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## Level 3

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

5th February, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

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: <https://qz.com/1193912/love-and-producer-chinas-female-gamers-are-spending-millions-of-dollars-on-virtual-boyfriends/>  
<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/2127116/chinas-women-gamers-take-centre-stage-virtual-boyfriend-game-love>  
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/02/02/asia-pacific/social-issues-asia-pacific/gaming-women-blooms-china-virtual-beau-captures-hearts/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. DATING APPS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about dating apps. 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?

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

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

**3. VIRTUAL PARTNER:** Students A **strongly** believe a virtual partner is better than a real partner; Students B **strongly** believe a real partner is always better. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. DATING:** What do you think about dating? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good Things	Bad Things
Finding someone		
First date		
Deciding where to go		
Conversation		
Who pays		
Romance		

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

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

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

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. popular       | a. An emotional and sexual link between two or more people.            |
| 2. usual         | b. Now; at this time.  |
| 3. single        | c. A person who gets money in return for working or services.          |
| 4. role-play     | d. Liked or enjoyed by many people or by a particular person or group. |
| 5. relationships | e. Unmarried or not in a stable sexual relationship.                   |
| 6. currently     | f. Act out or perform the part of a person or character.               |
| 7. earner        | g. Happening or occurring often and in the same way.                   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. active       | h. A lovely feeling of excitement because of love.       |
| 9. users        | i. The bigger number of something; most; more than half. |
| 10. vast        | j. Joining in with a particular activity.                |
| 11. majority    | k. Very, very, very interesting.                         |
| 12. romance     | l. People who operate a computer, app or machine.        |
| 13. fascinating | m. Very thin in detail, texture or structure.            |
| 14. delicate    | n. Of very great extent or quantity.                     |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

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

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

**2. 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   |

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

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

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

A new dating app in China is very popular with women. It is so (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that Chinese women are spending over \$30 million a month on it. It is a little different from the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ dating app because the boyfriends are not real. There are just four (3) \_\_\_\_\_ men on the app and they are all virtual boyfriends. Women have to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ -play dating the four boyfriends. They have to use real money to buy "Purple Diamonds" from the app. They then (5) \_\_\_\_\_ their Purple Diamonds in the app to go on dates and keep their relationships (6) \_\_\_\_\_. The app is called Love and Producer. It is currently the biggest money (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on Apple's App Store in China. Players spent over 200 million Chinese Yuan (\$30 million) on (8) \_\_\_\_\_ it last month.

*usual*  
*going*  
*role*  
*playing*  
*popular*  
*earner*  
*single*  
*spend*

A (9) \_\_\_\_\_ research company said the app has more than two million daily active users. The vast (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of these are women in their early 20s. The company said users love the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (12) \_\_\_\_\_ voices. It's more real than reading a novel." She said she loved the app's "delicate (13) \_\_\_\_\_," as well as the "great voices" of the four male (14) \_\_\_\_\_. Another young Chinese woman said: "I don't have a boyfriend, so I'm happy to have a relationship with a "paper (15) \_\_\_\_\_". She also liked getting e-mail and chat (16) \_\_\_\_\_ from her virtual boyfriends.

*idea*  
*drawings*  
*messages*  
*market*  
*fascinating*  
*partner*  
*majority*  
*characters*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

- 1) A new dating app in China is very \_\_\_\_\_ women
  - a. populate with
  - b. poplar with
  - c. popular with
  - d. pop polar with
- 2) Chinese women are spending over \$30 million a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. month one it
  - b. month on it
  - c. month on nit
  - d. month on knit
- 3) It is a little different from the usual dating app because the boyfriends \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are not really
  - b. are not royal
  - c. are not rail
  - d. are not real
- 4) They then spend their Purple Diamonds in the app to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. go in dates
  - b. go on dates
  - c. go on date
  - d. going dates
- 5) The app is called Love and Producer. It is currently the biggest \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. money earners
  - b. money earn a
  - c. money ear near
  - d. money earner
- 6) A market research company said the app has more than two million \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. daily active users
  - b. day active users
  - c. doily active users
  - d. dolly active users
- 7) The vast majority of these are women in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the early 20s
  - b. they're early 20s
  - c. there early 20s
  - d. their early 20s
- 8) She said she loved the app's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. delicacy drawings
  - b. delicate drawings
  - c. delicates drawings
  - d. Delhi Kate drawings
- 9) I don't have a boyfriend, so I'm happy to have a relationship with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a paper partner
  - b. a papered partner
  - c. a papery partner
  - d. a papers partner
- 10) She also liked getting e-mail and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. chatted messages
  - b. chatty messages
  - c. chat message is
  - d. chat messages

