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Level 4 – 19th March, 2021

Online romance fraud is on the increase

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-4.html>

There was a 20 per cent rise in romance fraud last year. Loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic increased this number. This cyber-fraud coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. There was a big rise in scams related to dating apps. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of love and out of pocket....Scammers can be very convincing by forming an emotional attachment with their victims."

Cyber criminals took advantage of dating apps during lockdowns. People lost a total of \$26 million in bank transfer fraud. The average loss per victim was around \$11,000. A UK bank said older people are most vulnerable. A fraud expert said: "Any online platform...could be targeted by romance fraudsters, so it's important to remain vigilant." She urged people to be careful if an online love interest asks for money.

Sources: <https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252496156/Dating-app-users-warned-to-watch-out-for-scammers>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55997611>
<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/romance-fraud-lockdown-online/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. There was a 20 per cent | a. in the number |
| 2. Loneliness | b. attachment |
| 3. cyber-fraud coincided with a rise | c. to dating apps |
| 4. people looking for a partner | d. and isolation |
| 5. scams related | e. convincing |
| 6. out of | f. online |
| 7. Scammers can be very | g. rise |
| 8. forming an emotional | h. pocket |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. criminals took advantage | a. vulnerable |
| 2. during | b. of \$26 million |
| 3. People lost a total | c. victim |
| 4. bank transfer | d. vigilant |
| 5. The average loss per | e. of dating apps |
| 6. older people are most | f. expert |
| 7. A fraud | g. lockdowns |
| 8. it's important to remain | h. fraud |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-4.html>

There was a 20 per cent (1) _____ fraud last year.

Loneliness (2) _____ the coronavirus pandemic

(3) _____. This cyber-fraud coincided with a rise in the

number of people looking for a partner online. There was a big

(4) _____ related to dating apps. UK Finance said:

"Romance scams can leave customers out of love and

(5) _____....Scammers can be very convincing by

forming an emotional attachment (6) _____."

Cyber criminals (7) _____ dating apps during

lockdowns. People lost a total of \$26 million in

(8) _____. The average (9) _____

was around \$11,000. A UK bank said older people

(10) _____. A fraud expert said: "Any online

platform...could (11) _____ romance fraudsters, so it's

important to remain vigilant." She urged people to be careful if an online

(12) _____ for money.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-4.html>

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ROMANCE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about romance 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-4.html>

Write about **romance** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
