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Level 6 – 19th March, 2021

Online romance fraud is on the increase

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

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

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Authorities are urging those looking for love on the Internet to be cautious. There was a 20 per cent spike in online romance fraud last year. The organisation UK Finance reported that cyber fraud increased considerably and coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. This has been exacerbated by feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic. There was a sharp rise in the number of scams related to dating sites and around Valentine's Day. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of love and out of pocket." It warned: "Romance scammers can be very convincing by forming an emotional attachment with their victims."

The Online Dating Association in the UK reported that around 2.3 million British citizens used dating apps during lockdown. Cyber criminals have taken advantage of this to scam people. A total of \$26 million is believed to have been lost in bank transfer fraud. The average loss per victim is around \$11,000. According to data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are the most vulnerable to romance fraud. Pauline Smith, a fraud expert, said: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could be targeted by romance fraudsters, so it's important to remain vigilant." She urged extreme caution if an online love interest requests money for things like medical care.

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/>

WARM-UPS

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

authorities / Internet / cautious / cyber fraud / partner / online / pandemic / love dating / lockdown / criminals / bank transfer / data / romance / expert / vigilant

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

3. IN PERSON: Students A **strongly** believe all dating should be done in-person and not online; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ROMANTIC THINGS: How romantic are these things? Why? How do you feel about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Romantic?	Why?	Your Feelings
Roses			
Chocolates			
Love songs			
Italian restaurants			
Poetry			
Moonlit walks			

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

6. ROMANTIC DATES: Rank these with your partner. Put the most romantic dates at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Italian restaurant
- Online
- Beach
- Amusement park
- Museum
- Cinema
- Along a river
- Shopping mall

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. urging | a. By a large extent. |
| 2. cautious | b. Happened at or during the same time. |
| 3. spike | c. Trying to get someone to do something. |
| 4. considerably | d. Having lost money in a financial transaction. |
| 5. coincided | e. Careful to avoid potential problems or dangers. |
| 6. exacerbated | f. A sharp increase in the level or amount of something. |
| 7. out of pocket | g. Made a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. scam | h. Reaching a high or the highest degree; very great. |
| 9. victim | i. A dishonest scheme; a fraud. |
| 10. vulnerable | j. A person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, or other event or action. |
| 11. expert | k. Hardware of a computer system that determines what kinds of software it can run; a social media website. |
| 12. platform | l. A person who has a comprehensive and authoritative knowledge of or skill in a particular area |
| 13. vigilant | m. Easy to be subject to physical or emotional attack or harm. |
| 14. extreme | n. Keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. The article says people looking for love need to be caustic. **T / F**
- b. Cases of online romance fraud increased by 20% last year. **T / F**
- c. Coronavirus led to a drop in people dating online. **T / F**
- d. The article said scams can leave victims out of pocket. **T / F**
- e. Around 2.3 million people worldwide used dating apps during lockdown. **T / F**
- f. The average loss from romance fraud is around \$11,000 per victim. **T / F**
- g. A fraud expert urged people to be valiant when they are online. **T / F**
- h. The fraud expert said people who lose money should seek medical care. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. authorities | a. increase |
| 2. spike | b. target |
| 3. considerably | c. help |
| 4. scam | d. officials |
| 5. attachment | e. greatly |
| 6. during | f. specialist |
| 7. victim | g. bond |
| 8. expert | h. watchful |
| 9. vigilant | i. fraud |
| 10. care | j. throughout |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. There was a 20 per cent spike | a. by feelings of loneliness |
| 2. This has been exacerbated | b. fraudsters |
| 3. out of | c. with their victims |
| 4. Romance scammers can be very | d. advantage of this |
| 5. forming an emotional attachment | e. vigilant |
| 6. British citizens used dating | f. in online romance fraud |
| 7. criminals have taken | g. apps during lockdown |
| 8. The average loss per | h. convincing |
| 9. targeted by romance | i. victim is around \$11,000 |
| 10. it's important to remain | j. pocket |

GAP FILL

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

Authorities are urging those looking for love on the Internet to be (1) _____. There was a 20 per cent spike in online romance fraud last year. The organisation UK Finance reported that cyber fraud increased considerably and (2) _____ with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. This has been (3) _____ by feelings of loneliness and (4) _____ during the coronavirus pandemic. There was a (5) _____ rise in the number of scams related to dating sites and around Valentine's Day. UK Finance said: "Romance (6) _____ can leave customers out of love and out of pocket." It warned: "Romance scammers can be very (7) _____ by forming an emotional attachment with their (8) _____."