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

A new dating app in China is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ women. It is so popular that Chinese women are spending over \$30 million a month on it. It is a little different from (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the four boyfriends. They have to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to buy "Purple Diamonds" from the app. They then spend their Purple Diamonds in the app to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and keep their relationships going. The app is called Love and Producer. It is currently the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (7) \_\_\_\_\_ users. The vast majority of these are women in their early 20s. The company said users love the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and fun. A 19-year-old student at Wuhan University explained why she liked the app. She said: "It's like a romantic novel (9) \_\_\_\_\_. It's more real than (10) \_\_\_\_\_." 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 (11) \_\_\_\_\_ a relationship with a "paper partner". She also liked getting e-mail and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ her virtual boyfriends.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

1. How long does it take Chinese women to spend \$30 million on the app?
2. How many virtual boyfriends are there on the app?
3. What do users have to buy to be able to go shopping on the app?
4. What is the name of the app?
5. Where is the app the biggest money earner?
6. How many active daily users does the app have?
7. Who are the biggest users of the app?
8. What did a student say the app was more real than?
9. How did a student describe the drawings as being?
10. What do users get sent from virtual boyfriends besides e-mails?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

- 1) How long does it take Chinese women to spend \$30 million on the app?
  - a) one year
  - b) one month
  - c) one day
  - d) one week
- 2) How many virtual boyfriends are there on the app?
  - a) 4,000
  - b) 400
  - c) 40
  - d) 4
- 3) What do users have to buy to be able to go shopping on the app?
  - a) purple diamonds
  - b) purple hearts
  - c) purple kisses
  - d) purple coins
- 4) What is the name of the app?
  - a) Love and Kisses
  - b) Love and Boyfriend
  - c) Love and Producer
  - d) Love and Romance
- 5) Where is the app the biggest money earner?
  - a) Japan
  - b) the Apple App Store in China
  - c) Google Play
  - d) YouTube
- 6) How many active daily users does the app have?
  - a) just fewer than 20 million
  - b) 12,000,000
  - c) over two million
  - d) 200,000
- 7) Who are the biggest users of the app?
  - a) teenagers
  - b) young men
  - c) office workers
  - d) women in their early 20s
- 8) What did a student say the app was more real than?
  - a) reading a novel
  - b) real dates
  - c) virtual reality
  - d) television
- 9) How did a student describe the drawings as being?
  - a) delicate
  - b) dreadful
  - c) dangerous
  - d) digital
- 10) What do users get sent from virtual boyfriends besides e-mails?
  - a) chocolates
  - b) chat messages
  - c) perfume
  - d) virtual kisses

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

## **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.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

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

dating	app

- 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"><li>• spending</li><li>• usual</li><li>• buy</li><li>• keep</li><li>• called</li><li>• last</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• active</li><li>• vast</li><li>• idea</li><li>• great</li><li>• happy</li><li>• chat</li></ul>
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# DATING APPS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dating apps 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.

# DATING APPS 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 this dating app?
4. What are the good things about dating apps?
5. What do you think of virtual boyfriends and girlfriends?
6. Why is the dating app more popular with women?
7. What do you think of role-playing apps?
8. Would you spend money on dating virtual partners?
9. What is your idea of a perfect date?
10. Are real partners better than virtual partners?

*Chinese women spend \$30 million on virtual boyfriends – 5th February, 2018*  
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# DATING APPS 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 'app'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the bad things about dating apps?
15. What is your favourite app, and why?
16. What do you think of romance?
17. Why might this dating app be better than reading a novel?
18. How happy could a virtual partner make you?
19. What kind of chat messages might the app send to people?
20. What questions would you like to ask the boss of the app company?

## **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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ dating app in China is very popular with women. It is so popular that Chinese women are spending (2) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 million a month on it. It is a little different from the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (4) \_\_\_\_\_ money to buy "Purple Diamonds" from the app. They then spend their Purple Diamonds in the app to go (5) \_\_\_\_\_ dates and keep their relationships going. The app is called Love and Producer. It is (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (7) \_\_\_\_\_ than two million daily active users. The (8) \_\_\_\_\_ majority of these are women in their early 20s. The company said users love the idea (9) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (10) \_\_\_\_\_ voices. It's more real than reading a novel." She said she loved the app's "delicate drawings," as well as the "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (12) \_\_\_\_\_ boyfriends.

