



Love at first byte

Lesson code: X15R-3ZNB-CD72-K

PRE-INTERMEDIATE-
INTERMEDIATE

1 Warm-up

What is social networking? Can you think of some examples of social networking websites? Which sites do you use? What do you use them for?

2 Relationships

Study the expressions in bold and put the events in the order in which they happened:

A few months later, they **got back together**. ____

After a year of constant arguing, they **broke up**. ____

Jack and Emma **met through a mutual friend**. 1

Jack **asked** Emma **out** on a date. ____

Sadly, after 10 years of marriage, the couple **got divorced**. ____

Six months later, they **got married**. ____

The couple started to **date** (US) / **go out together** (UK). ____

They finally fell in love and decided to **get engaged**. ____

3 Find the information

You are going to read an article on the recent trends in online dating. Read the text and find the information below:

1. The percentage of online daters who use social media sites.
2. The number of people involved in the survey.
3. The percentage of online daters who use both dating sites and social media.
4. The percentage of users of both dating sites and social media who prefer social media.
5. The percentage of online daters who do not want to admit meeting their partners on dating sites.



THE
INDEPENDENT

Online singletons use social networks to find love

By David Crookes Tuesday, 17 April 2012

- 1 Social media has changed the way people communicate and now it seems it is also the preferred way for people to find love.
- 2 Twitter, Facebook and other social media sites are used by 59 per cent of online daters in a trend called network dating, according to a survey.
- 3 And it appears people are finding more and more interesting ways to meet a potential partner. They are using every online opportunity to find romance.
- 4 MySpace popularised network dating, and the number of single people on Facebook has helped it to grow.
- 5 This has led to social media based services such as Fancy My Friend in Australia and Zoosk in which people help their friends get together.
- 6 The poll of 1,899 people found that 72 per cent of respondents used both online dating sites and social media platforms while 19 per cent used social media sites alone. Just nine per cent said they only used dating sites.
- 7 Of those, 59 per cent said they preferred to look for romance on social media platforms. 51 per cent believed that it was safer and a third said it allowed them to meet people through mutual friends. One of the reasons for avoiding dating websites is stigma -- 27 per cent of people did not want to admit meeting their partner that way.
- 8 The poll was conducted by a British website whose chairman Mark Pearson said: "Dating via social media can feel a lot safer, especially with the presence of mutual friends online. However, for a lot of people, the thought of having their friends involved in their dating life might not be ideal."

Adapted from the Independent

4 Find the word ...

Find a word in the text which means ...

1. people who are single (*noun TITLE*): _____
2. made popular (*verb P4*): _____
3. a study in which people give their opinions on something (*noun P6*): _____
4. feeling that something is wrong or bad according to other people (*noun P7*): _____
5. agree that something is true (*verb P7*): _____



5 Checking understanding

Answer the questions below:

1. What is the difference between social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter and services such as Fancy My Friend and Zoosk?
2. Why do people prefer to find partners on social media sites?
3. Why do many people avoid dating sites?
4. Why might social media sites not be ideal for online dating?

6 Describing a trend

Look at the following sentences from the text and match them to the types of trend below:

1. Social media has changed the way people communicate.
 2. People are finding more and more interesting ways to meet a potential partner.
 3. MySpace popularised network dating.
- a. a completed trend in the past
 - b. a present trend in progress
 - c. a trend that started in the past and is complete in the present

Which tense is used in each sentence?

Look at the sentences below. Decide if each trend happened in the past, started in the past and is complete in the present or is currently in progress. Then complete the sentences putting the verbs in the correct form. More than one answer may be possible.

1. People have stopped (stop) using snail mail to send messages to each other.
2. Social media websites _____ (become) very popular.
3. Queen Victoria of England _____ (popularise) white weddings.
4. The Internet _____ (become) widely used in the late 1990s.
5. More and more people _____ (get) married later in life.
6. Home entertainment _____ (change) a lot since the television _____ (become) popular.
7. There is a lot more inequality in society than in the past. The gap between rich and poor _____ (rise).
8. People _____ (have) fewer children. The birth rate _____ (fall).



7 Talking point

Discuss any of the following questions:

1. Is online dating popular in your country? Why/why not?
2. Do you think network dating is a good way to meet people?
3. Are there any services in your country which have popularised online dating?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of social networking?
5. Do you know any couples who met on the Internet?



1 Warm-up

Encourage a short discussion. Introduce the terms *social networking* and *social media*, which refer to the use of websites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. for informal communication and content sharing among users.

2 Relationships

Go through any terms in bold that the students are unfamiliar with. Point out the difference between American English ('They are dating') and British English ('They are going out'). In the US, the word 'date' can also refer to a person, e.g. 'Who is your date for the prom?'

1. Jack and Emma **met through a mutual friend**.
2. Jack **asked** Emma **out** on a date.
3. The couple started to **date** (US) / **go out together** (UK).
4. After a year of constant arguing, they **broke up**.
5. A few months later, they **got back together**.
6. They finally fell in love and decided to **get engaged**.
7. Six months later, they **got married**.
8. Sadly, after 10 years of marriage, the couple **got divorced**.

3 Find the information

1. 59%
2. 1899
3. 72%
4. 59%
5. 27%

4 Find the word ...

1. singletons
2. popularised
3. poll
4. stigma
5. admit

5 Checking understanding

1. On Fancy My Friend and Zoosk, people help their friends to get together.
2. It's safer and they can meet through mutual friends.
3. because of stigma
4. People might not want their friends involved in their dating lives.

6 Describing a trend

1. c
2. b
3. a

1 - present perfect, 2 - present continuous, 3 - past simple

2. are becoming/have become
3. popularised
4. became
5. are getting
6. has changed / became
7. has risen
8. are having/ is falling

