

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 3 – 11th December, 2020

Japan to use artificial intelligence to match couples

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Japan is trying to get more men and women to go on dates. It wants to increase its birth rate because there are fewer and fewer babies being born. Japan is going to use artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help residents find love. The government has decided to use \$19 million next year to set the software up. There are already matchmaking services in half of Japan's 47 prefectures. These involve filling out forms and answering questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people based on the answers. Some prefectures are now starting AI projects to automate the system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get better matches.

The government hopes the project will increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. The average number of children a Japanese woman is expected to have in her lifetime is 1.36. This figure is continuing to go down, which is why the government is trying the AI programme. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help reverse the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is rapidly ageing because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is the highest in the world. This is a problem for the economy. There are fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs of retired people.

Sources: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/12/07/national/japan-ai-funding-matchmaking/>
<https://uk.reuters.com/article/japan-matchmaking-ai/love-match-tokyo-to-help-fund-japanese-ai-cupid-upgrades-report-idUKKBN28H19G>
<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1209370.shtml>

WARM-UPS

1. MATCHMAKING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about matchmaking. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

dates / birth rate / artificial intelligence / residents / love / software / system / data / government / fertility rate / average / figure / decline / population / pension / welfare

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. A.I.: Students A **strongly** believe A.I. is the best way to match couples who want to fall in love; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. MATCH: How good are these at matching people who want to find love? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good Things	Bad Things
A.I.		
Parents		
Friends		
A boss		
Matchmaker		
A dating app		

5. ARTIFICIAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "artificial". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. FIRST DATE: Rank these with your partner. Put the best first dates at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Movie theatre
- Hiking
- A museum
- Restaurant lunch
- A disco / club
- A bar
- An amusement park
- Picnic on the beach

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. increase | a. Made or produced by human beings, rather than occurring naturally. |
| 2. birth rate | b. Become or make bigger in size, amount, intensity, or degree. |
| 3. artificial | c. Put two people together because it is likely they will like each other. |
| 4. match | d. A person who lives somewhere permanently or on a long-term basis. |
| 5. resident | e. The number of babies born per thousand of population per year. |
| 6. involve | f. Detailed examination of something. |
| 7. analysis | g. Include something as a necessary part or result. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 8. fertility | h. A number showing the middle value (number) in a set of data by dividing the total of all the values (numbers) by how many values (numbers) there are. |
| 9. average | i. Very quickly; at a great rate. |
| 10. expected | j. The ability to have children. |
| 11. reverse | k. Believed or thought that something would happen. |
| 12. rapidly | l. Long life. |
| 13. longevity | m. Go backward. |
| 14. pension | n. A regular payment made by the government to people of or above the official retirement age. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Japan wants more men and women to start dating. **T / F**
- b. A new A.I. project will help residents find love. **T / F**
- c. Nearly a third of Japan's prefectures have a matchmaking service. **T / F**
- d. The article says humans matchmaking get better matches than A.I. **T / F**
- e. Japan has one of the highest fertility rates in the world. **T / F**
- f. The average Japanese woman will have 1.36 children during her life. **T / F**
- g. The article says Japanese people are ageing because they exercise. **T / F**
- h. The number of younger Japanese workers is increasing. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. increase | a. existence |
| 2. match | b. evaluation |
| 3. residents | c. wants |
| 4. filling out | d. suit |
| 5. analysis | e. quickly |
| 6. hopes | f. grow |
| 7. lifetime | g. decrease |
| 8. decline | h. youthful |
| 9. rapidly | i. citizens |
| 10. younger | j. completing |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. get more men and women | a. answering questions |
| 2. It wants to increase its | b. services |
| 3. there are fewer and fewer | c. decline |
| 4. matchmaking | d. to go on dates |
| 5. These involve filling out forms and | e. rate |
| 6. Japan's fertility | f. retired people |
| 7. expected to have in | g. birth rate |
| 8. help reverse the | h. for women |
| 9. The longevity rate | i. babies being born |
| 10. pension and welfare costs of | j. her lifetime |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Japan is trying to get more men and women to go on (1) _____. It wants to increase its birth rate because there are fewer and fewer babies being born. Japan is going to use artificial intelligence (AI) to match (2) _____ and help residents find love. The government has decided to use \$19 million next year to set the (3) _____ up. There are already matchmaking services in (4) _____ of Japan's 47 prefectures. These involve filling out (5) _____ and answering questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people (6) _____ on the answers. Some prefectures are now starting AI projects to (7) _____ the system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get (8) _____ matches.

