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Level 3

People lose money in online dating scam

12th April, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

There is a new scam on the Internet for those looking for love. Criminals are trying to trick people by using old love letters and romantic language. Conmen can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick would-be daters into their scam. The pack is available online and only costs a few dollars. It includes love-letter templates, photos, videos and false identities. This is all that is needed to pretend to be someone looking for love. The criminals pose as potential partners and contact people seeking romance on dating sites. After a period of correspondence, they start asking their victim for money. They use many different kinds of excuses and reasons why they need money.

The police force in London reported 3,900 people being scammed online in 2016. The average amount of money they lost was \$12,500. The average age of the victims was 59 years old. More women than men were scammed, with 61 per cent of the victims being female. A senior police officer described the damage the scams do to victims. He said: "These crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often far outweighs the financial loss. He advised people against giving strangers money. He said: "Never give money to people you meet online, no matter what emotional sob story the person uses." He added that to be safe, people should always be on their guard when communicating with a stranger online.

Sources: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/old-love-letters-are-being-used-con-online-daters-out-cash-1606131>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-38936509>
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/living/2842069/dating-sharks-rob-singletons-tips-stay-safe-online/>

WARM-UPS

1. ONLINE DATING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about online dating. 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?

scam / love / trick / online / a few dollars / false identities / criminals / romance / police / average / female / damage / financial / strangers / emotional / guard

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

3. BANNED: Students A **strongly** believe online dating websites should be banned; Students B **strongly** believe they shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. DATING: What are the pros and cons of these ways of meeting a potential partner? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Cons
At a party		
Online date		
Arranged by parents		
Blind date		
At work		
In a shopping mall		

5. ROMANTIC: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "romantic". 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 place to go on a first date at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The movies
- Disneyland
- A picnic in the park
- A romantic restaurant
- A disco
- A shopping mall
- Karaoke
- A museum

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

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

- a. Conmen are using old love letters to trick people. **T / F**
- b. An online dating "scam pack" is available for \$100. **T / F**
- c. Criminals pretend to be matchmakers. **T / F**
- d. All of the criminals use the same reason for wanting money. **T / F**
- e. Around 39,000 people were scammed in London in 2016. **T / F**
- f. People were scammed out of an average of \$12,500. **T / F**
- g. More than 60 per cent of the victims were women. **T / F**
- h. A police officer advised people to be on guard when online with a stranger. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. trick | a. possible |
| 2. available | b. targets |
| 3. false | c. exceeds |
| 4. potential | d. fake |
| 5. seeking | e. careful |
| 6. amount | f. fool |
| 7. victims | g. wreck |
| 8. destroy | h. looking for |
| 9. outweighs | i. on sale |
| 10. on your guard | j. sum |

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

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. love | a. costs a few dollars |
| 2. The pack is available online and only | b. the financial loss |
| 3. The criminals pose | c. victim for money |
| 4. they start asking their | d. of money they lost |
| 5. different kinds of excuses and | e. letters |
| 6. The average amount | f. story |
| 7. the damage the scams do | g. as potential partners |
| 8. emotional damage often far outweighs | h. their guard |
| 9. emotional sob | i. to victims |
| 10. people should always be on | j. reasons why they need money |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

There is a new scam on the Internet for those looking for love. Criminals are (1) _____ to trick people by using old love letters and romantic language. Conmen can (2) _____ buy "scam packs" to help them trick would-be daters into their scam. The pack is (3) _____ online and only costs a few dollars. It includes love-letter templates, photos, videos and (4) _____ identities. This is all that is needed to (5) _____ to be someone looking for love. The criminals pose as potential partners and contact people seeking (6) _____ on dating sites. After a (7) _____ of correspondence, they start asking their victim for money. They use many different kinds of (8) _____ and reasons why they need money.

pretend
period
easily
excuses
false
trying
romance
available

The police force in London reported 3,900 people being scammed online in 2016. The (9) _____ amount of money they lost was \$12,500. The average age of the (10) _____ was 59 years old. More women than men were scammed, with 61 per cent of the victims (11) _____ female. A senior police officer described the (12) _____ the scams do to victims. He said: "These crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often (13) _____ outweighs the financial loss. He advised people against giving (14) _____ money. He said: "Never give money to people you meet online, no (15) _____ what emotional sob story the person uses." He added that to be safe, people should always be on their (16) _____ when communicating with a stranger online.