sharp
cautious
victims
scams
exacerbated
convincing
isolation
coincided

The Online Dating Association in the UK reported that around 2.3 million British citizens used dating apps during (9) _____. Cyber criminals have taken (10) _____ of this to scam people. A total of \$26 million is believed to have been lost in bank (11) _____ fraud. The average loss per (12) _____ is around \$11,000. According to data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are the most (13) _____ to romance fraud. Pauline Smith, a fraud (14) _____, said: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could be (15) _____ by romance fraudsters, so it's important to remain (16) _____." She urged extreme caution if an online love interest requests money for things like medical care.

transfer
vulnerable
targeted
lockdown
vigilant
victim
advantage
expert

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Authorities are urging those looking for love on the Internet _____
 - a. to be cautious
 - b. to be caustic
 - c. to be cautious
 - d. to be cautions
- 2) The organisation UK Finance reported that cyber fraud _____
 - a. increased considerable
 - b. increased consider ably
 - c. increased considered ably
 - d. increased considerably
- 3) There was a sharp rise in the number of scams related _____
 - a. of dating sites
 - b. to dating sites
 - c. at dating sites
 - d. two dating sites
- 4) Romance scams can leave customers out of love and _____
 - a. out of pocket
 - b. out off pocket
 - c. outer pocket
 - d. outing pocket
- 5) very convincing by forming an emotional attachment _____
 - a. within their victims
 - b. wither their victims
 - c. without their victims
 - d. with their victims
- 6) around 2.3 million British citizens used dating _____
 - a. gaps during lockdown
 - b. knaps during lockdown
 - c. apps during lockdown
 - d. gapes during lockdown
- 7) A total of \$26 million is believed to have been lost in _____
 - a. banked transfer afraid
 - b. bank transfer fraud
 - c. bank transferred fraud
 - d. bank transfer frowned
- 8) According to data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are _____
 - a. the most vulnerable
 - b. the must vulnerability
 - c. the messed vulnerable
 - d. the mist vulnerable
- 9) that allows you to connect with and talk to other people _____
 - a. could be target it
 - b. could be targeted
 - c. could be targeting
 - d. could be tar gated
- 10) by romance fraudsters, so it's important _____
 - a. to remain vigilance
 - b. to remain vigilante
 - c. to remain vigilant
 - d. to remain vigil ant

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Authorities (1) _____ looking for love on the Internet to be cautious. There was a 20 per cent spike in online romance fraud last year. The organisation UK Finance reported (2) _____ increased considerably and coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. This has been (3) _____ of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic. There was a sharp rise in the number of (4) _____ dating sites and around Valentine's Day. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of love and (5) _____." It warned: "Romance scammers can be very convincing by forming an emotional attachment (6) _____."

The Online Dating Association in the UK reported that around 2.3 million British citizens used dating (7) _____. Cyber criminals have taken advantage of this to scam people. A total of \$26 million is believed to have been lost in (8) _____. The average loss per victim is around \$11,000. According to data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are the (9) _____ romance fraud. Pauline Smith, (10) _____, said: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could (11) _____ romance fraudsters, so it's important (12) _____." She urged extreme caution if an online love interest requests money for things like medical care.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What are authorities urging those looking for love to be?
2. What percentage increase in Internet fraud was there last year?
3. What feelings does the article say people experienced during lockdown?
4. What can romance fraud leave victims besides being out of love?
5. What did an organisation say romance scammers can be?
6. How many British people used dating apps during lockdown?
7. What did the average romance fraud victim lose?
8. Who is most vulnerable to romance fraud?
9. What does a fraud expert say it is important for people to be?
10. Who did the expert urge people to be careful of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What are authorities urging those looking for love to be?
 - a) lovely
 - b) romantic
 - c) callous
 - d) cautious
- 2) What percentage increase in Internet fraud was there last year?
 - a) 25%
 - b) 20%
 - c) 30%
 - d) 12%
- 3) What feelings does the article say people experienced during lockdown?
 - a) anger and frustration
 - b) boredom and sadness
 - c) loneliness and isolation
 - d) optimism and pessimism
- 4) What can romance fraud leave victims besides being out of love?
 - a) out of pocket
 - b) sad
 - c) furious
 - d) stressed
- 5) What did an organisation say romance scammers can be?
 - a) clever
 - b) honest
 - c) convincing
 - d) neighbours
- 6) How many British people used dating apps during lockdown?
 - a) exactly 2.3 million
 - b) around 2.3 million
 - c) over 2.3 million
 - d) under 2.3 million
- 7) What did the average romance fraud victim lose?
 - a) exactly \$11,000
 - b) less than \$11,000
 - c) more than \$11,000
 - d) around \$11,000
- 8) Who is most vulnerable to romance fraud?
 - a) people aged 55 to 64
 - b) people aged 45 to 54
 - c) people aged 65 to 74
 - d) people aged 75 to 84
- 9) What does a fraud expert say it is important for people to be?
 - a) valiant
 - b) violent
 - c) vigilant
 - d) vagrant
- 10) Who did the expert urge people to be careful of?
 - a) neighbours
 - b) online love interests
 - c) people with roses
 - d) beautiful or handsome people

