



Three minutes to get to know the love of your life

4 READING & VOCABULARY

- a Do you know what 'speed dating' is? Read the first half of the article to check, or to find out how speed dating works.

Working out meaning from context

When you are reading and you find a word or phrase you don't know, try to guess the meaning from the context (the other words around it). Think also about what part of speech the unknown word is (e.g. a verb, an adjective, etc.), whether it is similar to another English word you know, or whether it is similar to a word in your language.

If you still can't work out what the word or phrase means, either ignore it and carry on reading or use a good dictionary (or glossary if there is one) to help you.

- b Read the first half of the article again carefully. With a partner, say or guess what the highlighted words and phrases mean. Then check with Glossary 1.
- c Using your own words, answer questions 1–4 with a partner.
- 1 According to the writer, how did people use to get to know a prospective partner?
 - 2 What kind of people is speed dating designed for?
 - 3 Why does Adele Testani think three minutes is enough?
 - 4 Why do you think that the journalist pretended to be a lawyer?
- d Now read the second half of the article on page 7 and find out...
- 1 the advantages of speed dating (according to the participants).
 - 2 if the journalist thinks speed dating is a good idea.
- e Read the second half of the article again more carefully. With a partner, say or guess what the highlighted words and phrases mean.

Glossary 1

prospective partner someone who might become your partner in the future	quick-fire (a series of things) done very quickly
courtship the period of time when two people have a romantic relationship before they get married	a scorecard a card or paper where you write the points, eg. in a game
Mr or Ms Right (informal) the man / woman who would be the perfect partner for somebody	a 'match' when two things or two people fit together
	not your type not the kind of person who you would normally like or get on with

In recent years speed dating has become popular all around the world. Journalist, *Anushka Asthana* tried it out.

FINDING A PARTNER has always been a complicated process. It is a ritual which has evolved over the centuries; from a man taking food to a prospective partner in the Stone Age to young couples having tea together in Victorian times (under the watchful eye of an unmarried aunt) to dancing in a club to deafening music in the twenty-first century.

But now busy men and women who don't have the time for a slow, gentle courtship have a quicker way to find a partner: speed dating, where single people have exactly three minutes to decide if the person they are talking to could be Mr or Ms Right. The idea, which started in the USA, involves bringing together people for an evening of frenzied, 'quick-fire' dating. This is how it works.

Small tables are placed in a line and the women sit down at the one which has been given to them. They stay at their table all evening. The men take it in turns to sit next to each woman and have a very quick conversation. After three minutes a bell rings and, even if you are in mid-sentence, it is time for the man to move to the next table. If you like the person you have just spoken to, you put a tick in the 'yes' box on a scorecard. If the other person chooses you as well, this is called a 'match'; and the organisers will send you the other person's email address a couple of days later and they will be sent yours too.

'Three minutes is enough time to talk to someone,' says Adele Testani, who runs a speed dating company, 'because you can get an idea of what a person is like in that time and you can eliminate them if you see immediately that they're not your type.'

Britain's largest ever speed dating evening took place this week at the Hydro Bar in London, so I decided to go along and see what it was all about. I pretended to be a single 24-year-old lawyer...



WHEN I ARRIVED at the Hydro Bar, the women, who were wearing fashionable dresses and smart suits, were giggling nervously as they put on badges with a number on them. 'Maybe my jeans are a bad idea,' I thought. I chatted to other people while we waited. People I spoke to said they had doubled the number of dates they had in a year with just one night of speed dating. The men included a chef, a banker, a photographer, an engineer, a management consultant, and a novelist. They were just pleased they could stop having to try to chat up strangers in bars. 'It's so hard to meet girls in London. With speed dating you meet 20 or 30 single girls in one night,' said one man. 'You can't talk to girls at salsa classes,' said another. Matt, 28, said, 'After doing this once I got several dates. There's a good atmosphere; it's safe and it's really good. It's like being at a party with lots of single women.'

Then it started. I made eye contact with the girl next to me so we could compare our opinions of the men; we raised our eyebrows for a possibility, exchanged a smile if the man was good-looking, and made a grimace if he made three minutes feel like three hours.

I thought it was boring just to ask questions like 'What do you do?' or 'Where are you from?' so I tried to think of more interesting and imaginative questions to ask, like 'If you could be an animal, what animal would you be and why?'

In the end I ticked six boxes. A couple of days later, I was told that four of the men had ticked me too. Four new dates. Not bad in 66 minutes.