being
far
matter
victims
guard
damage
average
strangers

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

- 1) Conmen can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick _____
 - a. wood bee daters
 - b. wouldn't daters
 - c. wooden bean daters
 - d. would-be daters
- 2) It includes love-letter templates, photos, videos and _____
 - a. falsely identities
 - b. false identity
 - c. falsely identifies
 - d. false identities
- 3) The criminals pose as potential partners and contact people _____
 - a. seeking romance
 - b. seek in romance
 - c. sea king romance
 - d. seek king romance
- 4) After a period of correspondence, they start asking their _____
 - a. victim of money
 - b. victims for money
 - c. victim for money
 - d. victim four money
- 5) They use many different kinds of _____ reasons
 - a. excuse is and
 - b. accesses and
 - c. excuses and
 - d. excesses and
- 6) The police force in London reported 3,900 people _____
 - a. be in scammed
 - b. bean scammed
 - c. been scammed
 - d. being scammed
- 7) The average amount of money _____ \$12,500
 - a. they lost was
 - b. they lost were
 - c. they lose was
 - d. them lost was
- 8) More women than men were scammed, with 61 per cent of the victims _____
 - a. been female
 - b. being female
 - c. being the male
 - d. be in free mail
- 9) crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often far outweighs _____
 - a. the financial loss
 - b. the financial losses
 - c. the financial lost
 - d. the financial lose
- 10) He added that to be safe, people should _____ their guard
 - a. all ways be on
 - b. always be on
 - c. all ways been
 - d. al way speed on

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

There is a (1) _____ Internet for those looking for love. Criminals are trying to trick people (2) _____ letters and romantic language. Conmen can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick (3) _____ into their scam. The pack is available online and only costs a few dollars. It includes love-letter templates, photos, videos and (4) _____. This is all that is needed to pretend to be someone looking for love. The criminals pose as potential partners and contact people seeking (5) _____ sites. After a period of correspondence, they start asking their victim for money. They use many different (6) _____ and reasons why they need money.

The police force in London reported 3,900 people being (7) _____ 2016. The average amount of money they lost was \$12,500. The (8) _____ the victims was 59 years old. More women than men were scammed, with 61 per cent of the victims being female. A senior police officer described the damage (9) _____ victims. He said: "These crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often (10) _____ financial loss. He advised people against giving strangers money. He said: "Never give money to people (11) _____, no matter what emotional sob story the person uses." He added that to be safe, people should always be on their guard when communicating (12) _____ online.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

1. What kind of language are the scammers using?
2. How much are the "scam packs" used by the scammers?
3. What kind of templates do the "scam packs" include?
4. Who do the criminals pose as?
5. What is there a period of before the scammers ask for money?
6. How much did the average person lose to scammers in 2016?
7. What was the average age of the victims?
8. What far outweighs the financial loss of being scammed?
9. What kind of stories did a policemen tell people not to listen to?
10. What did a policemen say people needed to be to stay safe?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

- 1) What kind of language are the scammers using?
 - a) nasty language
 - b) coded language
 - c) romantic language
 - d) computer language
- 2) How much are the "scam packs" used by the scammers?
 - a) a few dollars
 - b) they are free online
 - c) \$9.99
 - d) hundreds of dollars
- 3) What kind of templates do the "scam packs" include?
 - a) Word templates
 - b) love-letter templates
 - c) heart-shaped templates
 - d) website templates
- 4) Who do the criminals pose as?
 - a) models
 - b) long-lost friends
 - c) matchmakers
 - d) potential partners
- 5) What is there a period of before the scammers ask for money?
 - a) activity
 - b) calm
 - c) correspondence
 - d) three weeks
- 6) How much did the average person lose to scammers in 2016?
 - a) \$15,200
 - b) \$12,500
 - c) \$12,200
 - d) \$15,500
- 7) What was the average age of the victims?
 - a) 19
 - b) 29
 - c) 49
 - d) 59
- 8) What far outweighs the financial loss of being scammed?
 - a) the embarrassment
 - b) emotional damage
 - c) the future
 - d) faith in human beings
- 9) What kind of stories did a policeman tell people not to listen to?
 - a) long stories
 - b) sob stories
 - c) fairy tales
 - d) tall stories
- 10) What did a policeman say people needed to be to stay safe?
 - a) on guard
 - b) on tip-toe
 - c) on edge
 - d) on something

