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Level 2 – 11th December, 2020

Japan to use artificial intelligence to match couples

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html>

Japan wants more men and women to go on dates. It wants to increase the birth rate. There are fewer babies being born. Japan is using artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help them find love. The government will use \$19 million to set the software up. There are already matchmaking services in half of Japan. With these, people have to fill out forms and answer questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people. The AI project will automate this system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get better matches.

The government wants to increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. Japanese women have an average of 1.36 children. This figure is going down. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help reverse the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is ageing quickly because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is the highest in the world. This is a problem for Japan's economy. There are fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare 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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. go on | a. the software up |
| 2. It wants to increase the birth | b. analysis of data |
| 3. use \$19 million to set | c. dates |
| 4. fill out | d. matches |
| 5. answer questions on | e. forms |
| 6. The AI project will automate | f. rate |
| 7. a more advanced | g. this system |
| 8. get better | h. hobbies and interests |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. increase the size | a. for Japan's economy |
| 2. Japan's fertility | b. 1.36 children |
| 3. an average of | c. of retired people |
| 4. Japan's population is ageing | d. of the population |
| 5. The longevity | e. workers |
| 6. This is a problem | f. quickly |
| 7. There are fewer younger | g. rate for women |
| 8. the pension and welfare | h. rate |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html>

Japan (1) _____ and women to go on dates. It wants to increase the birth rate. There are (2) _____ born. Japan is using artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help them find love. The government will use \$19 million to set (3) _____. There are already matchmaking services in half of Japan. With these, people have to (4) _____ and answer questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people. The AI project will (5) _____. AI software can perform a more advanced (6) _____ and get better matches.

The government wants to (7) _____ of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. Japanese women (8) _____ of 1.36 children. This figure is going down. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will (9) _____ decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population (10) _____ because people are living longer. The (11) _____ women is the highest in the world. This is a problem for Japan's economy. There are fewer younger workers to pay for the (12) _____ of retired people.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html>

Japan wants more men and women to go on dates. It wants to increase the birth rate. There are fewer babies being born. Japan is using artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help them find love. The government will use \$19 million to set the software up. There are already matchmaking services in half of Japan. With these, people have to fill out forms and answer questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people. The AI project will automate this system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get better matches. The government wants to increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. Japanese women have an average of 1.36 children. This figure is going down. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help reverse the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is ageing quickly because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is the highest in the world. This is a problem for Japan's economy. There are fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare of retired people.

MATCHMAKING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