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Italian Restaurant

You think an Italian restaurant is the best place for a romantic date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): the beach, a museum or a shopping mall.

Role B – Beach

You think the beach is the best place for a romantic date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): an Italian restaurant, a museum or a shopping mall.

Role C – Museum

You think a museum is the best place for a romantic date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): the beach, an Italian restaurant or a shopping mall.

Role D – Shopping Mall

You think a shopping mall is the best place for a romantic date. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): the beach, a museum or an Italian restaurant.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

romance	fraud

- 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">• urging• coincided• isolation• sharp• related• forming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.3• advantage• 26• 11,000• 64• care
--	---

ROMANCE SURVEY

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

ROMANCE 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 'romance'?
3. How romantic are you?
4. What is the most romantic thing you have ever done?
5. What do you think of online dating?
6. How worried are you about online fraud?
7. What are the signs that a mail or site might be a scam?
8. How have you felt during the coronavirus pandemic?
9. Has romance ever left you out of pocket?
10. How important is romance to you?

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ROMANCE 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 'fraud'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of dating apps?
15. What do you think of scammers?
16. What do you do to keep safe online?
17. What do you think of online romance?
18. How vigilant are you online?
19. What is the best romantic movie you have seen?
20. What questions would you like to ask the fraud expert?

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/2103/210319-romance-fraud.html>

Authorities are (1) _____ those looking for love on the Internet to be cautious. There was a 20 per cent (2) _____ in online romance fraud last year. The organisation UK Finance reported that cyber fraud increased considerably and (3) _____ with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. This has been exacerbated (4) _____ feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic. There was a sharp rise in the number of scams related to dating sites and around Valentine's Day. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of love and out of (5) _____." It warned: "Romance scammers can be very convincing (6) _____ forming an emotional attachment with their victims."

The Online Dating Association in the UK reported that around 2.3 million British citizens used dating apps (7) _____ lockdown. Cyber criminals have taken advantage of this to scam people. A total of \$26 million is believed to have been lost in bank (8) _____ fraud. The average loss per victim is around \$11,000. According to data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are the most (9) _____ to romance fraud. Pauline Smith, a fraud (10) _____, said: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could be targeted by romance fraudsters, so it's important to (11) _____ vigilant." She urged extreme caution if an online love (12) _____ requests money for things like medical care.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) urging | (b) purging | (c) perjuring | (d) surging |
| 2. | (a) spine | (b) spice | (c) spike | (d) spire |
| 3. | (a) coincidence | (b) coincides | (c) coincided | (d) coincide |
| 4. | (a) on | (b) of | (c) at | (d) by |
| 5. | (a) pocket | (b) packet | (c) picket | (d) pucker |
| 6. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at | (d) on |
| 7. | (a) about | (b) via | (c) while | (d) during |
| 8. | (a) change | (b) transfer | (c) transmit | (d) shift |
| 9. | (a) vitriol | (b) venerable | (c) vulnerable | (d) viable |
| 10. | (a) expat | (b) expert | (c) export | (d) extant |
| 11. | (a) done | (b) do | (c) have | (d) remain |
| 12. | (a) liking | (b) interest | (c) prefer | (d) pastime |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. Authorities are ruing those looking for love
2. to be ucitaous
3. icnoicedd with a rise
4. ceberaatxed by feelings of loneliness
5. scammers can be very nvniconig
6. forming an emotional tahcamtnet