couples
based
half
better
dates
automate
software
forms

The government hopes the project will increase the (9) _____ of the population. Japan's (10) _____ rate is one of the lowest in the world. The average number of children a Japanese woman is expected to have in her (11) _____ is 1.36. This figure is continuing to go down, which is why the government is trying the AI programme. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this (12) _____ will help reverse the (13) _____ in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is rapidly (14) _____ because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is the (15) _____ in the world. This is a problem for the economy. There are fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs of (16) _____ people.

decline
fertility
support
retired
size
highest
ageing
lifetime

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

- 1) Japan is trying to get more men and women to _____
 - a. go on date
 - b. go on diets
 - c. go on days
 - d. go on dates
- 2) It wants to increase its birth rate because there are fewer and fewer _____
 - a. babies being born
 - b. babies been born
 - c. babies be in born
 - d. babies boy in born
- 3) The government has decided to use \$19 million next year to set _____
 - a. the software down
 - b. the software up
 - c. the software in
 - d. the software on
- 4) These involve filling out forms and answering questions on _____
 - a. hobbies end interests
 - b. hobbies send interests
 - c. hobbies and interests
 - d. hobby sand interests
- 5) AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and _____
 - a. get better match is
 - b. get better marches
 - c. get better march is
 - d. get better matches
- 6) The government hopes the project will increase the size _____
 - a. off the population
 - b. of a population
 - c. of the population
 - d. off a populations
- 7) The average number of children a Japanese woman is expected to have _____
 - a. in her life timed
 - b. in her lifetime
 - c. in hers life times
 - d. in their live time
- 8) A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help _____"
 - a. reverse the cline
 - b. reverse the incline
 - c. reverse the recline
 - d. reverse the decline
- 9) is the highest in the world. This is a problem _____
 - a. for the economy
 - b. for then economy
 - c. from the economy
 - d. four the economy
- 10) fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs _____
 - a. of retirement people
 - b. of retire people
 - c. of retried people
 - d. of retired people

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Japan is trying to get more men and women to (1) _____.

It wants to increase its birth rate because there are (2) _____ babies being born. Japan is going to use artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help (3) _____. The government has decided to use \$19 million next year to set the software up. There are already matchmaking services (4) _____ Japan's 47 prefectures. These involve filling out forms and answering questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people (5) _____ answers. Some prefectures are now starting AI projects to automate the system. AI software can perform a more advanced (6) _____ and get better matches.

The government (7) _____ will increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. The (8) _____ children a Japanese woman is expected to have in her lifetime is 1.36. This (9) _____ to go down, which is why the government is trying the AI programme. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help (10) _____ in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is rapidly ageing because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is (11) _____ the world. This is a problem for the economy. There are fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the (12) _____ costs of retired people.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

1. What is Japan trying to get more men and women to go on?
2. Who will artificial intelligence help to find love?
3. How much will the artificial intelligence software cost?
4. How many of Japan's 47 prefectures have a matchmaking service?
5. What does the article say AI software can perform better?
6. What does the article say is one of the world's lowest in Japan?
7. How many children will the average Japanese woman have?
8. What does the article say is rapidly ageing?
9. What does the article say is the highest in the world?
10. What are there fewer and fewer of to pay for pension costs?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

