

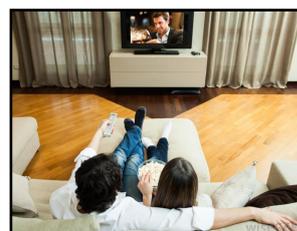
Unit 7:

Online Dating

A Warm-up

1. Match the date activities with the photos below.

- a) sports game b) dinner c) amusement park d) staying in e) park f) dance club g) a movie theatre



2. What are the best activities for a first date? Rank the activities from best (1) to worst (7).

3. How do young people meet potential partners in your country?

B Vocabulary

1. Match the words from the Academic Word List with their definitions.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| a) initial (adj) | ___ a change |
| b) conclude (v) | ___ believe; determine |
| c) declining (adj) | ___ a reason to do something |
| d) infinite (adj) | ___ not like anything else |
| e) incentive (n) | ___ view; way of looking at things |
| f) perception (n) | ___ first |
| g) shift (n) | ___ dropping |
| h) unique (adj) | ___ having no limit; going forever |

2. Phrasal verb focus:

1. Match the meaning of **take off** with its use in the example sentences:

- to remove clothing
- to start flying
- to become popular or successful
- to leave suddenly
- not go to work or school

- ___ Take your shoes off before coming inside.
 ___ That Internet business has really taken off.
 ___ I feel a bit sick, so I'm going to take the day off.
 ___ The party is over. We had better take off.
 ___ My flight took off 30 minutes late.

2. Please choose the definition that best matches the meaning of **come about**:

- to leave
- to arrive
- to happen

3. Personalization

- What incentive do you have to graduate from university?
- Do you usually take part in school festivals?
- Who is the most unique person you know?
- Why do you think the birthrate in Japan is declining?
- What do you conclude is the best way to increase the birthrate?

C While Reading

Complete the following exercises while reading the article on the next page.

- Fill in the blanks with the words from Vocabulary exercise 1.
- Find the phrasal verb *take off*, and circle it. What is its meaning in this article? _____
- Find and circle the phrasal verb *come about*. Did you choose the correct definitions?

Finding Love Online



In the classic 1998 movie *You've Got Mail*, the two main characters meet in an Internet chat room and develop a romance over many long, personal emails. At the time of the movie's release, meeting a partner online was _____ because people didn't think of the Internet as a dating tool.

Things are very different now. The long, romantic e-mails in the 1998 movie seem old-fashioned compared to the quick messages sent on online dating services today. While traditional romances take months to develop in the real world, smartphones and dating apps help relationships develop much faster. Online dating has taken off, and the world of romance has changed forever.

In the beginning, online dating was mostly popular with social groups who had a very limited number of potential partners. Gay people and divorced people were early users of online matchmaking services. Most people had a negative _____ about meeting partners over the Internet, and users who took part in online dating usually kept their activities secret.

But online dating is not a private, embarrassing activity anymore. More and more people think it's a good way to meet people. Now approximately 120,000 marriages every year come about because of online dating. These days it is also part of how many young people spend time with friends and entertain themselves. Instead of going to an expensive dinner and talking to one person, people can stay at home and talk to 15 people.

However, there may be some problems to this trend. Some psychologists _____ that online dating makes it difficult for some people to commit to one partner, and this is leading to a _____ towards short-term dating. Some even blame rising divorce rates on online dating; they say there is no _____ for couples to stay together if it is so easy to find someone new. In some modern societies with _____ birthrates, this could become a problem.



Maybe the generation that has grown up on social media doesn't know how to communicate with each other face-to-face. Some experts say modern young people form impressions of each other based on social media profiles instead of forming real connections. Is this healthy? Is it possible to find true love in a world where people communicate through screens? And can partners trust each other when they know there is an _____ selection of other people looking for love?

Well, online dating shows no signs of slowing down. In the near future, it will not only be an easy way to meet a partner; it is predicted to become the most common way that couples meet and make _____ communication. According to one study, one in two relationships will start online by the year 2031.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. These days we use the Internet to do our shopping, pay our bills, reserve movie tickets and order pizza. Maybe it's natural for more and more of us to find love online as well.

Notes

apps

matchmaking services

online dating

D Check Your Understanding

Circle true (T) or false (F) for the following statements about the article.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. In the movie <i>You've Got Mail</i> , the online dating is quite similar to dating today. | T / F |
| 2. In the early days of online dating, people were embarrassed about it. | T / F |
| 3. Men quickly commit to one woman in the online dating world. | T / F |
| 4. Online dating may bring some negative effects to society. | T / F |
| 5. Online dating is probably going to increase in the future. | T / F |

E What Do You Think?

1. Circle your answers for the dating comparability test below.

Compatibility Test

Which word best describes your personality?	active	relaxed	uptight	
Which of these do you enjoy most in your free time?	sports	reading	movies/TV	singing karaoke
What kind of pets do you like?	dogs/cats	hamsters	birds	I don't like animals!
Where would you like to travel?	Asia	Europe	North America	Africa
How many children would you like to have in the future?	more than 2	1 or 2	No kids for me!	I'm not sure
What kind of music do you most enjoy?	rock	pop	classical	jazz
Where do you usually spend Saturday night?	party or club	home watching TV	movie theater	at a bar
What kind of movie do you like best?	action	comedy	animation	documentary
What's the most important quality in a potential partner?	appearance	personality	job	hobbies/ interests

2. Check your classmates' answers. Who are you compatible with?

3. Further Discussion

- Do you think online dating is a good way to meet a potential partner?
- Do you know anyone who has met their boy/girlfriend online?
- Why do you think online dating has grown in popularity?
- What are some risks of online dating?