Paragraph 2

7. taken vnadtagae of this
8. The veraage loss per victim
9. the most unvareblle
10. a fraud xeeprt
11. it's important to remain gvliiant
12. She urged xtremee caution

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The Online Dating Association in the UK reported that around 2.3 million British citizens used dating
- () pocket." It warned: "Romance scammers can be very convincing by forming an emotional attachment with their victims."
- () pandemic. There was a sharp rise in the number of scams related to dating sites and
- () data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are the most vulnerable to romance fraud. Pauline Smith, a fraud
- () apps during lockdown. Cyber criminals have taken advantage of this to scam people. A total of \$26 million is
- () spike in online romance fraud last year. The organisation UK Finance reported that cyber fraud
- () be targeted by romance fraudsters, so it's important to remain vigilant." She urged extreme
- () increased considerably and coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner
- (**1**) Authorities are urging those looking for love on the Internet to be cautious. There was a 20 per cent
- () expert, said: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could
- () caution if an online love interest requests money for things like medical care.
- () online. This has been exacerbated by feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus
- () around Valentine's Day. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of love and out of
- () believed to have been lost in bank transfer fraud. The average loss per victim is around \$11,000. According to

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. was 20% There in spike a romance fraud .
2. people of The looking number a for partner .
3. rise A the in sharp number of scams .
4. scams can leave customers out Romance of pocket .
5. an attachment emotional Forming with their victims .
6. of citizens used dating apps Millions during lockdown .
7. took this of advantage to Cyber-criminals scam people .
8. per loss The victim average around is \$11,000 .
9. in sixties People the are their most vulnerable .
10. it's She to important warned remain vigilant .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Authorities are *purging* / *urging* those looking for love on the Internet to be cautious. There was a 20 per cent spike *on* / *in* online romance fraud last year. The organisation UK Finance reported that cyber fraud increased considerably and *coincidence* / *coincided* with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. This has been exacerbated *of* / *by* feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic. There was a *sharp* / *blunt* rise in the number of scams related to *dating* / *dated* sites and around Valentine's Day. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of *love* / *loves* and out of *packet* / *pocket*." It warned: "Romance scammers can be very convincing *of* / *by* forming an emotional attachment with their *volumes* / *victims*."

The Online Dating Association in the UK reported that around 2.3 million British citizens used dating apps *while* / *during* lockdown. Cyber criminals have taken advantage *of* / *to* this to scam people. A total of \$26 million is believed to have *being* / *been* lost in bank transfer fraud. The average *lost* / *loss* per victim is around \$11,000. *According* / *Accorded* to data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are the most *venerable* / *vulnerable* to romance fraud. Pauline Smith, a fraud *expat* / *expert*, said: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could be *targeted* / *aimed* by romance fraudsters, so it's important to remain *valiant* / *vigilant*." She urged extreme caution if an online love interest requests money for things like medical *caring* / *care*.

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/2103/210319-romance-fraud.html>

__th_r_t__s _r_ _rg_ng th_s_ l__k_ng f_r l_v_ _n th_ _nt_rn_t t_ b_ c__t__s. Th_r_ w_s _ 20 p_r c_nt sp_k_ _n _nl_n_ r_m_nc_ fr__d l_st y__r. Th_ _rg_n_s_t__n _K F_n_nc_ r_p_rt_d th_t cyb_r fr__d _ncr__s_d c_ns_d_r_bly _nd c__nc_d_d w_th _ r_s_ _n th_ n_mb_r _f p__pl_ l__k_ng f_r _ p_rtn_r _nl_n_. Th_s h_s b__n _x_c_r_b_t_d by f__l_ngs _f l_n_l_n_ss _nd _s_l_t__n d_rng th_ c_r_n_v_r_s p_nd_m_c. Th_r_ w_s _ sh_rp r_s_ _n th_ n_mb_r _f sc_ms r_l_t_d t_ d_t_ng s_t_s _nd _r__nd V_l_nt_n_'s D_y. _K F_n_nc_ s__d: "R_m_nc_ sc_ms c_n l__v_ c_st_m_rs __t _f l_v_ _nd __t _f p_ck_t." _t w_rn_d: "R_m_nc_ sc_mm_rs c_n b_ v_ry c_nv_nc_ng by f_rm_ng _n _m_t__n_l _tt_chm_nt w_th th__r v_ct_ms."