- 1) What is Japan trying to get more men and women to go on?
 - a) holidays
 - b) the Internet
 - c) dates
 - d) relationship workshops
- 2) Who will artificial intelligence help to find love?
 - a) couples and citizens
 - b) lovers and partners
 - c) boys and girls
 - d) the lonely
- 3) How much will the artificial intelligence software cost?
 - a) \$18 million
 - b) \$16 million
 - c) \$17 million
 - d) \$19 million
- 4) How many of Japan's 47 prefectures have a matchmaking service?
 - a) a quarter of them
 - b) half of them
 - c) a third of them
 - d) a tenth of them
- 5) What does the article say AI software can perform better?
 - a) algorithms
 - b) dating
 - c) advanced analysis
 - d) finding romantic restaurants
- 6) What does the article say is one of the world's lowest in Japan?
 - a) the dating rate
 - b) the fertility rate
 - c) the romance rate
 - d) the happiness rate
- 7) How many children will the average Japanese woman have?
 - a) 1.26
 - b) 1.63
 - c) 1.62
 - d) 1.36
- 8) What does the article say is rapidly ageing?
 - a) the world
 - b) Japan's population
 - c) the Internet
 - d) dating
- 9) What does the article say is the highest in the world?
 - a) the longevity rate for women
 - b) the price of meals in Italian restaurants
 - c) Mount Everest
 - d) the date rate
- 10) What are there fewer and fewer of to pay for pension costs?
 - a) companies
 - b) salaried workers
 - c) taxpayers
 - d) younger workers

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Role A – Movie Theatre

You think a movie theatre is the best first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dates. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): hiking, restaurant lunch or picnic on the beach.

Role B – Hiking

You think hiking is the best first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dates. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): movie theatre, restaurant lunch or picnic on the beach.

Role C – A Restaurant Lunch

You think a restaurant lunch is the best first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dates. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): hiking, movie theatre or picnic on the beach.

Role D – A Picnic On The Beach

You think a picnic on the beach is the best first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dates. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): hiking, restaurant lunch or movie theatre.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'love' and 'couple'.

love	couple
-------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• dates• born• decided• half• worker• data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• size• rate• lifetime• reverse• highest• costs
---	--

MATCHMAKING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Write five GOOD questions about matchmaking in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

MATCHMAKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'dating'?
3. What do you think of matchmaking?
4. What's the best way to find a partner?
5. Why might A.I. matchmaking be better than a person at matchmaking?
6. Are parents good matchmakers?
7. Have you ever fallen in love at first sight?
8. Where's the best place to go on a first date?
9. How do you feel on a first date?
10. How important is it your partner has the same hobbies as you?

Japan to use artificial intelligence to match couples – 11th December, 2020
Thousands more free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

MATCHMAKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'artificial intelligence'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What problems does a shrinking population cause?
15. How can the government get people to have more children?
16. What is the best thing about falling in love?
17. What kind of person is your ideal partner?
18. Is it ever too old to fall in love?
19. Would you use the A.I. matchmaking service?
20. What questions would you like to ask Japan's government?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2020

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Japan is trying to get more men and women to go (1) _____ dates. It wants to increase its birth rate because there are fewer and (2) _____ babies being born. Japan is going to use artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help residents find love. The government has decided to use \$19 million next year to (3) _____ the software up. There are already matchmaking services in (4) _____ of Japan's 47 prefectures. These involve filling out forms and answering questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people (5) _____ on the answers. Some prefectures are now starting AI projects to automate the system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis (6) _____ data and get better matches.

The government (7) _____ the project will increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. The average number of children a Japanese woman is (8) _____ to have in her lifetime is 1.36. This figure is continuing to go down, which is why the government is trying the AI programme. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help (9) _____ the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is (10) _____ ageing because people are living longer. The (11) _____ rate for women is the highest in the world. This is a problem for the economy. There are fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs of (12) _____ people.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) in | (d) on |
| 2. | (a) phew | (b) fewest | (c) few | (d) fewer |
| 3. | (a) let | (b) set | (c) met | (d) net |
| 4. | (a) halve | (b) halved | (c) half | (d) halving |
| 5. | (a) based | (b) biased | (c) boasted | (d) basted |
| 6. | (a) of | (b) on | (c) as | (d) in |
| 7. | (a) heaps | (b) hops | (c) hoping | (d) hopes |
| 8. | (a) expected | (b) forecasting | (c) prediction | (d) guess |
| 9. | (a) risky | (b) reverse | (c) elevator | (d) cure |
| 10. | (a) rapidity | (b) rapids | (c) rapidly | (d) rapid |
| 11. | (a) lengthen | (b) longing | (c) longevity | (d) longs |
| 12. | (a) retried | (b) retired | (c) retread | (d) retro |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Paragraph 1

