

Online Dating



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What is the most traditional form of meeting a romantic partner in your country?
2. How do you feel about online dating?
3. Do you know any couples who met online?
4. What risks are there when using online dating services?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. steady | a) a brief description of a person |
| ___ 2. profile | b) to put information up (e.g., online) for others to see |
| ___ 3. mutual friend | c) an experience that is worse than you imagined |
| ___ 4. the dating scene | d) the perfect relationship |
| ___ 5. swear by | e) regular, not changing |
| ___ 6. database | f) a lifestyle of actively looking for romance |
| ___ 7. match made in heaven | g) to express one's strong belief in |
| ___ 8. filter | h) a systematic record of information |
| ___ 9. nightmare | i) a program that separates a user's unwanted data from wanted data |
| ___ 10. post | j) not real |
| ___ 11. marital status | k) a person that you and someone else both know |
| ___ 12. fake | l) the present stage of one's relationship (e.g., divorced, separated, married, single) |

Reading

ONLINE DATING

Looking for love

1. Finding a romantic partner can sometimes feel like a full-time job. When your friends are all in **steady** relationships, you may feel even more alone. Many singles turn to online dating. Dating sites and apps allow you to preview the **profiles** of other singles in your area.
2. People try online dating for different reasons. Some men and women are tired of being set up by **mutual friends**. Others are too shy to approach people of the same or opposite sex. Divorced singles may find it the most comfortable way to get back into **the dating scene**.
3. There are many different dating sites and apps to choose from. Some couples **swear by** a specific one. After finding each other's profiles in a large **database**, they describe their relationship as a **match made in heaven**. In truth, their match was made with Internet **filters**.
4. Some online dating experiences can be described as a **nightmare**. Not all users are honest in their profiles. Users may **post** outdated photos or lie about their job or **marital status**. There are also **fake** profiles that turn out to be salespeople selling products or services. Some sites make it difficult for users to take down their profiles at a later date.
5. Would you tell friends and family if you met your match through an online dating service? Everyone will ask where you met your special someone.

Did you know?

The busiest day for people to use online dating is the first Sunday after New Year's.

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What situation makes singles feel more isolated?
2. According to the reading, why are dating sites and apps helpful for singles?
3. How are matches made on dating sites?
4. Why is it difficult to trust the appearance of people who use online dating service sites?
5. According to the reading, who might post a fake profile online?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. Don't get married until you have had a _____ relationship.
2. You must _____ a recent photo when you create an online profile.
3. My sister _____ online dating. She has met many nice men online.
4. Allen is a _____. I know him from hockey, and Lisa knows him from work.
5. Profiles that seem too good to be true are usually _____.
6. His _____ says *Divorced*, but he still wears a wedding ring.

B. Synonyms or Antonyms

Are the following words synonyms or antonyms?

#	Words	Synonyms or Antonyms?
1	database / records	
2	post / take down	
3	profile / summary	
4	nightmare / disaster	
5	steady / shaky	

Discussion

1. Is it possible to “date” someone for a while without actually meeting the person?
2. How does online dating differ from “blind dating”?
3. What do you know about online dating in other countries? Is it more or less acceptable than in your country?
4. Do couples who meet online have an equal chance at romance as couples who meet in person?
5. How would you feel if your romantic partner didn’t take down his/her online dating profile?
6. Why do you think January is the most popular month for online dating?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate’s name:	What is the best part about online dating? What is the worst part?	What do you think people lie about most on their dating profiles?	What is the best way to find a match made in heaven?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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2. People try online dating for different reasons. Some men and women are tired of being set up by _____ friends. Others are too shy to approach people of the same or opposite sex. Divorced singles may find it the most comfortable way to get back into the dating _____.
3. There are many different dating sites and apps to choose from. Some couples _____ a specific one. After finding each other's _____ in a large _____, they describe their relationship as a _____ made in heaven. In truth, their match was made with Internet _____.
4. Some online dating experiences can be described as a _____. Not all users are honest in their profiles. Users may _____ outdated photos or lie about their job or _____ status. There are also _____ profiles that turn out to be salespeople selling products or services. Some sites make it difficult for users to take down their profiles at a later date.
5. Would you tell friends and family if you met your match through an online dating service? Everyone will ask where you met your special someone.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about and discuss online dating. They review new vocabulary and survey their classmates about this topic.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1–1.5 hours

TAGS: discussion, love, Valentine’s Day, online dating, New Year’s, single, date, dating, romance

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. e | 3. k | 5. g | 7. d | 9. c | 11. l |
| 2. a | 4. f | 6. h | 8. i | 10. b | 12. j |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with. Discuss the New Year’s statistic.

Comprehension

- When all of your friends are already in relationships, it is more difficult to date.
- Singles can search through profiles in an online database and find other singles in their area.
- A filter system is used to separate items in profiles and provide a suitable match.
- Some people post old or fake photos of themselves.
- A salesperson might post a fake profile on an online dating service.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. steady | 3. swears by | 5. fake |
| 2. post | 4. mutual friend | 6. marital status |

B. SYNONYMS OR ANTONYMS?

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. synonyms | 3. synonyms | 5. antonyms |
| 2. antonyms | 4. synonyms | |

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

- steady, profiles
- mutual, scene
- swear by, profiles, database, match, filters
- nightmare, post, marital, fake