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Level 6

Shanghai IKEA bans old people from dating

20th October, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161020-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/1610/161020-dating.html>

The Swedish furniture giant IKEA has banned old people from dating at its store in Shanghai, China. Store managers decided to clamp down on what they described as 'illegal date clubs'. Since the store opened several years ago, hundreds of lonely, divorced or widowed elderly people have descended on the cafeteria in search of love and companionship. Many of them simply used the café as a meeting place and did not buy anything. Management said they occupied seats for 'extended periods,' 'spoke loudly,' 'spat on the floor,' 'flirted' and had 'quarrels and fights'. The store posted a notice saying: "From today, the restaurant will only be for people who purchase their food first."

The older clientele are up in arms over the ban. They say they have nowhere else to go. An 88-year-old IKEA regular said: "We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there are barely any of our peers there. We feel like aliens there - surrounded by youngsters." Another frequent visitor to the restaurant said: "I guess few people know just how lonely old people are. Our kids are not around, and some visit only on weekends. I feel quite good when I come here. I talk with friends, but some elderly do meet people who become lovers." Some customers have little sympathy for those in search of love. They have complained that there is nowhere to sit because of the matchmaking groups.

Sources: <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/world/ikea-losing-patience-with-elderly-chinese-who-assemble-in-store-to-find-love>
<http://news.asiaone.com/news/asia/ikea-eatery-its-no-pay-no-stay>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/ikea-bans-illegal-blind-dating-group-store-cafeteria-in-shanghai-china-a7359271.html>

WARM-UPS

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

furniture / giant / store / managers / lonely / divorced / meeting place / flirted / food / clientele / up in arms / regular / peers / aliens / youngsters / weekends / lovers

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

3. SIT DOWN: Students A **strongly** believe old people should be able to sit and chat in restaurants without buying anything; Students B **strongly** believe that's stupid. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. IN SEARCH OF LOVE: How can these things / people / places help people in search of love? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they could do	Problems
Restaurants		
Internet		
Bosses		
Celebrities		
Libraries		
Trains		

5. DATE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "date". 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 best places for romance at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- an IKEA restaurant
- a movie theatre
- the beach
- a train
- a shopping mall
- Disneyland
- a French restaurant
- the Sahara Desert

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

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

- a. IKEA has banned old people from dating at all of its stores in China. **T / F**
- b. Managers at IKEA Shanghai described "illegal date clubs" at the store. **T / F**
- c. Most of the elderly buy tea and cookies at the cafe. **T / F**
- d. The restaurant told customers they need to buy food before sitting down. **T / F**
- e. The elderly customers fully understand and accept IKEA's dating ban. **T / F**
- f. The elderly customers say they prefer going to McDonald's. **T / F**
- g. An aged person said few people understand their loneliness. **T / F**
- h. IKEA customers are full of sympathy for the old people. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. banned | a. pity |
| 2. clamp down on | b. took up |
| 3. descended on | c. arguments |
| 4. occupied | d. angry |
| 5. quarrels | e. put a stop to |
| 6. up in arms | f. regular |
| 7. barely | g. prohibited |
| 8. frequent | h. protested |
| 9. sympathy | i. hardly |
| 10. complained | j. arrived in hordes |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. managers decided to clamp | a. peers there |
| 2. divorced | b. by youngsters |
| 3. Many of them simply used the café | c. on the floor |
| 4. spat | d. nowhere to sit |
| 5. only be for people who purchase | e. or widowed |
| 6. The older clientele are up in | f. those in search of love |
| 7. there are barely any of our | g. down |
| 8. surrounded | h. their food first |
| 9. customers have little sympathy for | i. arms over the ban |
| 10. complained that there is | j. as a meeting place |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

The Swedish furniture (1) _____ IKEA has banned old people from dating at its store in Shanghai, China. Store managers decided to (2) _____ down on what they described as 'illegal date clubs'. Since the store opened (3) _____ years ago, hundreds of lonely, divorced or widowed elderly people have (4) _____ on the cafeteria in search of love and companionship. Many of them (5) _____ used the café as a meeting place and did not buy anything. Management said they (6) _____ seats for 'extended periods,' 'spoke loudly,' 'spat on the floor,' 'flirted' and had '(7) _____ and fights'. The store posted a notice saying: "From today, the restaurant will only be for people who (8) _____ their food first."