Th_ _nl_n_ D_t_ng _ss_c__t__n _n th_ _K r_p_rt_d th_t _r__nd 2.3 m_ll__n Br_t_sh c_t_z_ns _s_d d_t_ng _pps d_rng l_ckd_wn. Cyb_r cr_m_n_ls h_v_ t_k_n _dv_nt_g_ _f th_s t_ sc_m p__pl_. _ t_t_l _f \$26 m_ll__n _s b_l__v_d t_ h_v_ b__n l_st _n b_nk tr_nsf_r fr__d. Th_ _v_r_g_ l_ss p_r v_ct_m _s _r__nd \$11,000. _cc_r_d_ng t_ d_t_ fr_m _ _K b_nk, p__pl_ _g_d 55 t_ 64 _r_ th_ m_st v_ln_r_bl_ t_ r_m_nc_ fr__d. P__l_n_ S_m_th, _ fr__d _xp_rt, s__d: "_ny _nl_n_ pl_tf_rm th_t _ll_ws y__ t_ c_nn_ct w_th _nd t_lk t_ _th_r p__pl_ c__ld b_ t_rg_t_d by r_m_nc_ fr__dst_rs, s_ _t's _mp_rt_nt t_ r_m__n v_g_l_nt." Sh_ _rg_d _xtr_m_ c__t__n _f _n _nl_n_ l_v_ _nt_r_st r_q__sts m_n_y f_r th_ngs l_k_ m_d_c_l c_r_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

authorities are urging those looking for love on the internet to be cautious there was a 20 per cent spike in online romance fraud last year the organisation uk finance reported that cyber fraud increased considerably and coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online this has been exacerbated by feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic there was a sharp rise in the number of scams related to dating sites and around valentines day uk finance said romance scams can leave customers out of love and out of pocket it warned romance scammers can be very convincing by forming an emotional attachment with their victims

the online dating association in the uk reported that around 23 million british citizens used dating apps during lockdown cyber criminals have taken advantage of this to scam people a total of 26 million is believed to have been lost in bank transfer fraud the average loss per victim is around 11000 according to data from a uk bank people aged 55 to 64 are the most vulnerable to romance fraud pauline smith a fraud expert said any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could be targeted by romance fraudsters so its important to remain vigilant she urged extreme caution if an online love interest requests money for things like medical care

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Authorities are urging those looking for love on the Internet to be cautious. There was a 20 percent spike in online romance fraud last year. The organisation UK Finance reported that cyber fraud increased considerably and coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. This has been exacerbated by feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic. There was a sharp rise in the number of scams related to dating sites and around Valentine's Day. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of love and out of pocket." It warned: "Romance scammers can be very convincing by forming an emotional attachment with their victims." The Online Dating Association in the UK reported that around 2.3 million British citizens used dating apps during lockdown. Cybercriminals have taken advantage of this to scam people. A total of \$26 million is believed to have been lost in bank transfer fraud. The average loss per victim is around \$11,000. According to data from a UK bank, people aged 55 to 64 are the most vulnerable to romance fraud. Pauline Smith, a fraud expert, said: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could be targeted by romance fraudsters, so it's important to remain vigilant." She urged extreme caution if an online love interest requests money for things like medical care.

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

4. LESSONS: Write a magazine article about governments providing lessons so people can be more aware of Internet scams. 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 romance. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to find love. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. d	2. a	3. e	4. i	5. g
6. j	7. b	8. f	9. h	10. c

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Cautious
2. 20%
3. Loneliness and isolation
4. Out of pocket
5. Convincing
6. Around 2.3 million
7. Around \$11,000
8. People aged 55 to 64
9. Vigilant
10. Online love interests

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. There was a 20% spike in romance fraud.
2. The number of people looking for a partner.
3. A sharp rise in the number of scams.
4. Romance scams can leave customers out of pocket.
5. Forming an emotional attachment with their victims.
6. Millions of citizens used dating apps during lockdown.
7. Cyber-criminals took advantage of this to scam people.
8. The average loss per victim is around \$11,000.
9. People in their sixties are the most vulnerable.
10. She warned it's important to remain vigilant.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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