

## Chinese women spend \$30 million on virtual boyfriends

5th February, 2018



A new dating app in China is very popular with women. It is so popular that Chinese women are spending over \$30 million a month on it. It is a little different from the usual

dating app because the boyfriends are not real. There are just four single men on the app and they are all virtual boyfriends. Women have to role-play dating the four boyfriends. They have to use real money to buy "Purple Diamonds" from the app. They then spend their Purple Diamonds in the app to go on dates and keep their relationships going. The app is called Love and Producer. It is currently the biggest money earner on Apple's App Store in China. Players spent over 200 million Chinese Yuan (\$30 million) on playing it last month.

A market research company said the app has more than two million daily active users. The vast majority of these are women in their early 20s. The company said users love the idea of romance and fun. A 19-year-old student at Wuhan University explained why she liked the app. She said: "It's like a romantic novel with fascinating voices. It's more real than reading a novel." She said she loved the app's "delicate drawings," as well as the "great voices" of the four male characters. Another young Chinese woman said: "I don't have a boyfriend, so I'm happy to have a relationship with a "paper partner". She also liked getting e-mail and chat messages from her virtual boyfriends.

Sources: [qz.com](http://qz.com) / [scmp.com](http://scmp.com) / [japantimes.co.jp](http://japantimes.co.jp)

## Writing

Virtual boyfriends and girlfriends are better than real ones. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

dating / app / popular / boyfriends / virtual / role play / relationships / last month / market research / daily / active users / romance / novel / fascinating / drawings / chat

## True / False

- It takes Chinese women a month to spend \$30 million on the app. T / F
- There are only four virtual boyfriends on the dating app. T / F
- Users of the app have to buy purple diamonds to go on dates. T / F
- The app is the biggest-selling app on Apple's App Store worldwide. T / F
- The app has more than three million active daily users. T / F
- Most of the app's users are women in their early 30s. T / F
- A young woman said she didn't like the drawings on the app. T / F
- A woman liked getting chat messages from the virtual boyfriends. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>popular</b>     | a. unmarried   |
| 2. <b>spending</b>    | b. more than   |
| 3. <b>single</b>      | c. pleased     |
| 4. <b>currently</b>   | d. huge        |
| 5. <b>over</b>        | e. well-liked  |
| 6. <b>vast</b>        | f. interesting |
| 7. <b>idea</b>        | g. adored      |
| 8. <b>fascinating</b> | h. paying out  |
| 9. <b>loved</b>       | i. concept     |
| 10. <b>happy</b>      | j. presently   |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are the bad things about dating apps?
- What is your favourite app, and why?
- What do you think of romance?
- Why might this dating app be better than reading a novel?
- How happy could a virtual partner make you?
- What kind of chat messages might the app send to people?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of the app company?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. A new dating app in China is very
  2. It is a little different from the usual
  3. Women have to role-play
  4. go on
  5. It is currently the biggest money
  6. the app has more than two million
  7. The vast majority
  8. It's like a romantic
  9. the great voices of the
  10. chat
- a. messages
  - b. dates
  - c. daily active users
  - d. dating app
  - e. four male characters
  - f. novel
  - g. popular with women
  - h. of these are women
  - i. earner
  - j. dating the four boyfriends

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of this dating app?
- b) What are the good things about dating apps?
- c) What do you think of virtual boyfriends and girlfriends?
- d) Why is the dating app more popular with women?
- e) What do you think of role-playing apps?
- f) Would you spend money on dating virtual partners?
- g) What is your idea of a perfect date?
- h) Are real partners better than virtual partners?

## Spelling

1. very paulrop with women
2. different from the alusu dating app
3. four slqnei men
4. snedp their Purple Diamonds
5. keep their psasnerohltii going
6. currently the biggest money anerer
7. two million daily icavet users
8. The vast iyroatjm of these are women
9. a amicrnot novel
10. the app's eteadcli drawings
11. the four male accrcthaes
12. chat geeassms

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. j	5. b
6. d	7. i	8. f	9. g	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Roses

You think roses are the most romantic things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): love songs, moonlight or candles.

### Role B – Love Songs

You think love songs are the most romantic things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): roses, moonlight or candles.

### Role C – Moonlight

You think moonlight is the most romantic thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): love songs, roses or candles.

### Role D – Candles

You think candles are the most romantic things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): love songs, moonlight or roses.

## Speaking – Romance

Rank these with your partner. Put the most romantic things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- poetry
- I love you
- candles
- French restaurant
- roses
- chocolates
- love song
- moonlight

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.