descended
giant
occupied
purchase
several
simply
'quarrels
clamp

The older (9) _____ are up in arms over the ban. They say they have nowhere else to go. An 88-year-old IKEA (10) _____ said: "We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there are (11) _____ any of our peers there. We feel like (12) _____ there - surrounded by (13) _____." Another frequent visitor to the restaurant said: "I guess few people know just how lonely old people are. Our kids are not around, and some (14) _____ only on weekends. I feel quite good when I come here. I talk with friends, but some elderly do meet people who become (15) _____." Some customers have little (16) _____ for those in search of love. They have complained that there is nowhere to sit because of the matchmaking groups.

youngsters
clientele
sympathy
regular
lovers
aliens
visit
barely

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

- 1) Store managers decided to clamp down on what they described as ' _____ '
 - a. illegally date clubs
 - b. illegal dated clubs
 - c. illegal date clubs
 - d. illegal date club
- 2) elderly people have descended on the cafeteria in search of love _____
 - a. and companion ship
 - b. and company ship
 - c. and compare onions hip
 - d. and companionship
- 3) Management said they occupied seats for ' _____ '
 - a. extended periods
 - b. extending periods
 - c. extension periods
 - d. extended period
- 4) 'spoke loudly,' 'spat on the floor,' 'flirted' and had ' _____ '
 - a. quotas and flights
 - b. quotas and fights
 - c. quarrels and flights
 - d. quarrels and fights
- 5) From today, the restaurant will only be for people who purchase _____
 - a. their foods first
 - b. their food fast
 - c. their food first
 - d. they're food first
- 6) The older clientele are up in _____ ban
 - a. arms over the
 - b. legs under the
 - c. legs over the
 - d. arms under the
- 7) We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there are barely any _____ there
 - a. of our pears
 - b. of our peers
 - c. of our pairs
 - d. of our pares
- 8) We feel like aliens there - surrounded _____
 - a. by young stars
 - b. buy youngsters
 - c. bye young stores
 - d. by youngsters
- 9) Some customers have little sympathy for those _____
 - a. in searches of love
 - b. in searching of love
 - c. in search of love
 - d. in searched of love
- 10) They have complained that there is nowhere to sit because of the _____
 - a. match make in groups
 - b. match made in groups
 - c. matched making groups
 - d. matchmaking groups

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

The Swedish furniture giant IKEA (1) _____ people from dating at its store in Shanghai, China. Store managers decided to clamp down on what (2) _____ 'illegal date clubs'. Since the store opened several years ago, hundreds of lonely, divorced (3) _____ people have descended on the cafeteria in search of love and companionship. Many of them (4) _____ café as a meeting place and did not buy anything. Management said they occupied seats (5) _____ periods,' 'spoke loudly,' 'spat on the floor,' 'flirted' and had 'quarrels and fights'. The store posted a notice saying: "From today, the restaurant will only be for people (6) _____ food first."

The older clientele (7) _____ over the ban. They say they have nowhere else to go. An 88-year-old IKEA regular said: "We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there (8) _____ of our peers there. We feel like aliens there - surrounded by youngsters." Another frequent visitor to the restaurant said: "(9) _____ people know just how lonely old people are. Our kids are not around, and some visit only on weekends. I (10) _____ when I come here. I talk with friends, but some elderly do meet people who become lovers." Some customers have (11) _____ those in search of love. They have complained that there is (12) _____ because of the matchmaking groups.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

1. Who decided to ban old people dating in an IKEA store?
2. When did the store open?
3. What do many older people use the cafeteria as?
4. How did IKEA's management say the elderly people spoke?
5. What must people now do before they sit down in the cafeteria?
6. What did an 88-year-old say there were barely any of in KFC?
7. Who did an 88-year-old say elderly people were surrounded by in KFC?
8. When do the kids of elderly people visit them?
9. Who has little sympathy for the elderly people?
10. What did regular customers complain about there being a lack of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

- 1) Who decided to ban old people dating in an IKEA store?
 - a) the Swedish CEO
 - b) store managers
 - c) the police
 - d) shareholders
- 2) When did the store open?
 - a) last week
 - b) 1936
 - c) at 9 am
 - d) several years ago
- 3) What do many older people use the cafeteria as?
 - a) a love nest
 - b) a park
 - c) a meeting place
 - d) a second home
- 4) How did IKEA's management say the elderly people spoke?
 - a) loudly
 - b) rudely
 - c) quickly
 - d) softly
- 5) What must people now do before they sit down in the cafeteria?
 - a) buy furniture
 - b) purchase food
 - c) find a friend
 - d) take a ticket
- 6) What did an 88-year-old say there were barely any of in KFC?
 - a) peers
 - b) youngsters
 - c) aliens
 - d) managers
- 7) Who did an 88-year-old say elderly people were surrounded by in KFC?
 - a) peers
 - b) managers
 - c) youngsters
 - d) aliens
- 8) When do the kids of elderly people visit them?
 - a) at the weekends
 - b) during holidays
 - c) at the New Year
 - d) on their birthday
- 9) Who has little sympathy for the elderly people?
 - a) youngsters
 - b) store managers
 - c) aliens
 - d) some customers
- 10) What did regular customers complain about there being a lack of?
 - a) store managers
 - b) furniture
 - c) seats
 - d) food