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

- |     |                |                |                 |                 |
|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) news       | (b) newly      | (c) new         | (d) knew        |
| 2.  | (a) over       | (b) more       | (c) up          | (d) much        |
| 3.  | (a) user       | (b) usual      | (c) usefully    | (d) usually     |
| 4.  | (a) reality    | (b) realize    | (c) really      | (d) real        |
| 5.  | (a) in         | (b) by         | (c) on          | (d) at          |
| 6.  | (a) current    | (b) currently  | (c) currant     | (d) currency    |
| 7.  | (a) more       | (b) many       | (c) over        | (d) most        |
| 8.  | (a) vats       | (b) vested     | (c) vest        | (d) vast        |
| 9.  | (a) for        | (b) by         | (c) of          | (d) at          |
| 10. | (a) fascinator | (b) fascinates | (c) fascination | (d) fascinating |
| 11. | (a) grate      | (b) great      | (c) grated      | (d) grating     |
| 12. | (a) virtual    | (b) virile     | (c) viral       | (d) virtue      |

# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. very paulrop with women
2. different from the alusu dating app
3. four slgnei men
4. snedp their Purple Diamonds
5. keep their psasnerohltij going
6. currently the biggest money anerer

## Paragraph 2

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

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) woman said: "I don't have a boyfriend, so I'm happy to have a relationship with a
- ( ) drawings," as well as the "great voices" of the four male characters. Another young Chinese
- ( ) going. The app is called Love and Producer. It is currently the biggest money earner
- ( ) role-play dating the four boyfriends. They have to use real money to buy "Purple Diamonds" from the
- ( ) novel with fascinating voices. It's more real than reading a novel." She said she loved the app's "delicate
- ( **1** ) A new dating app in China is very popular with women. It is so popular that Chinese women are
- ( ) the boyfriends are not real. There are just four single men on the app and they are all virtual boyfriends. Women have to
- ( ) "paper partner". She also liked getting e-mail and chat messages from her virtual boyfriends.
- ( ) spending over \$30 million a month on it. It is a little different from the usual dating app because
- ( ) A market research company said the app has more than two million daily active users. The vast
- ( ) app. They then spend their Purple Diamonds in the app to go on dates and keep their relationships
- ( ) majority of these are women in their early 20s. The company said users love the idea of romance
- ( ) on Apple's App Store in China. Players spent over 200 million Chinese Yuan (\$30 million) on playing it last month.
- ( ) and fun. A 19-year-old student at Wuhan University explained why she liked the app. She said: "It's like a romantic

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

1. a over million are spending month . \$30 Women
2. dating different A little usual app . the from
3. app . four on are just single the There men
4. dates going . their keep Go on relationships and
5. the currently earner . It biggest money is
6. two users . million More than active daily
7. of The are majority women . vast these
8. a novel . reading more real It's than
9. four the voices" characters . "great male The of
10. liked getting She from messages boyfriends . virtual chat

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

A new dating app in China is very *popular* / *populate* with women. It is so popular that Chinese women are *spending* / *spend* over \$30 million a month on it. It is a little different from the *unusual* / *usual* dating app because the boyfriends are not *real* / *really*. There are just four single *man* / *men* on the app and they are all virtual boyfriends. Women have to role-play dating the four boyfriends. They have to use *really* / *real* money to buy "Purple Diamonds" from the app. They then spend their Purple Diamonds in the app to go on *dates* / *date* and keep their relationships going. The app is called Love and Producer. It is *currency* / *currently* the biggest money earner on Apple's App Store *in* / *at* China. Players spent over 200 million Chinese Yuan (\$30 million) on *playing* / *played* it last month.

