

Lesson: *How to find the perfect partner!*

This is a quick, easy, English lesson plan that will inspire your students. It'll also give them opportunities to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. This lesson comes with Teacher's Notes, a Resource Sheet, a PDF of the lesson, and an audio file. Simply follow the lesson ideas for a fantastic class that'll really motivate your students.



1 Warm-up

Chat-up lines

Students read over the **cheesy*** chat-up lines (see the **RESOURCE SHEET** at the end of this document) and decide which one is the worst. Then, they discuss them in pairs. Do they know any other chat-up lines? What sort of chat-up lines are there in their language? How effective are they? What alternatives are there to chat-up lines?

***Cheesy** = bad, poor quality, ridiculous, silly

2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet **at the end of this document**: the Pre-reading, Reading I and Reading II activities. You could do this lesson as a **listening** activity. In order to do this, tell your students to turn over the sheet so they can't see the text as they do the exercises.

If your students' listening level is low, stop the recording after each paragraph and check their understanding.

After finishing that, and if you've done this as a listening activity (not a reading), let your students read the text as you play the recording again. This is good for developing their listening skills as they can see the connection between the written and spoken language.

3 Follow-up activities

Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (or two, etc.) to each student. Students have a minute or two to try to remember the text. When they're ready, students try to recount the information, using as much of the language as possible. Or, ask for volunteers to retell the information, using as much of the original language as possible (or even by heart if they can).

Dialogue

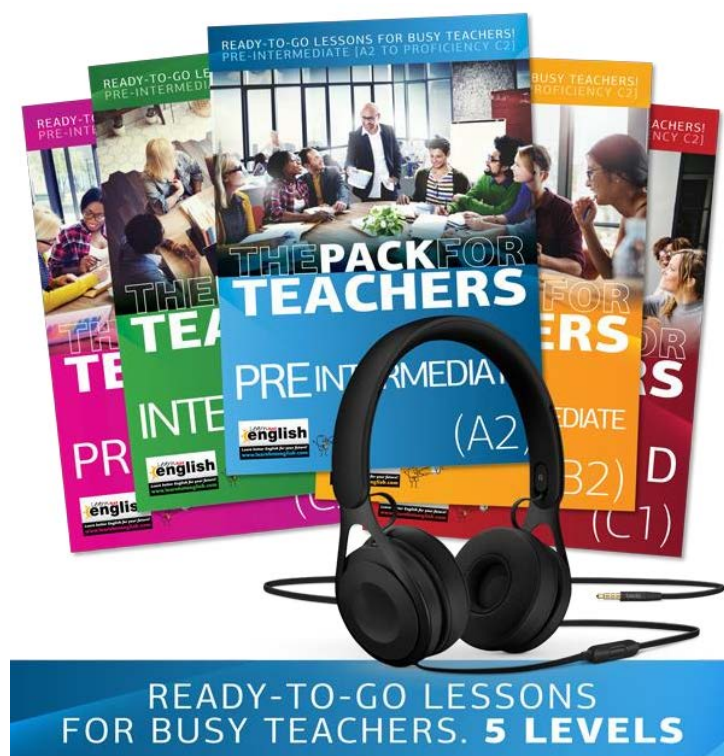
In pairs, students write a dialogue between two people on a blind date. The two people had originally met on one of the dating sites from the article in this lesson. Tell your students to make the dialogue as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to act out their dialogues (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones.

E-mail

Students write an e-mail to someone they met on a blind date. This could be a follow-up writing activity to the previous dialogue activity. Tell your students to make the e-mail as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to read out their e-mails (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students vote on the best ones. Or, students "send" the e-mail to a classmate, who reads it and then reports back on the information, or who responds to it.

Invention & presentation

Students invent a dating website for a new niche category of people: farmers, scientists, dark-haired people, left-handed people... Then, they write notes for a one- or two-minute presentation on it, explaining what it is, what it's called, how it works, what sort of people it's for, etc. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to give their presentations (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students vote on the most interesting ones.



