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**Level 5** – 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-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-5.html>

People looking for love on the Internet need to be cautious. There was a 20 per cent spike in romance fraud last year. UK Finance reported that increased cyber-fraud coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. Feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic increased this number. There was a big rise in the number of 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."

The Online Dating Association reported that 2.3 million British citizens used dating apps during lockdown. Cyber criminals took advantage of them. A total of \$26 million was lost in bank transfer fraud. The average loss per victim was around \$11,000. A UK bank said people aged 55 to 64 are the most vulnerable. 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 people to be careful if an online love interest asks for 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/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. People looking for love              | a. and isolation        |
| 2. There was a 20 per cent              | b. very convincing      |
| 3. increased cyber-fraud coincided with | c. scams                |
| 4. Feelings of loneliness               | d. attachment           |
| 5. a big rise in the number of          | e. on the Internet      |
| 6. leave customers out of love and      | f. spike                |
| 7. Scammers can be                      | g. a rise in the number |
| 8. forming an emotional                 | h. out of pocket        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Cyber criminals took     | a. per victim          |
| 2. \$26 million was lost in | b. to be careful       |
| 3. The average loss         | c. expert              |
| 4. people aged 55 to 64 are | d. advantage of them   |
| 5. A fraud                  | e. medical care        |
| 6. it's important to        | f. bank transfer fraud |
| 7. She urged people         | g. the most vulnerable |
| 8. money for things like    | h. remain vigilant     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-5.html>

People looking (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Internet need to be cautious. There was a 20 per cent (2) \_\_\_\_\_ fraud last year. UK Finance reported that increased cyber-fraud coincided with (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the number of people looking for a partner online. Feelings of loneliness (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the coronavirus pandemic increased this number. There was a big rise in the number of scams (5) \_\_\_\_\_ apps. UK Finance said: "Romance scams can leave customers out of love and out of pocket....Scammers can (6) \_\_\_\_\_ by forming an emotional attachment with their victims."

The Online Dating Association reported that 2.3 million British citizens used dating (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Cyber criminals took (8) \_\_\_\_\_. A total of \$26 million was lost in bank transfer fraud. The average (9) \_\_\_\_\_ was around \$11,000. A UK bank said people aged 55 to 64 are the most vulnerable. A (10) \_\_\_\_\_: "Any online platform that allows you to connect with and talk to other people could (11) \_\_\_\_\_ romance fraudsters, so it's important to remain vigilant." She urged people to be careful if an online love interest asks for money for things (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210319-romance-fraud-5.html>

People looking for love on the Internet need to be cautious. There was a 20 percent spike in romance fraud last year. UK Finance reported that increased cyber-fraud coincided with a rise in the number of people looking for a partner online. Feelings of loneliness and isolation during the coronavirus pandemic increased this number. There was a big rise in the number of 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." The Online Dating Association reported that 2.3 million British citizens used dating apps during lockdown. Cybercriminals took advantage of them. A total of \$26 million was lost in bank transfer fraud. The average loss per victim was around \$11,000. A UK bank said people aged 55 to 64 are the most vulnerable. 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 people to be careful if an online love interest asks for money for things like medical care.

# 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

