

Stop swiping, start talking: the rise and rise of the blind dating app

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

1 Warmer

- a. When you are looking for a boyfriend or girlfriend, what do you think is most important? Put the items in order of importance (1-4). Then compare and discuss.

- ___ how attractive the other person is
- ___ how many of the same hobbies they have
- ___ how easy it is to talk to them
- ___ how much money they have

- b. Do you think using an online dating app can be a good way to find a boyfriend or girlfriend?

2 Key words

- a. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

app

blind

date

fiancée

single

1. If you are _____, you cannot see.
2. A(n) _____ is a piece of software that does a particular job, especially one that people use on a smartphone.
3. If someone is _____, they are not married or not in a romantic relationship.
4. If you _____ someone, you spend time with them because you have a romantic relationship.

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5. Your _____ is the woman you are engaged to and are going to get married to.

generation

good-looking

hide

real life

smart

6. To _____ is to make something difficult or impossible to see clearly.
7. A _____ is a group of people in society who are born and live around the same time.
8. If someone is _____, they are physically attractive, especially with an attractive face.
9. If someone is _____, they are intelligent, or they do things with careful thought.
10. If you see someone in _____, you see them in person and not just online.

b. Discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Is it easier to meet someone on an app or in real life?
2. How is 'normal dating' different for younger and older generations?
3. Do you think it's easier to go on dates if you are good-looking?
4. Is it okay for people to hide some things about themselves?
5. Do you think it is easier to be single or in a relationship?

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- 1 Ten years ago, dating app Tinder first asked users to swipe through possible boyfriends or girlfriends by looking at their photos. Now some single people have stopped using profile photos. They are using “blind dating apps” instead to try and make better connections.
- 2 Victoria Brown, a 26-year-old from east London, was on all the normal dating apps and ready to try something new. Brown started using Blindlee, a blind dating app that makes three-minute blurred video calls possible between users who have things in common. Later, users can choose to see each other’s faces on video. After three minutes, the app asks if users want to continue the conversation.
- 3 Sacha Nasan was single when he had the idea for Blindlee – but he has since met his fiancée on the app. He was unhappy with how dating apps cared how people looked and wanted to change things.
- 4 On Blindlee, both users need to be online at the same time. This is a problem that may be repaired by S’More, another dating app that hides users’ photos until they have sent 15 messages.
- 5 S’More is the fastest growing dating app in the US. S’More’s CEO, Adam Cohen-Aslatei, thinks that generation Z like blind dating apps because they can see good-looking people on any social platform – so they’re more interested in content.
- 6 Although most blind dating apps show who users are before an in-person meeting, it can be scary not to see the person you are talking to.
- 7 “It’s always about being smart and aware when you are online dating,” says Dr Hannah Shimko from the Online Dating Association. She says you need to be careful because people can be dishonest about who they are.
- 8 S’More says that it is the first dating app in the world to check that 100% of the users are real using Amazon’s Rekognition software.
- 9 Dating and relationship consultant Dr Kathrine Bejanyan says it is important to meet someone in-person because we can get different ideas about people through technology and seeing them in real life.
- 10 But she says, “I’m excited about blind dating apps.”

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3 Comprehension check

a. Are these statements True (T) or False (F) according to the article? Correct any that are false.

1. Blind-dating apps are apps for people who cannot see.
2. On Blindlee, you must talk to someone before you can see them.
3. Sacha Nasan and his fiancée created Blindlee.
4. On S'More, you must send and receive fifteen messages with someone before you see their picture.
5. S'More's CEO thinks that generation Z care more about content than good-looking people.
6. Online apps are completely safe and there is nothing to worry about.
7. Dr Nejanyaan thinks it's still important to meet someone face to face.

4 Key language

a. Look at the verbs and phrases from the text. Are they followed by an infinitive or a gerund? Put each word or phrase in the correct column.

choose stop be ready want need be important

verb + infinitive	verb + <i>-ing</i>
<i>be</i> + adjective + infinitive	

b. Now complete the sentences so they are true for you.

1. I choose _____
2. I have stopped _____
3. I'm ready _____
4. I want _____
5. I don't need _____
6. It's important _____



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5 Discussion

a. Answer these questions. Discuss with a partner or in small groups.

- How do online dating apps make dating easier? How do they make dating more difficult?
- Do you think it is important to have attractive photos of yourself on a dating app?
- Do you think it is better to look for a girlfriend / boyfriend who is very similar to you, or is it better to be different?

6 In your own words

a. You are going to discuss the statement, "Finding love now is harder than it was in the past." Write down some ideas.

b. Have the discussion. Use some of the phrases below to help you.

I think / believe that dating is easier / more difficult now because ...

For example, ...

Another example is ...

I also think that ...

Agreeing

Totally!

I agree.

That's a good point.

Interrupting

Excuse me.

Can I say something?

Sorry, but ...

Disagreeing

I don't think so.

I see your point, but ...

That's not always true.