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

Role A – A Museum

You think a museum is the best place for a first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Disneyland, a romantic restaurant or karaoke.

Role B – Disneyland

You think Disneyland is the best place for a first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a museum, a romantic restaurant or karaoke.

Role C – A Romantic Restaurant

You think a romantic restaurant is the best place for a first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Disneyland, a museum or karaoke.

Role D – Karaoke

You think karaoke is the best place for a first date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Disneyland, a romantic restaurant or a museum.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

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

online	dating
---------------	---------------

- 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">• those• easily• only• pretend• pose• kinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2016• 59• 61• far• never• guard
--	--

ONLINE DATING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

Write five GOOD questions about online dating 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.

ONLINE DATING 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 'love'?
3. How dangerous are Internet scams?
4. What Internet scams do you know about?
5. How good are you at creating romantic language?
6. What do you think of love letters?
7. What do you think of online dating?
8. What do you think of the scammers?
9. How easy is it to believe scammers?
10. How can people send money to a stranger online?

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ONLINE DATING 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 'dating'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What advice do you have for people who want to find love online?
15. Is it easier to find love online?
16. What emotional damage do these scams do?
17. Have you ever had any bad experiences online?
18. Do you ever tell people sob stories?
19. Are you always on your guard when you are online?
20. What questions would you like to ask a scammer?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

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

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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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

There is a new (1) _____ on the Internet for those looking for love. Criminals are trying to (2) _____ people by using old love letters and romantic language. Conmen can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick would-(3) _____ daters into their scam. The pack is available online and only costs (4) _____ few dollars. It includes love-letter templates, photos, videos and false identities. This is all that is needed to pretend to (5) _____ someone looking for love. The criminals pose as potential partners and contact people seeking romance on dating sites. After a period of correspondence, they start asking their victim for money. They use many different kinds of (6) _____ and reasons why they need money.

The police (7) _____ in London reported 3,900 people being scammed online in 2016. The average (8) _____ of money they lost was \$12,500. The average age of the victims was 59 years old. More women than men were scammed, with 61 per cent of the victims (9) _____ female. A senior police officer described the damage the scams do to victims. He said: "These crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often (10) _____ outweighs the financial loss. He advised people (11) _____ giving strangers money. He said: "Never give money to people you meet online, no matter what emotional sob story the person uses." He added that to be safe, people should always be (12) _____ their guard when communicating with a stranger online.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) scam | (b) scrum | (c) scum | (d) scam |
| 2. | (a) tricked | (b) tricky | (c) trickster | (d) trick |
| 3. | (a) love | (b) be | (c) have | (d) do |
| 4. | (a) the | (b) two | (c) a | (d) little |
| 5. | (a) is | (b) been | (c) be | (d) being |
| 6. | (a) excuses | (b) excused | (c) accuses | (d) accused |
| 7. | (a) fierce | (b) force | (c) fleece | (d) farce |
| 8. | (a) amount | (b) volume | (c) stash | (d) bank |
| 9. | (a) was | (b) being | (c) are | (d) been |
| 10. | (a) for | (b) afar | (c) far | (d) fir |
| 11. | (a) anti | (b) not | (c) against | (d) never |
| 12. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) in | (d) on |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

Paragraph 1

1. ilcrnsaim are trying to trick people
2. the pack is lavibaael online
3. opieltant partners
4. After a predoi of correspondence
5. different kinds of seexsuc
6. ossenra why they need money

Paragraph 2

7. The police rfeco in London
8. The evragea age
9. 61% of the smitvci being female
10. olotienma damage
11. inafainlc loss
12. communicating with a arnsertg

