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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/01/13

## Online Dating Sites...

Today, let's talk about online dating sites. Why do people visit them? Can you find love on the web? How many people actually marry someone they find online? Are these sites safe?

In recent years attitudes in many countries to online dating have changed. In the UK, according to YouGov, an internet market research firm, one in five relationships in the UK now begins online. Meeting via the internet is the third most popular way to find a date after 'through friends' or making acquaintance at a pub or bar.

Nearly half of the UK's singletons are thought to have dabbled with online dating sites. Online dating is big business. In 2011, these sites brought in £170million to the UK economy alone.

Many people who are single over Christmas and the New Year period tend to look online. Online dating sites reported a 350% increase in traffic during this period. The interest in them though tends to wane significantly once people return to work in the New Year. A period of steady hits then entails until the spring when interest again dramatically falls.

Why? It is because people start to go out more; social diaries start to fill up, or by then people simply get bored with online dating. Either way, it appears many people who look at these sites tend to stick around for three months, leave then come back, or look at other sites.

A study from the University of Rochester in the US last year said that dating websites were making people more judgemental. It said that browsing through websites created a 'shopping' mentality, making people excessively picky!

The question is did you find love on the internet?

### SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about internet dating sites. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What is the third most popular way of making a date?
- 2) Name the other ways of making a date.
- 3) How much did these sites bring into the UK economy in 2011?
- 4) What happens between Christmas and the New Year?
- 5) What happens in the spring? Why?

#### Student B questions

- 1) In recent years in many countries what have changed?
- 2) What has increased by 350%? When?
- 3) Name the university.
- 4) Explain the term 'a shopping mentality'.
- 5) What does 'picky' mean?

**Category: Internet / Online Dating Sites / Matchmaking**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Online Dating Sites... – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**online dating sites**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**Online dating sites** - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

Think of three reasons for using an online dating site. Then add three reasons why they are so appealing. Finally, add three reasons for taking an element of caution! Write down your thoughts.

*The teacher* will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever looked at an online dating site?
- 3) Are online dating sites the best way of finding a partner?
- 4) Are online dating sites safe to use?
- 5) What words of warning might you offer regarding online dating sites?
- 6) Would you pay to use a dating site?
- 7) Are free dating sites better than pay online dating sites?
- 8) What makes dating sites so appealing?
- 9) Did you meet your partner online?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC Paris* TV studio. Today's interview is about: *Finding love online*.

- 1) A singleton.
- 2) You met someone online from your own country.
- 3) You met and married someone from another country, as a result of an online dating site.
- 4) An online dating site owner.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* You are in a coffee shop in your town/city. Start a conversation about: '*A date you made recently online*'. *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING

*In pairs* pretend to be online in different countries. Make a date online. Find out about each other. *5 mins.* *The teacher* will choose some pairs to hear their details in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Online dating sites

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Why do people look online for a partner?
- 3) Do you find love online?
- 4) Are dating sites making people picky?
- 5) Are people these days more judgemental when looking for love?
- 6) Why do people look at online dating sites?
- 7) Are you a member of any online dating sites?
- 8) Where is the best place to meet someone?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Online Dating Sites...**

Today, let's talk about online dating sites. Why do people visit them? Can you find love on the web? How many people actually marry someone they find online? Are these sites safe?

In recent years (1)\_\_\_ in many countries to online dating have changed. In the UK, according to YouGov, an internet market research firm, one in five (2)\_\_\_ in the UK now begins online. Meeting via the internet is the third most popular way to find a (3)\_\_\_ after 'through friends', or making (4)\_\_\_ at a (5)\_\_\_ or bar.

Nearly half of the UK's singletons are thought to have dabbled with online dating (6)\_\_. Online dating is big business. In 2011, these sites brought in £170million to the UK economy alone.

Many people, who are single over Christmas and the New Year period, tend to look (7)\_\_. Online dating sites reported a 350% increase in (8)\_\_\_ during this period.

**traffic / date / relationships / sites / online / attitudes / pub / acquaintance**

The interest in them though, tends to (1)\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_ once people return to work in the New Year. A period of steady hits then (3)\_\_\_ until the spring when interest again (4)\_\_\_ falls.

