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TOM TOM ENGLISH



Who should pay on a date?

VOCABULARY

Tricky =

Difficult or awkward

Split it down the middle =

Divide the cost of
something equally
between two people.

On me, on him=

That person pays for
the whole bill. "Don't
worry, it's on me"

Contribute =

To give part of the
money towards
something

Read the article overleaf and discuss these questions:

1. Who do you think should pay on a first date? Why?
2. How about for a second or third date? Is your answer different? Why? Why not?
3. Men: would you be happy if a woman offered to "go dutch" on a date? Why? Why not?
4. Women: do you prefer to split the bill? Or do you prefer if the man pays?
5. What do you think about the comments from Japanese netizens? Which ones do you most agree with? Which do you disagree with? Why?

VOCABULARY

Affluent =

Having lots of money

Go Halves =

Divide the cost of
something equally
between two people

Furious =

Very angry

Go Dutch =

Divide the cost of
something equally
between two people

Embarrassment

=

A feeling of shame or
awkwardness

The issue of who should pay on a date can be a **tricky** one. Do you split it evenly? Should the one who asked for the date be the one to pay? Should the man always pay?

In some countries it seems fair for a hopeful couple to split the bill equally. But in Japan some men can feel **embarrassed** if the woman offers to pay. He may feel that the woman thinks his salary is low.

Splitting it down the middle does seem quite common in Japan among younger couples. University students often don't have much money. Among that group, often the woman will ask the man what her share of the bill should be. Then the man will either tell her that it's **on him**, or will calculate her half of the bill. Sometimes, to be chivalrous, guys will ask the girl for less than 50%. That way, the girl gets to **contribute**, but the guy still gets to feel like he's treating her.

An American woman told a story of her date with a Japanese man. She was an English teacher and had a low salary. He was an **affluent** businessman. He guy took her to a fancy restaurant and tried to impress her. He ordered many expensive dishes and expensive wine. As an American she felt that she should always **go halves** on dates, so when the bill came, she was **furious**. It was too expensive for her.

The guy was also upset because he wanted to treat her to a fancy dinner. This was a bad result for both of them.

Even among Japanese couples, the issue of who should pay on a date is very difficult. A self-help book recently published in Japan wrote that women spend a lot of time and money on being beautiful for dates. So, men should pay in exchange for the woman's time and beauty.

Here's what some of Japan's netizens had to say on that subject:

"If men understood how much time and money women have to spend on looking beautiful, they would understand that they should pay"

"I only ever **go Dutch** dates, but if a woman came to a date with me without any makeup on I'd just walk off and leave her."

"It's **embarrassing** for me not to pay the full total on a date. Don't you guys have any pride?"

"Some girls **embarrass** me by thanking me way too much if I pay. It's not necessary and feels awkward."

"I used to think, why should I pay? But these days I want to pay. It's a point of pride."

"Sometimes it's cute when a girl shyly pulls out her wallet on a date. But that can get **embarrassing**. I like to pay when she goes to the bathroom."

"I'd gladly pay for a girl... if I could ever get a date, that is!"