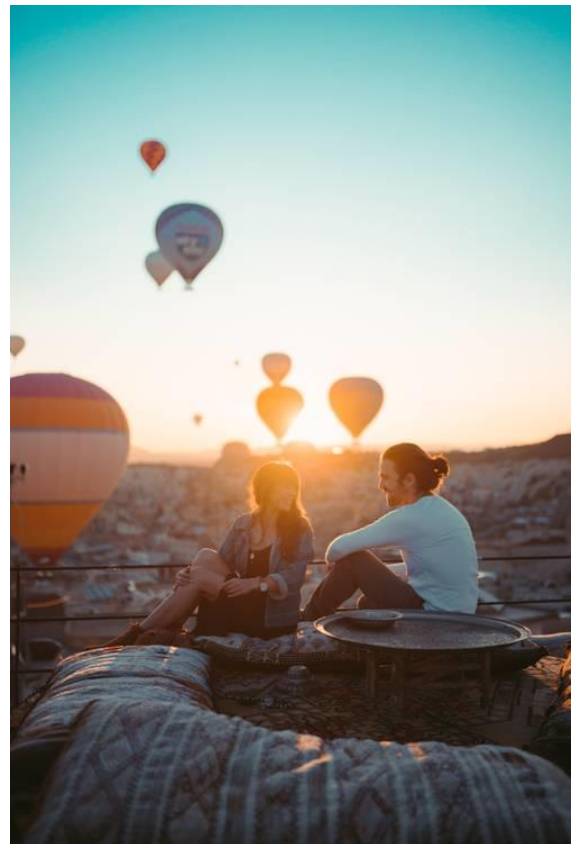
Resource Sheet

Cheesy chat-up lines

Read over the **cheesy*** chat-up lines and decide which one is the worst. Then, discuss them in pairs. Do you know any other chat-up lines? What sort of chat-up lines are there in your language? How effective are they? What alternatives are there to chat-up lines?

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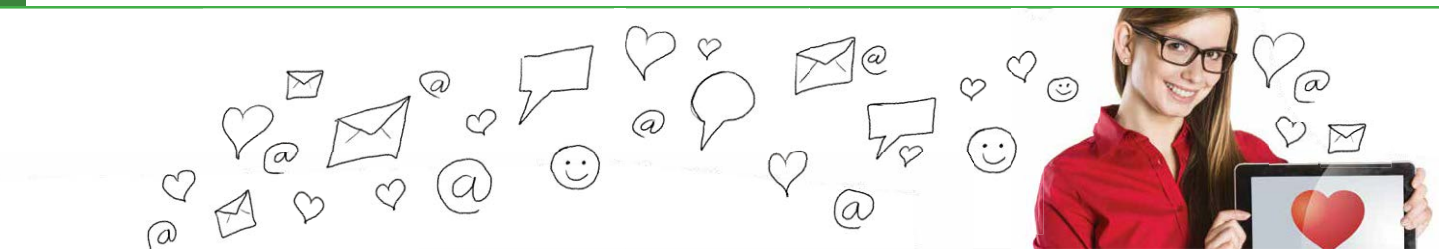
- You're single? I'm single. Coincidence? I think not.
- Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?
- If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put U and I together.
- My doctor says I'm lacking Vitamin U.
- I lost my number, can I have yours?
- I won't give you a cheesy pick up line, if you let me buy you a drink.
- Hi, I'm Mr/Mrs Right. Someone said you were looking for me?
- You must do interior design because you definitely made this room more beautiful.
- You look familiar. Did we take a class together? I could've sworn you and I had chemistry.



Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it What are the pros and cons of using a dating website? How do people in your country "date"? What options are there for meeting people? Are there any dating websites in your country? What for?

Exams This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.



WILL YOU BE MY PERFECT DATE?

HOW TO FIND THE PERFECT PARTNER!

By Danielle Ott

With online dating sites, finding a partner has never been easier. And these days, you can get exactly what you're looking for, as these websites will show.