1. iarcesne its birth rate
2. match cpesluo and help residents
3. These ielvnov filling out forms
4. answering questions on hobbies and nieertsts
5. etumoata the system
6. advanced snslyaia of data

Paragraph 2

7. Japan's yreliftti rate
8. epcexted to have in her lifetime
9. help eesrrev the decline
10. The vyegolitn rate for women
11. fewer younger workers to pay for the nneispo
12. welfare costs of eitrrred people

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Japan is trying to get more men and women to go on dates. It wants to increase its birth
- () 1.36. This figure is continuing to go down, which is why the government is trying the AI programme. A government
- () out forms and answering questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches
- () intelligence (AI) to match couples and help residents find love. The government has decided to use \$19 million next
- () year to set the software up. There are already matchmaking services in half of Japan's 47 prefectures. These involve filling
- () automate the system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get better matches.
- () The government hopes the project will increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest
- () in the world. The average number of children a Japanese woman is expected to have in her lifetime is
- () world. This is a problem for the economy. There are fewer and fewer
- () rate because there are fewer and fewer babies being born. Japan is going to use artificial
- () spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help reverse the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is rapidly
- () ageing because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is the highest in the
- () people based on the answers. Some prefectures are now starting AI projects to
- () younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs of retired people.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

1. increase birth its rate . It wants to
2. born . fewer are There and being fewer babies
3. prefectures . services Japan's 47 half in of Matchmaking
4. match people on the based Workers answers . then
5. of analysis Software perform advanced can a data . more
6. one Japan's rate fertility of is lowest . the
7. This continuing to down . figure is go
8. nation's Reverse in rate . the decline the birth
9. The highest . longevity for is the women rate
10. pension . pay for to the Fewer workers younger

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Japan is trying to get more men and women to go on *date / dates*. It wants to increase its birth rate because there are fewer and *fewest / fewer* babies being born. Japan is going to *useful / use* artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help *residence / residents* find love. The government has decided to use \$19 million next year to set the software *up / down*. There are *already / readily* matchmaking services in half of Japan's 47 prefectures. These involve filling *up / out* forms and answering questions *on / in* hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people based *on / by* the answers. Some prefectures are now starting AI projects to automate the system. AI software can *performance / perform a more advanced* analysis of data and get better matches.

The government hopes the project will increase the *sized / size* of the population. Japan's *fertility / ability* rate is one of the *low / lowest* in the world. The average number of children a Japanese woman is expected to *have / born* in her lifetime is 1.36. This figure is continuing to go down, which is why the government is *trying / tying* the AI programme. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help *reserve / reverse* the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is *rapidly / rapid* ageing because people are living *longer / lengthen*. The longevity rate for women is the highest *in / on* the world. This is a problem for the economy. There are fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs of retired *person / people*.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

J_p_n _s try_ng t_ g_t m_r_ m_n _nd w_m_n t_ g_ _n d_t_s. _t w_nts t_ _ncr__s_ _ts b_rth r_t_ b_c__s_ th_r_ _r_ f_w_r _nd f_w_r b_b__s b__ng b_rn. J_p_n _s g__ng t_ _s_ _rt_f_c__l _nt_ll_g_nc_ (__) t_ m_tch c__pl_s _nd h_lp r_s_d_nts f_nd l_v_. Th_ g_v_rnm_nt h_s d_c_d_d t_ _s_ \$19 m_ll__n n_xt y__r t_ s_t th_ s_ftw_r_ _p. Th_r_ _r_ _lr__dy m_tchm_k_ng s_rv_c_s _n h_lf _f J_p_n's 47 pr_f_ct_r_s. Th_s_ _nv_lv_ f_ll_ng __t f_rms _nd _nsw_r_ng q__st__ns _n h_bb__s _nd _nt_r_sts. _ w_rk_r th_n m_tch_s p__pl_ b_s_d _n th_ _nsw_rs. S_m_ pr_f_ct_r_s _r_ n_w st_rtng __ pr_j_cts t_ __t_m_t_ th_ syst_m. __ s_ftw_r_ c_n p_rf_rm m_r_ _dv_nc_d _n_lys_s _f d_t_ _nd g_t b_tt_r m_tch_s.