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

**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/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

A n\_w d\_t\_n g \_p p \_n C h\_n\_ \_s v\_r y p\_p\_l\_r  
w\_t h w\_m\_n . I t \_s s\_ p\_p\_l\_r t h\_t C h\_n\_s\_  
w\_m\_n \_r\_ s p\_n d\_n g \_v\_r \$ 3 0 m\_l\_l\_\_ n \_ m\_n t h  
\_n \_t . I t \_s \_ l\_t t\_l\_ d\_f f\_r\_n t f\_r\_m t h\_ s\_\_ l  
d\_t\_n g \_p p b\_c\_\_ s\_ t h\_ b\_y f\_r\_\_ n d s \_r\_ n\_t r\_\_  
l . T h\_r\_ \_r\_ j\_s t f\_\_ r s\_n g\_l\_ m\_n \_n t h\_ \_p p  
\_n d t h\_y \_r\_ \_l\_l v\_r t\_\_ l b\_y f\_r\_\_ n d s . W\_m\_n  
h\_v\_ t\_ r\_l\_ - p\_l\_y d\_t\_n g t h\_ f\_\_ r b\_y f\_r\_\_ n d s .  
T h\_y h\_v\_ t\_ \_s\_ r\_\_ l m\_n\_y t\_ b\_y " P\_r p\_l\_  
D\_\_ m\_n d s " f\_r\_m t h\_ \_p p . T h\_y t h\_n s p\_n d  
t h\_\_ r P\_r p\_l\_ D\_\_ m\_n d s \_n t h\_ \_p p t\_ g\_ \_n  
d\_t\_s \_n d k\_\_ p t h\_\_ r r\_l\_t\_\_ n s h\_p s g\_\_ n g .  
T h\_ \_p p \_s c\_l\_l\_d L\_v\_\_ n d P\_r\_d\_c\_r . I t \_s c\_r  
r\_n t\_l\_y t h\_ b\_g g\_s t m\_n\_y \_\_ r\_n\_r \_n A p\_p\_l\_'s  
A p\_p S t\_r\_ \_n C h\_n\_ . P\_l\_y\_r\_s s p\_n t \_v\_r 2 0 0  
m\_l\_l\_\_ n C h\_n\_s\_ Y\_\_ n ( \$ 3 0 m\_l\_l\_\_ n ) \_n p  
l\_y\_n g \_t l\_s t m\_n t h .

A m\_r k\_t r\_s\_\_ r c h c\_m p\_n y s\_\_ d t h\_ \_p p  
h\_s m\_r\_ t h\_n t w\_ m\_l\_l\_\_ n d\_\_ l\_y \_c t\_v\_ \_s\_r s .  
T h\_ v\_s t m\_j\_r\_t y \_f t h\_s\_ \_r\_ w\_m\_n \_n t h\_\_ r  
\_\_ r\_l\_y 2 0 s . T h\_ c\_m p\_n y s\_\_ d \_s\_r s l\_v\_ t  
h\_ \_d\_\_ \_f r\_m\_n c\_ \_n d f\_n . A 1 9 - y\_\_ r - l\_d s  
t\_d\_n t \_t W\_h\_n U\_n\_v\_r\_s\_t y \_x p\_l\_\_ n\_d w\_h\_y s  
h\_ l\_k\_d t h\_ \_p p . S h\_ s\_\_ d : " I t ' s l\_k\_ \_  
r\_m\_n t\_c n\_v\_l w\_t h f\_s c\_n\_t\_n g v\_\_ c\_s . I t ' s  
m\_r\_ r\_\_ l t h\_n r\_\_ d\_n g \_n\_v\_l . " S h\_ s\_\_ d s  
h\_ l\_v\_d t h\_ \_p p ' s " d\_l\_c\_t\_ d\_r\_w\_n g s , " \_s  
w\_l\_l \_s t h\_ " g\_r\_\_ t v\_\_ c\_s " \_f t h\_ f\_\_ r m\_l\_  
c\_h\_r\_c\_t\_r\_s . A\_n\_t\_h\_r y\_\_ n g C h\_n\_s\_ w\_m\_n s\_\_  
d : " I d\_n ' t h\_v\_\_ \_ b\_y f\_r\_\_ n d , s\_ I ' m h\_p p  
y t\_ h\_v\_\_ \_ r\_l\_t\_\_ n s h\_p w\_t h \_ " p\_p\_r p\_r t\_n\_r  
" . S h\_ \_l\_s\_ l\_k\_d g\_t t\_n g \_- m\_\_ l \_n d c\_h\_t  
m\_s s\_g\_s f\_r\_m h\_r v\_r t\_\_ l b\_y f\_r\_\_ n d s .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

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 roleplay 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 apples 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 19yearold student at wuhan university explained why she liked the app she said its like a romantic novel with fascinating voices its more real than reading a novel she said she loved the apps delicate drawings as well as the great voices of the four male characters another young chinese woman said i dont have a boyfriend so im happy to have a relationship with a paper partner she also liked getting email and chat messages from her virtual boyfriends.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180205-dating-app.html>

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.





# 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. DATING APPS:** Make a poster about dating apps. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. VIRTUAL PARTNERS:** Write a magazine article about practicing on virtual partners so we have better real-life relationships. 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 dating apps. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make them better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. One month
2. Four
3. Purple Diamonds
4. Love and Producer
5. Apple's App Store in China
6. Over two million
7. Women in their early 20s
8. Reading a novel
9. Delicate drawings
10. Chat messages

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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