From: The Observer

Glossary 2

- 1 _____ a small piece of metal, plastic, or cloth with words or a design on it
- 2 _____ an expression on your face that shows you are in pain
- 3 _____ laugh in a silly way because you are amused or nervous
- 4 _____ move the line of hair above your eye upwards
- 5 _____ **pv** talk (to sb) in a friendly way because you are attracted to them
- 6 _____ talk in a friendly, informal way

- f Complete Glossary 2 with the correct word or phrase.
- g Using your own words, answer questions 1–4 with a partner.
 - 1 Why did the journalist feel a bit uncomfortable at first?
 - 2 What kind of men went to this speed dating evening?
 - 3 What kind of signs did she make to the girl next to her? What for?
 - 4 What kind of questions did she think worked best?
- h Do you think speed dating is a good way of meeting people? If you were looking for a partner, would you try it? What questions would you ask?

5 LISTENING

a **13** Listen to a radio programme about speed dating. A man and a woman who have both tried it talk about their experiences. How successful was it for them?

b Listen again. Then answer the questions with E (Emily), A (Alex), or B (both).

Who...?

- 1 preferred to ask normal questions
- 2 was asked an unusual question
- 3 was asked the same question again and again
- 4 got the fewest matches
- 5 had a disastrous date because he / she wasn't feeling well
- 6 was invited on a date which never took place
- 7 had a good date in spite of having had some bad news
- 8 realized on a date that his / her first impression was wrong
- 9 says he / she isn't planning to go speed dating again

c Does hearing about Emily and Alex's experiences make you feel more or less positive about speed dating?

6 SPEAKING

GET IT RIGHT reading and asking for more information

When you ask someone a question and they answer, it is normal to show interest, e.g. *Really?*, *Oh yes!*, *Yes me too*, *Me neither*, *I know what you mean*, or by asking for more information, either with another question, e.g. *And what happened then?* or simply with a question word, e.g. *Why?* *When?*, etc.

- a You are going to do 'speed questioning' with other people in the class. Before you start, think of five questions to ask.
- b When your teacher says 'Start', you have three minutes to talk to the person next to you. Ask and answer each other's questions and ask for more information. When the teacher says 'Change', stop and go and talk to another student.
- c Which questions were the best for finding out about other students?

1 B

G auxiliary verbs; the...the... + comparatives

V personality

P using a dictionary to check word stress; intonation and sentence rhythm

Do you believe it?

1 READING & SPEAKING

a Look at the signatures. Can you identify any of the people?



What your *signature* says about you

Your signature is the part of your handwriting that says the most about your personality. It is quite normal for your signature to change during your life, as your signature reflects how you evolve as a person. It is also common to have several signatures, for example a more formal signature (first name and surname) when you sign a credit card or passport, and an informal signature (just your first name) when you sign a birthday card.

Your formal signature A signature usually contains either a first name and a surname, or initials and a surname, or, less frequently a first name and initials. Your first name represents your private or family self, and your surname represents your public self, how you are socially and at work.

If your first name is more prominent in your signature, this implies that you have positive feelings about your childhood and that your 'private' self is more important to you than your 'public' self.

If your surname is more prominent, this means that your 'public' self is more important to you. The more space there is between your name and surname, the more you wish to keep your public and private self separate.

If you use only initials either for your first name or your surname in your signature, this means that you are more secretive about this part of your personality (your private or public persona).

Legibility A legible signature, where names can be clearly read, implies that you are a person with clear ideas and objectives. The more illegible your signature is, the less assertive you are as a person, and the more you tend to avoid conflict.

Angle Most signatures are horizontal, rising, or descending. A rising signature means that you are the kind of person who, when faced with problems, will work to overcome them. Usually optimistic, you are in control and ambitious.

A descending signature means that you have a tendency to get depressed and give up when faced with problems, and lack self-confidence. Some people's signatures go through a temporary phase where they go down, which shows that they are going through a hard time or an illness. A horizontal signature suggests an emotionally stable person who is well-balanced and generally satisfied with the way their life is going.

Size If your signature is bigger than the rest of the letter or document you have written, that means that you are self-confident and have quite a high opinion of yourself. Some people actually sign in capital letters, which suggests they are arrogant rather than self-confident. People whose signature is smaller than the rest of the text may be insecure and have low self-esteem.

b Read the first paragraph of an extract from a book about graphology. On a piece of paper, write the sentence *I look forward to hearing from you*, and then sign your name under the sentence.

c Now read the rest of the extract and answer the questions. According to the extract, which of the people A–F...?


- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 has / had no separation between their public and private self, and is / was not very assertive | 4 is / was probably rather arrogant |
| 2 is / was more identified with their public self, optimistic, and ambitious | 5 keeps / kept their public and private life separate, is / was ambitious, and has / had positive feelings about their childhood |
| 3 is / was more identified with their private self, and without much self-confidence | 6 is / was secretive about their private life, and keeps / kept it very separate from their public life |

d Try to guess the meaning of the highlighted words and phrases from the context. Check with your dictionary or the teacher.

e Now look at your partner's piece of paper with his / her signature and explain what it means.


f Did you agree with your partner's interpretation? Do you think graphology is a serious science? Why (not)?

2 VOCABULARY personality

- a Without looking at the text, how many of the ten highlighted adjectives / phrases can you remember?
- b  p.146 Vocabulary Bank *Personality*.
- c Add either a suffix or a prefix or both to the bold words to make an adjective that fits the sentence.
- I don't think he's going to get very far. He's totally **ambitious**.
 - You'll have a lively evening if Jane's coming because she's very **talk**.
 - You can't trust John to help. He's completely **rely**.
 - You look very **cheer**. Have you had some good news?
 - He's a bit **sincere**. He said he liked my sister but he obviously doesn't.
 - She's not very **imagine**. She never has any good ideas.
 - People say he's **honest**. You can't trust him with money.
 - She's so **help**! She won't give me a hand with my homework.

3 PRONUNCIATION using a dictionary to check word stress


In a dictionary, word stress is shown by an apostrophe before the stressed syllable, e.g. *begin* /brɪ'ɡɪn/. Some words, especially compound words, have a primary (or main stress) and a secondary stress, e.g. *good-looking* /gʊd'lu:kɪŋ/. Secondary stress is shown by a low apostrophe. It is less strong than primary stress.

- a Use the phonetics to underline the main stressed syllable.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 arrogant /'ærəɡənt/ | 7 possessive /pe'zɛsɪv/ |
| 2 assertive /ə'sɜ:tɪv/ | 8 loyal /'lɔ:əl/ |
| 3 bad-tempered /,bæd'tempəd/ | 9 stubborn /'stʌbən/ |
| 4 creative /kri'eɪtɪv/ | 10 impatient /ɪm'peɪʃnt/ |
| 5 considerate /kən'sɪdəreɪt/ | 11 unsociable /ʌn'səʃəbəl/ |
| 6 conscientious /kɒn'ʃɪənʃəs/ | 12 immature /ɪ'mætʃ(ə)ʊə/ |
- b  14 Listen and check. Are the negative prefixes or suffixes stressed?
- c Practise saying the sentences below.
- He's terribly bad-tempered – you need to be careful with him.
 - She's so conscientious – she always does her best in everything.
 - He's very easy-going – he never gets stressed.
 - His mother's really possessive – she doesn't want him to get married.
 - She's so immature – she behaves like a child.

4 SPEAKING

GET IT RIGHT paraphrasing

If you don't know the exact adjective you need, use a phrase, e.g. *She's the kind of person who...* / *He tends to...*

 Remember the third person s.

Talk in small groups. Give examples where you can of people you know or have known.



What kind of person makes...

- a bad flatmate
- a bad travelling companion
- a bad boss
- a good teacher
- a good friend
- a good politician

MINI GRAMMAR

the...the... + comparatives

The more illegible your signature is, the less assertive you are as a person.

Use *the + comparative adjective or adverb* to show that one thing depends on another, e.g.

The sooner you do it, the easier it'll be = how easy it will be depends on when you do it.

The colder it is, the more clothes you need to wear.

Rewrite the sentences using *the...the... + a comparative adjective or adverb*.

- If you study more, you learn more.
The _____, the _____.
- If we leave soon, we'll get there earlier.
The _____, the _____.
- If you are sociable, you have more friends.
The _____, the _____.
- If you are happy you are nicer to other people.
The _____, the _____.

6 LISTENING & READING

- a Read the beginning of a magazine article. Do you know what a psychic is? Do you believe psychics have special powers or are you sceptical?
- b You're now going to listen to Jane describing her visit to the psychic, Sally Morgan. After each part, discuss the questions with a partner.

Part 1 16

Answer the questions.

- 1 What was Jane's first impression of the room and of Sally?
- 2 What are the first questions Sally asked her?
- 3 Why is Jane surprised by two things Sally mentions?

Part 2 17

True or false?

- 1 Jane lived in Ireland when she was a child.
- 2 The psychic says there will be a new man in Jane's life.
- 3 Jane is above average height.
- 4 She thinks Jane will be attracted to him by his looks.
- 5 Jane thinks she knows who the man is.