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

Role A – IKEA

You think IKEA is the best place for romance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): Disneyland, a French restaurant or the Sahara Desert.

Role B – Disneyland

You think Disneyland is the best place for romance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): IKEA, a French restaurant or the Sahara Desert.

Role C – A French restaurant

You think a French restaurant is the best place for romance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): Disneyland, IKEA or the Sahara Desert.

Role D – The Sahara Desert

You think the Sahara Desert is the best place for romance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): Disneyland, a French restaurant or IKEA.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

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

elderly	people
----------------	---------------

- 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">• giant• clamp• several• widowed• spoke• first	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• arms• barely• aliens• kids• lovers• groups
---	---

DATING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

Write five GOOD questions about 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.

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 springs to mind when you hear the word 'dating'?
3. What do you think about what you read?
4. What should IKEA do about the older people?
5. Where can the older people go to find love?
6. Could IKEA use the matchmaking as a business opportunity?
7. How difficult is it to be old and alone?
8. What is wrong with using a store's café as a meeting place?
9. Should coffee shops stop people using seats for extended periods?
10. What advice do you have for the IKEA managers?

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DATING DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. Are the older clientele right to be up in arms?
13. Is this the same as young people spending ages in McDonald's?
14. What makes society a place where old people feel alienated?
15. How do old people find friends in your country?
16. How does this story reflect on IKEA?
17. What can the old people do to help IKEA?
18. Would you let the old people have your seat if you had bought a meal?
19. What is the compromise here?
20. What questions would you like to ask the IKEA managers?

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/1610/161020-dating.html>

The Swedish furniture giant IKEA has (1) _____ old people from dating at its store in Shanghai, China. Store managers decided to (2) _____ down on what they described as 'illegal date clubs'. Since the store opened several years ago, hundreds of lonely, divorced or (3) _____ elderly people have descended on the cafeteria in search of love and companionship. Many of them (4) _____ used the café as a meeting place and did not buy anything. Management said they occupied seats for 'extended periods,' 'spoke loudly,' '(5) _____ on the floor,' 'flirted' and had 'quarrels and fights'. The store posted a notice saying: "From today, the restaurant will only be for people who purchase their food (6) _____."

The older clientele are up in (7) _____ over the ban. They say they have nowhere else to go. An 88-year-old IKEA regular said: "We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there are barely any of our (8) _____ there. We feel like aliens there - surrounded by youngsters." Another frequent visitor to the restaurant said: "I guess (9) _____ people know just how lonely old people are. Our kids are not (10) _____, and some visit only on weekends. I feel quite good when I come here. I talk with friends, but some elderly do meet people who become lovers." Some customers have (11) _____ sympathy for those in search of love. They have complained that there is nowhere to sit because of the (12) _____ groups.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) binned | (b) banned | (c) bind | (d) band |
| 2. | (a) crump | (b) cramp | (c) clump | (d) clamp |
| 3. | (a) widow | (b) widowed | (c) widows | (d) widower |
| 4. | (a) easily | (b) justly | (c) simply | (d) handily |
| 5. | (a) spat | (b) spit | (c) split | (d) splat |
| 6. | (a) first | (b) fast | (c) firstly | (d) fist |
| 7. | (a) minds | (b) hearts | (c) legs | (d) arms |
| 8. | (a) peers | (b) pears | (c) pares | (d) pores |
| 9. | (a) several | (b) few | (c) multitudes | (d) loving |
| 10. | (a) visit | (b) through | (c) around | (d) roughly |
| 11. | (a) small | (b) few | (c) little | (d) low |
| 12. | (a) matched | (b) matchmaking | (c) martial | (d) matrimony |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

Paragraph 1

1. The Swedish unfeiturr giant IKEA
2. divorced or iowdedw elderly people
3. dddncsee on the cafeteria
4. ccdieuo seats for extended periods
5. had lreursaq and fights
6. for people who serhapuc their food first