Scientificmatch.com
Scientificmatch.com matches people based on their DNA. The theory is that people are attracted to those with different immune systems. The sign-up fee is \$2,000, which includes DNA testing. Once matched, members are shown the profiles and photos of their potential partners.

Darwindating.com
This site is exclusively for "beautiful" people. Members vote in potential newbies based on a photo. There's a long list of banned features, including "acne, rolls of fat and a lack of personal hygiene."

Theuglybugball.com
In contrast to Darwin Dating, this site encourages members of all shapes and sizes. The sign-up process is relatively simple, and only requires potential members to give details of their age and gender, and what type of person they're looking for.

Farmersonly.com
Farmersonly.com offers single people living in farms and ranches across America the chance to meet the man or woman of their dreams.

With over 100,000 members from the US and Canada, the site estimates that it's responsible for at least one wedding per week. The tagline on the website reads, "City folks just don't get it!"

Meet-an-inmate.com
Meet-an-inmate.com puts people in contact with prison inmates in the US. Users simply choose a gender and select an age range from 18-50+. All contact is done through regular post as prisoners don't have access to the internet. A notice on the site warns users that contact usually ends with a request for money.

Meetattheairport.com
This site puts air travellers in touch with one another. Users type in their personal details and flight departure information, and are then matched up to other people travelling at the same time. Founder Steve Pasternack thought of this after noticing people gathered at an airport bar one day while his flight was delayed. Launched in 2011, the site already has over 20,000 international members.

Of course, that's not all, and there are also sites for Apple fans (Cupidtino.com), vampire enthusiasts (Vampirepassions.com) and zombie fanatics (Zombieharmony.com), plus lots, lots more.

Get dating! 🍀

GLOSSARY

- a dating (web)site** *n*
a website you can use to find a partner / girlfriend / boyfriend, etc.
- a partner** *n*
your boyfriend / girlfriend / husband / wife, etc.
- to match** *vb*
if you "match" things, you put them together because they're similar
- DNA** *abbr*
an acid that has information about living things
- an immune system** *n*
the organs and processes in your body that protect you from illness
- a sign-up fee** *n*
an amount of money you pay when you join a group or club
- a profile** *n*
a page on a website that has a photo of you and information such as your job, etc.
- a newbie** *n*
a person who is new in an organisation or company
- banned** *adj*
prohibited; something "banned" can't happen
- a feature** *n*
a part of your body or personality that's characteristic of you
- acne** *n*
a skin condition which causes red spots on the face
- a lack of** *exp*
if there's a "lack of" something, there isn't a lot of that thing
- personal hygiene** *n*
"personal hygiene" involves cleaning and taking care of your body and appearance
- to encourage** *vb*
if you "encourage" someone to do something, you motivate them to do it
- a gender** *n*
a person's "gender" is whether they're male or female
- of your dreams** *exp*
the man (for example) "of your dreams" is the perfect man for you
- a tagline** *n*
a slogan that describes a product / service / film, etc.
- don't get it** *exp*
don't understand it
- a user** *n*
a person who uses a website
- regular post** *n*
the normal postal system: sending letters in an envelope, etc.
- a request for** *exp*
if there's a "request for" something, someone asks for that thing
- to put in touch with** *exp*
if you "put A in touch with" B, you give A a mobile phone number (for example) so A can talk to B
- to gather** *vb*
if people are "gathered" in an area, they are in that area in a group
- delayed** *adj*
if something is "delayed", it happens later than expected
- to launch** *vb*
if a website (for example) is "launched", it becomes live and people can visit it

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Think of three ways to meet a partner. What are the pros and cons of each one?

2 Reading I

Look at the names of the dating websites in the article. What do you think each one involves? Make notes. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a website next to each statement.

1. The sign-up process is fairly easy.
2. It's designed for people who are travelling by air.
3. The sign-up fee is high.
4. It's aimed at people living in remote areas of the USA and Canada.
5. It's only for physically attractive people.
6. It puts people in touch with prisoners.