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () be daters into their scam. The pack is available online and only costs a few dollars. It includes love-letter templates,
- (**1**) There is a new scam on the Internet for those looking for love. Criminals are trying to trick people by using old love
- () the scams do to victims. He said: "These crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often far
- () were scammed, with 61 per cent of the victims being female. A senior police officer described the damage
- () letters and romantic language. Conmen can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick would-
- () outweighs the financial loss. He advised people against giving strangers money. He said: "Never give money
- () amount of money they lost was \$12,500. The average age of the victims was 59 years old. More women than men
- () photos, videos and false identities. This is all that is needed to pretend to be someone looking for love. The criminals pose
- () safe, people should always be on their guard when communicating with a stranger online.
- () to people you meet online, no matter what emotional sob story the person uses." He added that to be
- () of excuses and reasons why they need money.
- () as potential partners and contact people seeking romance on dating sites. After a period
- () The police force in London reported 3,900 people being scammed online in 2016. The average
- () of correspondence, they start asking their victim for money. They use many different kinds

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

1. the Internet for those looking for love A new scam on .
2. Criminals to using letters trying people love by are trick old .
3. few only is costs available dollars online The and pack a .
4. people romance dating Contact seeking on sites .
5. kinds and they Different excuses why money of reasons need .
6. \$12,500 was lost they money of amount average The .
7. The of was old age victims years average the 59 .
8. loss financial the outweighs far often damage Emotional .
9. Never online meet you people to money give .
10. on People their should guard always when be communicating .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

There is a new scam on the Internet for *them / those* looking for love. Criminals are trying to trick people by *used / using* old love letters and romantic language. Conmen can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick would-be daters *into / onto* their scam. The pack is *availability / available* online and only costs *the / a* few dollars. It includes love-letter templates, photos, videos and *falsely / false* identities. This is all that is *needed / need* to pretend to be someone looking for *love / lovely*. The criminals pose as potential partners and contact people seeking *romance / romantic* on dating sites. After a period of correspondence, they start asking their victim for money. They use many *difference / different* kinds of excuses and reasons why they need money.

The police *force / forced* in London reported 3,900 people being scammed online in 2016. The average *amount / volume* of money they lost was \$12,500. The average age of the victims was 59 years *age / old*. More women than men *were / was* scammed, with 61 per cent of the victims *been / being* female. A senior police officer described the damage the scams *have / do* to victims. He said: "These crimes destroy lives and the *emotional / emoticon* damage often *far / for* outweighs the financial loss. He advised people against giving strangers money. He said: "Never give money to people you meet online, *no / not* matter what emotional sob story the person uses." He added that to be safe, people should always be *in / on* their guard when communicating with a stranger online.

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

Th_r_ _s_ _n_w sc_m _n th_ _nt_rn_t f_r th_s_ l__k_ng
f_r l_v_. Cr_m_n_ls _r_ try_ng t_ tr_ck p__pl_by _s_ng
_ld l_v_ l_tt_rs _nd r_m_nt_c l_ng__g_. C_nm_n c_n
__s_ly b_y "sc_m p_cks" t_ h_lp th_m tr_ck w__ld-b_
d_t_rs _nt_ th__r sc_m. Th_ p_ck _s_ v__l_b_l _nl_n_
_nd _nly c_sts _ f_w d_ll_rs. _t _ncl_d_s l_v_-l_tt_r
t_mpl_t_s, ph_t_s, v_d__s _nd f_ls __d_nt_t__s. Th_s_s
_ll th_t _s_n __d_d t_ pr_t_nd t_ b_s_m__n_ l__k_ng f_r
l_v_. Th_ cr_m_n_ls p_s__s p_t_nt_l p_rtn_rs _nd
c_nt_ct p__pl_ s__k_ng r_m_nc__n d_t_ng s_t_s. _ft_r
_ p_r__d _f c_rr_sp_nd_nc_, th_y st_rt _sk_ng th__r
v_ct_m f_r m_n_y. Th_y _s_ m_ny d_ff_r_nt k_nds _f
_xc_s_s _nd r__s_ns why th_y n__d m_n_y.

