?





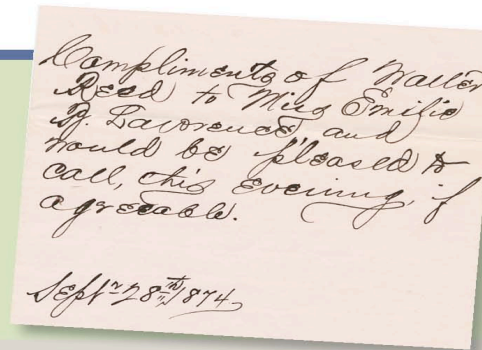
# Causes and Effects of Dating

Cause	→	Effect
Industrial Revolution	→	
Public Education	→	
Telephone	→	
Automobile	→	
Equality of Women	→	

Which cause do you think had the greatest effect?

## Courtship and Dating in the United States

For most of American history, young men and women socialized and selected spouses through courtship. Eventually, however, changing technologies and social patterns led to the decline of courtship and the development of dating. **How have new technologies changed dating in the United States?**



This letter from 1874 is an example of a request to visit in a formal courtship. It says "Compliments of Walter Reed to Miss Emile B. Lawrence, and would be pleased to call, this evening, if agreeable."

**Early History** Throughout the early history of the United States, most people were farmers, and men generally did not marry until their father gave them enough land to support a family. As a result, parents controlled the timing and circumstances of marriage.

**Formal Courtship** In formal courtship, roles were strictly defined, and the ultimate purpose was marriage. Young men had to ask permission to court a young woman. Couples usually met formally in the young woman's home, where they were closely supervised.

### The Industrial Revolution

During the Industrial Revolution, many young people left the farms and moved to cities to work. Free from their parents' economic control, young people began to interact more informally. Courtship declined, and dating began to develop.

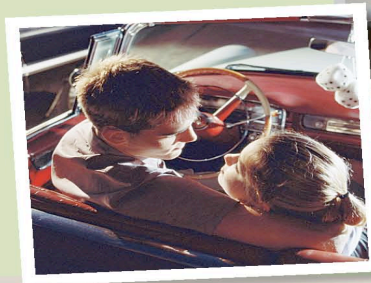


### Coeducational Public Schools

By the early 1900s most high schools were coeducational, which increased social interaction between young men and women through events such as school dances.

### The Telephone

After World War I, telephone use increased dramatically, which allowed more opportunities for direct, informal contact between young men and women.



### The Automobile

The automobile increased dating among young people. By the 1950s, young couples commonly went in cars on unsupervised dates to drive-in movie theaters and other events.



### Contemporary Dating

Today, dating is more diverse than ever before. Young people have a range of new technologies that give them more flexibility to arrange informal meetings in a wide range of places.

# The Emergence of Dating

- **Before industrialization**

- Marriages were dependent on a man inheriting agricultural land.
- Families played an important role in determining spouses.

- **Changes during industrialization**

- Young adults could earn money away from land, so parents became less involved in relationships.
- The rise of free public education brought the sexes together.
- After World War I, technologies such as the automobile and telephone gave young adults greater freedom.
- The 1920s saw an increase in opportunity and equality for women.

- **Goals of dating**

- Researchers find evidence that men and women choose those of equal status to date, as a function of **homogamy**—the tendency of individuals to marry people with social characteristics similar to their own.

## Reading Check


### Identify Cause and Effect

What factors led to the emergence of dating in the United States?

**Answer:** *Industrial Revolution, public education, telephone, cars, and equality of women*



# Functions of Dating

- Dating serves several important functions in adolescence.
  - These functions might occur at different stages of a relationship, and each may carry more or less weight at various stages.
- 

## *Functions*

- Entertainment
- Socialization
- Basic psychological needs such as conversation, companionship, and understanding
- Status attainment
- Spouse selection