Th_ g_v_rnm_nt h_p_s th_ pr_j_ct w_ll _ncr__s_ th_ s_z_ _f th_ p_p_l_t__n. J_p_n's f_rt_l_ty r_t_ _s _n_ _f th_ l_w_st _n th_ w_rld. Th_ _v_r_g_ n_m_b_r _f ch_ldr_n _ J_p_n_s_ w_m_n _s _xp_ct_d t_ h_v_ _n h_r l_ft_m_ _s 1.36. Th_s f_g_r_ _s c_nt_n__ng t_ g_ d_wn, wh_ch _s why th_ g_v_rnm_nt _s try_ng th_ __ pr_gr_mm_. _ g_v_rnm_nt sp_k_sp_rs_n s__d: "W_ h_p_ th_s s_pp_rt w_ll h_lp r_v_rs_ th_ d_cl_n_ _n th_ n_t__n's b_rth r_t_." J_p_n's p_p_l_t__n _s r_p_dly _g__ng b_c__s_ p__pl_ _r_ l_v_ng l_ng_r. Th_ l_ng_v_ty r_t_ f_r w_m_n _s th_ h_gh_st _n th_ w_rld. Th_s _s _ pr_bl_m f_r th_ _c_n_my. Th_r_ _r_ f_w_r _nd f_w_r y__ng_r w_rk_rs t_ p_y f_r th_ p_ns__n _nd w_lf_r_ c_sts _f r_t_r_d p__pl_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

japan is trying to get more men and women to go on dates it wants to increase its birth rate because there are fewer and fewer babies being born japan is going to use artificial intelligence ai to match couples and help residents find love the government has decided to use 19 million next year to set the software up there are already matchmaking services in half of japans 47 prefectures these involve filling out forms and answering questions on hobbies and interests a worker then matches people based on the answers some prefectures are now starting ai projects to automate the system ai software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get better matches

the government hopes the project will increase the size of the population japans fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world the average number of children a japanese woman is expected to have in her lifetime is 1.36 this figure is continuing to go down which is why the government is trying the ai programme a government spokesperson said we hope this support will help reverse the decline in the nations birth rate japans population is rapidly ageing because people are living longer the longevity rate for women is the highest in the world this is a problem for the economy there are fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs of retired people

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking.html>

Japan is trying to get more men and women to go on dates. It wants to increase its birth rate because there are fewer and fewer babies being born. Japan is going to use artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help presidents find love. The government has decided to use \$19 million next year to set the software up. There are already matchmaking services in half of Japan's 47 prefectures. These involve filling out forms and answering questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people based on their answers. Some prefectures are now starting AI projects to automate the system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get better matches. The government hopes the project will increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. The average number of children a Japanese woman is expected to have in her lifetime is 1.36. This figure is continuing to go down, which is why the government is trying the AI programme. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help reverse the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is rapidly ageing because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is the highest in the world. This is a problem for the economy. There are fewer and fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare costs of retired people.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MATCHMAKING: Make a poster about matchmaking. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. A.I.: Write a magazine article about using A.I. for matchmaking. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on matchmaking. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how people can find a partner. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. e 3. a 4. c 5. d 6. g 7. f
8. j 9. h 10. k 11. m 12. i 13. l 14. n

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T b T c F d F e F f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Dates
- Couples and citizens
- \$19 million
- Half of them
- Advanced analysis
- The fertility rate
- 1.36
- Japan's population
- The longevity rate for women
- Younger workers

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- It wants to increase its birth rate.
- There are fewer and fewer babies being born.
- Matchmaking services in half of Japan's 47 prefectures.
- Workers then match people based on the answers.
- Software can perform more advanced analysis of data.
- Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest.
- This figure is continuing to go down.
- Reverse the decline in the nation's birth rate.
- The longevity rate for women is the highest.
- Fewer younger workers to pay for the pension.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)