Why? It is because people start to go out more; social diaries start to fill up, or by then people simply get bored with online dating. Either way, it appears many people who look at these sites tend to stick around for three months, leave then come back, or look at other (5)\_\_\_.

A study from the University of Rochester in the US last year said that dating websites were making people more (6)\_\_. It said that browsing through websites created a 'shopping' (7)\_\_\_, making people excessively (8)\_\_\_!

The question is did you find love on the internet?

**dramatically / entails / wane / mentality / picky / judgemental / significantly / sites**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Online Dating Sites...**

Today, let's talk about online dating sites. (1)\_\_\_ do people visit them? Can you find love find love (2)\_\_\_ the web? (3)\_\_\_ many people actually marry someone they find online? Are these sites safe?

In recent years attitudes in many countries to online dating have changed. In the UK, according to YouGov, an internet market research firm, one in five relationships in the UK now begins online. Meeting via (4)\_\_\_ internet is the third most popular way to find a date after 'through friends', (5)\_\_\_ making acquaintance at a pub or bar.

Nearly half (6)\_\_\_ the UK's singletons are thought to have dabbled with online dating sites. Online dating is big business. In 2011, these sites brought in £170million to the UK economy alone.

Many people, (7)\_\_\_ are single over Christmas and the New Year period, tend to look online. Online dating sites reported a 350% increase (8)\_\_\_ traffic during this period.

**how / who / why / the / in / or / of / on**

The interest in (1)\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_, tends to wane significantly once people return to work in the New Year. A period of steady hits then entails until the spring (3)\_\_\_ interest again dramatically falls.

Why? It is (4)\_\_\_ people start to go out more; social diaries start to fill up, or by then people simply get bored with online dating. (5)\_\_\_ way, it appears many people who look at (6)\_\_\_ sites tend to stick around for three months, leave (7)\_\_\_ come back, or look at other sites.

A study from the University of Rochester in the US last year said (8)\_\_\_ dating websites were making people more judgemental. It said that browsing through websites created a 'shopping' mentality, making people excessively picky!

The question is did you find love on the internet?

**that / these / because / then / them / when / though / either**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Online Dating Sites...

Today, let's talk about \_\_\_\_\_. Why do people visit them? Can you find love on the web? How many people actually marry someone they find online? \_\_\_\_\_?

In recent years attitudes in many countries to online dating have changed. In the UK, according to YouGov, an internet market research firm, one in five relationships in the UK now begins online. \_\_\_\_\_ is the third most popular way to find a date after 'through friends', or making acquaintance \_\_\_\_\_.

Nearly half of the UK's singletons are thought to have dabbled with online dating sites. Online dating is big business. In 2011, these sites brought in £170million to \_\_\_\_\_.

Many people, who are single over Christmas and the New Year period, tend to look online. Online dating sites reported a 350% increase in traffic during this period.

The interest in them though, tends to \_\_\_\_\_ once people return to work in the New Year. A period of steady hits then entails until the spring when interest again dramatically falls.

Why? It is because people \_\_\_\_\_; social diaries start to fill up or by then people simply get bored with online dating. Either way, it appears many people who \_\_\_\_\_ tend to stick around for three months, leave then come back, or look at other sites.

A study from the \_\_\_\_\_ in the US last year said that dating websites were making people more judgemental. It said that browsing through websites created a 'shopping' mentality, making people excessively picky! The question is did you find \_\_\_\_\_?

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs*, name as many *dating sites* you know about. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Online dating \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Finding a partner \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Many singletons \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Online Dating Sites**. Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) attitudes
- 2) relationships
- 3) date
- 4) acquaintance
- 5) pub
- 6) sites
- 7) online
- 8) traffic

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) acquaintance
- 2) relationships
- 3) attitudes
- 4) via
- 5) popular
- 6) actually
- 7) marry
- 8) nearly
- 9) singletons
- 10) thought

### ANSWERS

- 1) wane
- 2) significantly
- 3) entails
- 4) dramatically
- 5) sites
- 6) judgemental
- 7) mentality
- 8) picky

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) dabbled
- 12) through
- 13) business
- 14) brought
- 15) picky
- 16) traffic
- 17) though
- 18) wane
- 19) significantly
- 20) dramatically

Online Dating Sites... – *5<sup>th</sup> January 2013*