## Reading Check

### Summarize

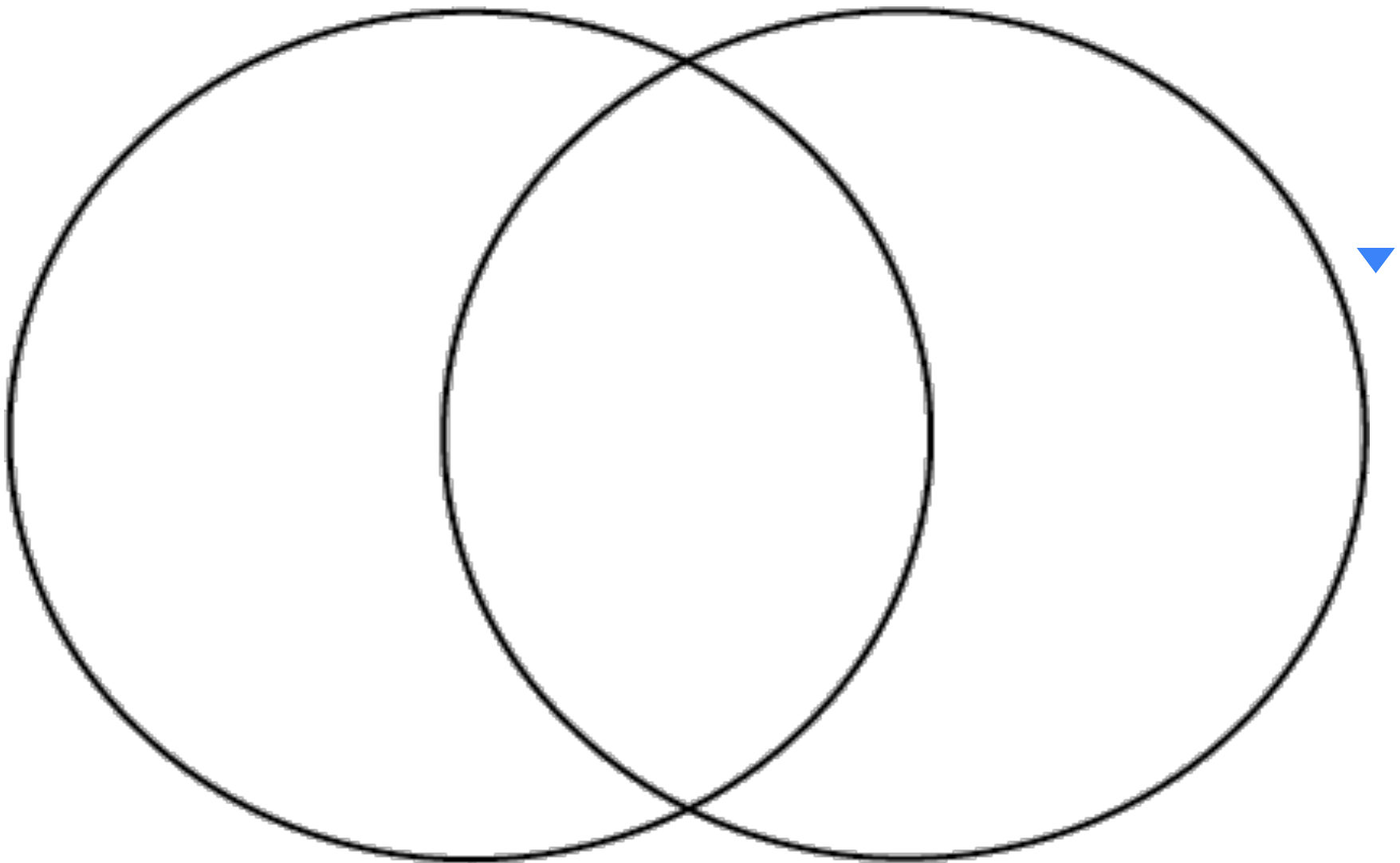
What are five important functions of dating?

**Answer:** *entertainment, socialization, conversation and companionship, status obtainment, spouse selection*

## Reading Check

### Compare and Contrast

How are traditional dating patterns and contemporary dating patterns similar and different?



# Dating Patterns

## Traditional Dating Patterns

- Responsibility for organizing a date falls to the man
- Behavior is highly ritualized

## Contemporary Dating Patterns

- Both sexes initiate and organize dates
- Relationships are based on friendship

## Amish Dating Patterns

- Begin courting around age 16
- Opportunities occur at formal events
- Dating is done with marriage in mind



## TECHNOLOGY FOCUS

### The Science of Attraction

Have you ever thought about why you are you attracted to someone? Using the latest technology to study the science behind attraction, scientists have discovered that most men and women prefer their partners' to have symmetrical faces. Other studies have also shown that people tend to be attracted to people who look very similar to themselves. In a study in Scotland, scientists used computer-graphic technology to morph photographs of college students' faces into the opposite sex. However, the students were not aware that they were viewing morphed photos of themselves. After viewing all of the photos of the opposite sex, most students preferred the morphed photos.

In addition to discovering that opposites do not usually attract, scientists have used technology to study other factors in attraction, such as the ability to "smell" genes. In one study, researchers gave t-shirts saturated with male sweat



These photos show a male face morphed into a female face. Scientists use this advanced computer technology to study people's reactions to appearance.

to female participants. The results astounded the researchers—the women preferred the odor of the men who shared genes similar to their own. Today, scientists continue to investigate the role of odors and certain chemicals humans may emit to attract the opposite sex. Science may one day determine whether the eyes or nose really knows who you should be attracted to.

#### Thinking Critically

**Analyze** Do you think most celebrities who are considered beautiful by society have faces that are symmetrical?

## Reading Check

### Analyze

How have dating patterns changed in the United States over time?

**Answer:** *become more informal and flexible, with greater gender equality*