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Level 2 - 11th December, 2020 Japan to use artificial intelligence to match couples

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

https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html

Japan wants more men and women to go on dates. It wants to increase the birth rate. There are fewer babies being born. Japan is using artificial intelligence (AI) to match couples and help them find love. The government will use \$19 million to set the software up. There are already matchmaking services in half of Japan. With these, people have to fill out forms and answer questions on hobbies and interests. A worker then matches people. The AI project will automate this system. AI software can perform a more advanced analysis of data and get better matches.

The government wants to increase the size of the population. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest in the world. Japanese women have an average of 1.36 children. This figure is going down. A government spokesperson said: "We hope this support will help reverse the decline in the nation's birth rate." Japan's population is ageing quickly because people are living longer. The longevity rate for women is the highest in the world. This is a problem for Japan's economy. There are fewer younger workers to pay for the pension and welfare of retired people.

Sources: https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/12/07/national/japan-ai-funding-matchmaking/

https://uk.reuters.com/article/japan-matchmaking-ai/love-match-tokyo-to-help-fund-japanese-ai-

cupid-upgrades-report-idUKKBN28H19G

https://www.**globaltimes.cn/**content/1209370.shtml

PHRASE MATCHING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- 1. go on
- 2. It wants to increase the birth
- 3. use \$19 million to set
- 4. fill out
- 5. answer questions on
- 6. The AI project will automate
- 7. a more advanced
- 8. get better

- a. the software up
- b. analysis of data
- c. dates
- d. matches
- e. forms
- f. rate
- g. this system
- h. hobbies and interests

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- 1. increase the size
- 2. Japan's fertility
- 3. an average of
- 4. Japan's population is ageing
- 5. The longevity
- 6. This is a problem
- 7. There are fewer younger
- 8. the pension and welfare

- a. for Japan's economy
- b. 1.36 children
- c. of retired people
- d. of the population
- e. workers
- f. quickly
- g. rate for women
- h. rate

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html

Japan (1)				_ and wor	nen to	go on	dates	3. It
wants	to	increas	e the	birth	rate.	The	ere	are
(2)			born.	Japan is us	sing art	ificial ir	ntellige	ence
(AI) to ma	atch c	ouples a	nd help th	em find lo	ve. The	gover	nment	will
use \$19 n	nillion	to set (3)			7	There a	re alre	ady
matchmal	king s	ervices i	n half of J	apan. Witl	n these	e, peop	le hav	e to
(4)			and a	answer qu	estions	on ho	bbies	and
interests.	A w	orker th	nen match	nes people	e. The	AI pı	roject	will
(5)			AI	software	can p	erform	ı a n	nore
advanced	(6)			and ge	et bette	r matcl	hes.	
The gove	ernme	nt want	ts to (7)				_ of	the
population	n. Jap	an's fert	ility rate i	s one of t	he low	est in	the wo	orld.
Japanese	wome	en (8)			_ of 1.	36 chil	dren.	This
figure is q		down. A	governm	ent spokes	sperson	said:	"We h	iope
	going		governm	-				
this suppo	going ort wi	 (9)			declin	e in th	ne nati	on's
this suppo	going ort wi ." Jap	II ₍₉₎			_ declin	e in th	ne nati beca	on's ause
this supposition that the supp	going ort wi ." Jap e livin	ll ₍₉₎ an's pop g longer	ulation (10)		declin	e in th	ne nati _ beca wome	on's ause en is
this supposition that the higher	going ort wi ." Jap e livin	II (9) an's pop g longer the worl	ulation (10)	a probler	declin	e in th	ne nati _ beca wome econo	on's ause en is emy.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html

Japanwantsmoremenandwomentogoondates. It wantstoincrease the birthrate. There are fewer babies being born. Japanisus in gartificial intel ligence(AI)tomatchcouplesandhelpthemfindlove.Thegovernmentwi Iluse\$19milliontosetthesoftwareup.Therearealreadymatchmakings ervicesinhalfofJapan.Withthese,peoplehavetofilloutformsandanswe rquestionsonhobbiesandinterests. Aworkerthenmatchespeople. The Alprojectwillautomatethissystem. Alsoftware can perform a moread v ancedanalysis of data and get better matches. The government wants to i ncreasethesizeofthepopulation. Japan's fertility rate is one of the lowest intheworld. Japanesewomen have an average of 1.36 children. This figure reisgoingdown.Agovernmentspokespersonsaid:"Wehopethissuppo rtwillhelpreversethedeclineinthenation'sbirthrate."Japan'spopulati onisageingquicklybecausepeoplearelivinglonger. Thelongevity ratef orwomenisthehighestintheworld. This is a problem for Japan's economic and a seconomic and a se y. There are fewer youngerworkers to pay for the pension and welfare of r etiredpeople.

MATCHMAKING SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html

Write five GOOD questions about matchmaking 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).

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WRITING

 ${\color{red} From $ $ \underline{https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201211-ai-matchmaking-2.html } }$

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