Paragraph 2

7. The older lleetenic are up in arms
8. there are alryeb any of our peers
9. ruuodrneds by youngsters
10. Another tfeeugrn visitor
11. customers have little hsyatmyp
12. They have elpadmoinc

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () regular said: "We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there are barely any of our
- () on weekends. I feel quite good when I come here. I talk with friends, but some elderly do meet people
- () on the floor,' 'flirted' and had 'quarrels and fights'. The store posted a notice
- () peers there. We feel like aliens there - surrounded by youngsters." Another frequent visitor to the
- () The older clientele are up in arms over the ban. They say they have nowhere else to go. An 88-year-old IKEA
- () not buy anything. Management said they occupied seats for 'extended periods,' 'spoke loudly,' 'spat
- () restaurant said: "I guess few people know just how lonely old people are. Our kids are not around, and some visit only
- () who become lovers." Some customers have little sympathy for
- () saying: "From today, the restaurant will only be for people who purchase their food first."
- () years ago, hundreds of lonely, divorced or widowed elderly people have descended on the cafeteria in search
- () decided to clamp down on what they described as 'illegal date clubs'. Since the store opened several
- () those in search of love. They have complained that there is nowhere to sit because of the matchmaking groups.
- () of love and companionship. Many of them simply used the café as a meeting place and did
- (**1**) The Swedish furniture giant IKEA has banned old people from dating at its store in Shanghai, China. Store managers

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

1. down Clamp clubs date illegal as described they what on .
2. People on in love descended cafeteria of have the search .
3. of them simply used the café as a meeting place Many .
4. extended for seats occupied they said Management periods .
5. first who Only purchase be their for food people .
6. arms ban clientele in the older up over The are .
7. - feel surrounded like by aliens youngsters there We .
8. just how lonely old people are I guess few people know .
9. sympathy in love little those of have for search Customers .
10. that have sit nowhere there complained They to is .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

The Swedish furniture giant IKEA has *binned* / *banned* old people from dating at its store in Shanghai, China. Store managers decided to clamp *down* / *up* on what they described as '*illegal* / *illegally* date clubs'. Since the store opened several years ago, *hundreds* / *hundred* of lonely, divorced or widowed elderly people have *rescinded* / *descended* on the cafeteria in search of love and *one-upmanship* / *companionship*. Many of them *simply* / *simple* used the café as a meeting place and did not buy *nothing* / *anything*. Management said they occupied seats for 'extended periods,' 'spoke loudly,' '*spat* / *splat* on the floor,' 'flirted' and had 'quarrels and fights'. The store posted a *notice* / *notable* saying: "From today, the restaurant will only be for people who purchase their food first."

The older clientele are up in *legs* / *arms* over the ban. They say they have nowhere else to go. An 88-year-old IKEA *regularly* / *regular* said: "We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there are *barely* / *barley* any of our *pears* / *peers* there. We feel like aliens there - surrounded *by* / *at* youngsters." Another frequent *visit* / *visitor* to the restaurant said: "I guess *several* / *few* people know just how lonely old people are. Our kids are not around, and some visit only on weekends. I feel quite good when I come here. I talk with friends, but some elderly do meet people who become *loves* / *lovers*." Some customers have little *sympathy* / *sympathetic* for those in search of love. They have *complained* / *complainants* that there is nowhere to sit because of the matchmaking groups.

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/1610/161020-dating.html>

Th_ Sw_d_sh f_rn_t_r_ g__nt _K__ h_s b_nn_d _ld
p__pl_ fr_m d_t_ng _t _ts st_r__n Sh_ngh__, Ch_n_.
St_r_ m_n_g_rs d_c_d_d t_ cl_mp d_wn _n wh_t th_y
d_scr_b_d _s 'll_g_l d_t_ cl_bs'. S_nc_ th_ st_r_
_p_n_d s_v_r_l y__rs _g_, h_ndr_ds _f l_n_ly,
d_v_rc_d _r w_d_w_d _ld_rly p__pl_ h_v_ d_sc_nd_d
n th c_f_t_r__ _n s__rch _f l_v_ _nd
c_mp_n__nsh_p. M_ny _f th_m s_mply _s_d th_ c_fé_s
_ m__t_ng pl_c_ _nd d_d_n_t b_y _nyth_ng.
M_n_g_m_nt s__d th_y _cc_p__d s__ts f_r 'xt_nd_d
p_r__ds,' 'sp_k_ l__dly,' 'sp_t_n th_ fl__r,' 'fl_rt_d'
_nd h_d 'q__rr_ls _nd f_ghts'. Th_ st_r_ p_st_d _
n_t_c_s_y_ng: "Fr_m t_d_y, th_r st__r_nt w_ll _nly
b_f_r_p__pl_ wh_p_rch_s th__r f__d f_rst."

