

Valentine “Suicide Party” (Sun 13 Feb)

WARM UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Valentine’s Day / chat rooms / communal suicide / crazy killers / feeling lonely / Internet dangers...Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

CHAT ROOM BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word ‘chat room’. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

MY CHATTING: Talk to your partner / group about where you like to chat – online, on the phone, on the street, on company’s time? What are your favorite chat topics? Who do you chat to/with? How long do you chat? ...

VALENTINE DATE: With a partner spend five minutes planning THE ultimate romantic Valentine’s date, either for a woman, or for a man. Change partners and explain the details of your date to your new partner.

PRESENTS: Choose the best three and worst three of these Valentines presents and tell your partner. Explain why they are the best and worst:

- heart-shaped Belgian chocolates
- Chanel #5 (for women and men)
- 12 red roses
- a single red rose
- your sweetheart singing a love song beneath your bedroom window in the moonlight
- sexy underwear
- a cute pink teddy bear
- a heart-shaped cake made by your loved one
- a gold necklace with small hearts on it
- a special poem written by your partner
- a weekend trip for two to Paris
- a romantic candlelit dinner at a French restaurant
- a special massage
- a bottle of champagne
- money (lots of cash) in a perfumed pink envelope

LOVE VOCABULARY: Look at the following ‘love’ word partners. Choose 5 and write down one question for each word. Ask other students your questions. Write down the new ‘love words’ you meet as you meet new conversation partners:

puppy ~ deep ~ true ~ head over heels in ~ ~ at first sight fall
in ~ madly in ~ burning ~ everlasting ~ obsessive ~ secret
~ my ~ blind ~ platonic ~ make ~

CHAT: Write down your favorite chat topic on a piece of paper. Teacher collects all topics, selects one at random and tells the class. In pairs chat about this topic for two minutes. Change partners for a new topic.

PRE READING EXERCISES

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries, or a search engine, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'chat' and 'room'.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- a. Police in America have arrested a Valentine's Day killer. T / F
- b. The man used an Internet chat room for a 'suicide party' on Valentine's Day. T / F
- c. The man has been charged by the police with attempted murder. T / F
- d. The man was acting alone in his Internet plan. T / F
- e. He was mainly targeting lonely men to take their own lives. T / F
- f. Yahoo cannot help police find the visitors to the chat room. T / F
- g. Police want to find a woman who wants to kill her children and herself. T / F
- h. Valentine's Day is a prime target for such plans, as many people feel lonely. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| (a) arrested | agreement |
| (b) accused | gang |
| (c) set up | crazily |
| (d) pact | deadly |
| (e) simultaneous | detained |
| (f) murderous | forsaken |
| (g) cronies | establish |
| (h) desperately | perfect |
| (i) prime | synchronized |
| (j) lonely | blamed |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (a) try to set up a mass | find |
| (b) Gerald Krein, aged 26, has been charged | her children |
| (c) attempted | the chat room |
| (d) part of a wider | targeting women and children |
| (e) logged on to | by the police |
| (f) his murderous plan, which was | lives |
| (g) Krein and his cronies were mainly | suicide on Valentine's Day |
| (h) take their own | to have taken place tomorrow |
| (i) desperately trying to | network |
| (j) end the lives of | murder |

GAP FILL

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BNE: Police in the USA have _____ a man who has been accused of using an Internet chat room to try to set up a _____ suicide on Valentine’s Day. The suicide pact planner, Gerald Krein, aged 26, has been charged by the police with attempted murder. Police believe Krein, from the state of Oregon, may have been part of a _____ network that was aiming for communal and simultaneous suicides, either while logged on to the chat room, or at a _____ in Oregon called Klamath Falls. He called his murderous plan, which was to have taken place tomorrow, Valentine’s Day, a “suicide party”. Krein and his _____ were mainly targeting women and children to _____ their own lives. Yahoo, the Internet service on which the chat room was set up, and the police are _____ trying to find all of the people who visited and chatted to Krein. Investigators especially want to find a woman who said she would _____ the lives of her children before ending her own. Valentine’s Day is a _____ target for such suicide plans, as many single people feel lonely.

wider cronies arrested prime end desperately mass location take

HOMEWORK

LETTER TO KREIN: Write a letter to Gerald Krein.

CHAT-SAFE: Create a poster with a series of guidelines on how to stay safe while online.

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

About Valentine’s Day:

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/valentine/>

Saint Valentine:

http://www.pictureframes.co.uk/pages/saint_valentine.htm

100 Questions to ask your Valentine’s partner:

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/valentine.html>

Chat room dangers – How to keep safe while chatting online:

<http://www.chatdanger.com/>

Internet suicide in Japan:

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1279571.htm>

DISCUSSION:

- a. Do you use chat rooms?
- b. What is the attraction of chat rooms?
- c. Which do you prefer, chatting in chat rooms, chatting face-to-face, or on the telephone?
- d. How important is the Internet to you?
- e. What are the dangers of the Internet?
- f. Communal Internet suicides are becoming increasingly common. Why do you think that is?
- g. Why would anyone plan a 'suicide party', like the guy in the article?
- h. If no one commits suicide because of Krein's plan, what should his sentence be?
- i. Do Internet companies like Yahoo have a responsibility to inform police of potentially dangerous people by searching for key 'alert' words in chat rooms?
- j. What do you usually do on Valentine's Day?
- k. What's the best present you've ever given / received?
- l. Who was Saint Valentine?
- m. What do you do when you feel lonely?
- n. Teacher / Student additional questions.

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