Th_ p_l_c_ f_rc_ __n L_nd_n r_p_rtd 3,900 p__pl_ b__ng
sc_mm_d _nl_n__n 2016. Th_ _v_r_g_ _m__nt_ f_m_n_y
th_y l_st w_s \$12,500. Th_ _v_r_g_ _g_ _f th_ v_ct_ms
w_s 59 y__rs _ld. M_r_ w_m_n th_n m_n w_r_ sc_mm_d,
w_th 61 p_r_c_nt _f th_ v_ct_ms b__ng f_m_l_. _s_n__r
p_l_c_ _ff_c_r_d scr_b_d th_ d_m_g_ th_ sc_ms d_t_
v_ct_ms. H_ s__d: "Th_s_ cr_m_s d_str_y l_v_s _nd th_
_m_t__n_l d_m_g_ _ft_n f_r __tw__ghs th_ f_n_nc__l
l_ss. H_ _dv_s_d p__pl_ _g__nst g_v_ng str_ng_rs
m_n_y. H_ s__d: "N_v_r_g_v_ m_n_y t_ p__pl_ y__m__t
_nl_n_, n_m_tt_r wh_t _m_t__n_l s_b st_ry th_ p_rs_n
_s_s." H_ _dd_d th_t t_ b_s_f_, p__pl_ sh__ld _lw_ys
b__n th__r g__rd wh_n c_mm_n_c_t_ng w_th _str_ng_r
_nl_n_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

there is a new scam on the internet for those looking for love criminals are trying to trick people by using old love letters and romantic language conmen can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick would-be daters into their scam the pack is available online and only costs a few dollars it includes love-letter templates photos videos and false identities this is all that is needed to pretend to be someone looking for love the criminals pose as potential partners and contact people seeking romance on dating sites after a period of correspondence they start asking their victim for money they use many different kinds of excuses and reasons why they need money

the police force in london reported 3900 people being scammed online in 2016 the average amount of money they lost was \$12500 the average age of the victims was 59 years old more women than men were scammed with 61 per cent of the victims being female a senior police officer described the damage the scams do to victims he said "these crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often far outweighs the financial loss he advised people against giving strangers money he said "never give money to people you meet online no matter what emotional sob story the person uses" he added that to be safe people should always be on their guard when communicating with a stranger online

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170412-online-dating.html>

There is a new scam on the Internet for those looking for love. Criminals are trying to trick people by using old love letters and romantic language. Companies can easily buy "scam packs" to help them trick would-be daters into their scam. The pack is available online and only costs a few dollars. It includes love-letter templates, photos, videos and false identities. This is all that is needed to pretend to be someone looking for love. The criminals pose as potential partners and contact people seeking romance on dating sites. After a period of correspondence, they start asking their victim for money. They use many different kinds of excuses and reasons why they need money. The police force in London reported 3,900 people being scammed online in 2016. The average amount of money they lost was \$12,500. The average age of the victims was 59 years old. More women than men were scammed, with 61 percent of the victims being female. A senior police officer described the damage the scams do to victims. He said: "These crimes destroy lives and the emotional damage often far outweighs the financial loss. He advised people against giving strangers money. He said: "Never give money to people you meet online, no matter what emotional story the person uses." He added that to be safe, people should always be on their guard when communicating with a stranger online.

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 online dating. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ONLINE DATING: Make a poster about online dating scams. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DATING CONMEN: Write a magazine article about online dating conmen getting 20-year prison sentences. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 online dating. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to always be on your guard. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. trick | a. fool |
| 2. available | b. on sale |
| 3. false | c. fake |
| 4. potential | d. possible |
| 5. seeking | e. looking for |
| 6. amount | f. sum |
| 7. victims | g. targets |
| 8. destroy | h. wreck |
| 9. outweighs | i. exceeds |
| 10. on your guard | j. careful |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Romantic language
2. A few dollars
3. Love-letter templates
4. Potential partners
5. Correspondence
6. \$12,500
7. 59
8. Emotional damage
9. Emotional sob stories
10. On their guard

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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