Th_ _ld_r cl__nt_l_ _r_ _p_n_rms _v_r th_ b_n. Th_y
s_y th_y h_v_ n_wh_r_ _ls_ t_g_. _n 88-y__r-ld
_K__ r_g_l_r s__d: "W_'v_ b__n t_ McD_n_ld's _nd
KFC, b_t th_r_ _r b_r_ly _ny _f __r p__rs th_r_. W_
f__l l_k_ _l__ns th_r_ - s_rr__nd_d by y__ngst_rs."
_n th_r fr_q__nt v_s_t_r t_ th_r st__r_nt s__d: "
g__ss f_w p__pl_ kn_w j_st h_w l_n_ly _ld p__pl_ _r_.
__r k_ds _r_n_t _r__nd, _nd s_m_ v_s_t _nly _n
w__k_nds. _f__l q__t_g__d wh_n _c_m_h_r_. _t_lk
w_th fr__nds, b_t s_m_ _ld_rly d_m__t p__pl_ wh_
b_c_m_ l_v_rs." S_m_ c_st_m_rs h_v_ lttl_ symp_thy
f_r th_s_ _n s__rch _f l_v_. Th_y h_v_ c_mpl__nd
th_t th_r_ _s_n wh_r_ t_s_t b_c_s_ _f th_
m_tchm_k_ng gr__ps.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

the swedish furniture giant ikea has banned old people from dating at its store in shanghai china store managers decided to clamp down on what they described as 'illegal date clubs' since the store opened several years ago hundreds of lonely divorced or widowed elderly people have descended on the cafeteria in search of love and companionship many of them simply used the café as a meeting place and did not buy anything management said they occupied seats for 'extended periods' 'spoke loudly' 'spat on the floor' 'flirted' and had 'quarrels and fights' the store posted a notice saying "from today the restaurant will only be for people who purchase their food first"

the older clientele are up in arms over the ban they say they have nowhere else to go an 88-year-old ikea regular said "we've been to mcdonald's and kfc but there are barely any of our peers there we feel like aliens there - surrounded by youngsters" another frequent visitor to the restaurant said "i guess few people know just how lonely old people are our kids are not around and some visit only on weekends i feel quite good when i come here i talk with friends but some elderly do meet people who become lovers" some customers have little sympathy for those in search of love they have complained that there is nowhere to sit because of the matchmaking groups

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161020-dating.html>

The Swedish furniture giant IKEA has banned old people from dating at its store in Shanghai, China. Store managers decided to clamp down on what they described as 'illegal date clubs'. Since the store opened several years ago, hundreds of lonely, divorced or widowed elderly people have descended on the cafeteria in search of love and companionship. Many of them simply used the café as a meeting place and did not buy anything. Management said they occupied seats for 'extended periods,' 'spoke loudly,' 'spat on the floor,' 'flirted' and had 'quarrels and fights'. The store posted a notice saying: "From today, the restaurant will only be for people who purchase their food first." The older clientele are up in arms over the ban. They say they have nowhere else to go. An 88-year-old IKEA regular said: "We've been to McDonald's and KFC, but there are barely any of our peers there. We feel like aliens there - surrounded by youngsters." Another frequent visitor to the restaurant said: "I guess few people know just how lonely old people are. Our kids are not around, and some visit only on weekends. I feel quite good when I come here. I talk with friends, but some elderly come to meet people who become lovers." Some customers have little sympathy for those in search of love. They have complained that there is nowhere to sit because of the match-making groups.

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

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

4. DATING: Write a magazine article about old people finding love in restaurants without buying food. 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 dating. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on the best places to go on a date. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. banned | a. prohibited |
| 2. clamp down on | b. put a stop to |
| 3. descended on | c. arrived in hordes |
| 4. occupied | d. took up |
| 5. quarrels | e. arguments |
| 6. up in arms | f. angry |
| 7. barely | g. hardly |
| 8. frequent | h. regular |
| 9. sympathy | i. pity |
| 10. complained | j. protested |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Shanghai
2. Several years ago
3. A meeting place
4. Loudly
5. Purchase food
6. Peers
7. Youngsters
8. At the weekends
9. Some customers
10. Seats

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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