

ORAL MEDIATION TECHNIQUE – LESSON 1

STEP 1

Student A reads Giles Coren's text

Student B reads Victoria Coren's text

- 1) Read the text once.
- 2) Summarise with your own words the information in the text.
- 3) Think about: what is the tone of the article?
Is it serious, entertaining, sarcastic, exaggerate, provocative...?

STEP 2

- 1) In two minutes maximum explain your texts to each other.
- 2) The other student takes notes of what they hear.
- 3) Once you both have explained your texts, you will compare your notes with the original version.



Giles Coren

A new app offers to help single people find a partner by uniting them not with others who like the same things, such as opera, but with people who share their dislikes. It's called 'Hate' and strikes me as quite brilliant. 'Good food, great music, and lovely conversation...' Ugh. The idea that a romantic French movie is about sharing your stupid bad idea is deluded and childish. Love is about making something completely new, making individuals, not finding other to take those individuals can do together to take their minds off how boring and unsexy the other one is.

My wife and I have absolutely no interests in common. None. But we do love hating things together. From the moment that I was revealed my eyes, she could see me, tell people, and by the way, not only that, but as I knew from the first kiss that this was a woman who had no time for scandals on men, asking supermarket own-brand too paper or for washed fish. Indeed, it later turned out that the main thing she liked about me was that I laughed when she was rude about our friends, whereas all her previous boyfriends had said, 'Why can't you just be nice?'

But being nice is meaningless. Liking things is weak. One natural human hatred of things should be indulged every day. Hating a natural and fine and people want to do it. Celebrate the things you dislike every day and you'll feel much better – and probably find love.



Victoria Coren Mitchell

Hate promises to bond potential lovers over things they loathe. Overturning the traditional cherry positives, Hate allows eager singletons to form relationships based on their mutual aversions instead. Boy, let's really get that negativity out there! More openly expressed hatred in the world – just what we need!

Nevertheless, like most apps, it would pass the time happily enough at a bus stop. If someone else at the same bus stop were also on the app, simultaneously swiping their own dislike of cat calendars or people who walk too slowly in the street, that would make a decent start for flirtation.

And yet, and yet. One of the key dangers of the internet is that it encourages us to give everything an immediate verdict, a thumbs up or down (and usually negative, and we forget to be kind.

The search for love has always motivated us to make an effort; on first dates, we are usually our best selves. Our hair is at its cleanest, our interest is sharpest, our smiles their readiest. That's why dating questionnaires traditionally list the things we enjoy: it's a shop window for the happy life we are offering a prospective partner. And surely, the longer you keep trying to be your best, and most cheerful self, the happier life will be? It can't be wise to start complaining before you've even had your first date. When it comes to finding a partner, discovering the things you both love is a far healthier start.