Part 3 18

Choose a, b, or c.

- 1 Sally says that, in the future, Jane _____.
 - a will have the same health problems as her mother
 - b will live longer than her mother
 - c should have plastic surgery
 - 2 According to Sally, _____ is good at reading and writing.
 - a neither Jane's son nor her daughter
 - b neither Jane's ex-husband nor her daughter
 - c neither Jane's ex-husband nor her son
 - 3 What Sally says about Jane's children makes Jane feel _____.
 - a convinced that Sally is a genuine psychic
 - b less sceptical about Sally being a psychic
 - c sure that Sally is not a genuine psychic
- c Read about some typical techniques used by psychics. Match the titles with the paragraphs.

- A Getting information from the client
- B Using a name
- C The flattering statement
- D Identifying common medical problems

- d Listen to Jane talking about her visit again. Which techniques did Sally use?
- e 19 Now listen to Jane talking a few weeks later. What was her final opinion about Sally's psychic abilities? What has happened since she went to see Sally?
- f Do you know anyone who has been to a psychic? What happened?

Can psychics really see the future?

Jane Dickson investigates.

I am almost the only person I know who has never been to a psychic. Everyone I asked had a story about how key events in their lives had been predicted in some way. So I was really looking forward to my first visit to a psychic...



Tricks of the trade?

These are some of the techniques used by psychics...

- 1 ■ Something psychics always do is say something that's true of almost anyone on the planet, preferably something positive. An all-time favourite is 'You're intelligent with a great sense of humour'. Who is going to answer, 'Well actually, I'm not. I'm really stupid and have no sense of humour at all?'
- 2 ■ Statistics confirm that a headache is the most common female health problem and almost 50% of men have a scar on their leg, so it's not really surprising when a psychic 'sees' these problems.
- 3 ■ A psychic can deduce a lot from your age and appearance, and most of them actually ask direct questions. It's difficult to avoid answering if you want results, because saying nothing is like going to the doctor and refusing to discuss your symptoms.
- 4 ■ Coming up with a few names is always impressive. The usual method is to let the client work out who it might be. 'Does the letter S mean anything to you?' is a frequent strategy.



7 GRAMMAR auxiliary verbs

- a Look at some extracts from the listening. Circle the correct auxiliary verb.
- 'Australia is very important in your life.'
 ?Is / Isn't / Was it? I've never been to Australia.
 'Another place which is very important in your life is Ireland.'
 ?Yes Ireland ?is / does / has play a big role in my life?
 'Let's see, your mother suffers from headaches, ?doesn't / isn't / does she?'
 'Yes, she ?is / does / has, actually.'
 'Well, you'll need to watch out for headaches, and so ?is / does / will your mother.'
- b 1.10 Listen and check. Underline the auxiliaries which are stressed.
- c In pairs, decide which auxiliary is used...
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A as a short answer. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| B to add emphasis. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C to check information. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D to show surprise. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E to avoid repeating a verb or phrase. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- d p.132 Grammar Bank 1B. Read the rules and do the exercises.

8 PRONUNCIATION intonation and sentence rhythm

- a 1.11 Listen to the conversation and circle the auxiliary verbs which are stressed.
- A What's your sister like?
 B Well, she's rather shy and quiet.
 A (Is) she? So is my brother?
 B Isn't your brother a doctor?
 A That's right. And your sister works in a bank, doesn't she?
 B No, she doesn't. She's a journalist.
 A Oh yes, you did tell me, but I forgot. I think they'd probably get on well.
 B Do you? But if my sister doesn't talk much and neither does your brother...
 A Yes, you're probably right. We won't introduce them then.
- b Listen and repeat the conversation copying the intonation and rhythm. Then practise it in pairs.
- c 1.12 Listen and respond to the sentences you hear with an echo question, for example *Are you? Didn't you?*, etc.
- d Complete the sentences on the left so that they are true for you. Then read them to your partner who will respond with an echo question and then say whether he / she is the same as you or different.

I'm not very good at _____ (activity)	Aren't you?	Neither am I. / I am.
I'm very _____ (adjective)	Are you?	So am I. / I'm not.
I hate _____ (a food)	Do you?	So do I. / I don't. I like it.
I don't often _____ (verb)	Don't you?	_____
I've been to _____ (town / country)	_____	_____
My favourite season is _____	_____	_____

- e Communication You're psychic, aren't you? A p.116 B p.119. Make guesses about your partner and then check if they are true.