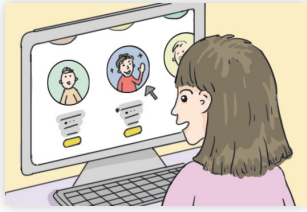


'HONEY, SEND ME SOME MONEY!'

Text Type: Leaflet
Suggested finishing time: 15 mins



Beware of the fake cupid's arrow



[1] With the emergence of social media sites and mobile dating apps, finding the man or woman of your dream no longer seems beyond

the realm of possibility. While the craving for acceptance, companionship and love is a universal desire, teens seem to bear the full brunt of such desire. This in turn clouds their judgment and leaves them susceptible to falling victim to online romance scams.

[2] According to official statistics, the number of online romance scams reported in 2015 were



approximately 50. Yet, it showed no signs of dwindling as it soared to almost 500 cases in the following three years.

Worse still, around 350 victims, all aged between 13 and 18, reported that they had been conned out of thousands of dollars by their online 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends.' The problem underlying all this is alarming.

[3] Jane Chu, a 16-year-old victim, shared her experience with us. She said that she was once aimlessly browsing a dating website and was instantly charmed by the profile picture of a 20-year-old university student. She quickly developed a relationship with him. Before long, the male alleged that his father needed emergency surgery. Upon hearing that, she 'lent' him all of her



savings, even though they had never met in person. To her utter dismay, Jane has not heard from him since. Police believe that most scammers target individuals around Jane's age because most of them seem to make the naive assumption that every person on those platforms is well-intentioned, hence their tendency to be more gullible than their seniors.

[4] The Internet is a double-edged sword and only those who have been hurt recognise the full force of this insight. If you are making, or intending to make, friends online, beware of these ploys and hazards:

- ♥ stolen profile photos and fake profiles
- ♥ made-up stories that appeal to empathy or emotion
- ♥ consistent, flattering praises
- ♥ abnormal eagerness to develop a romantic relationship
- ♥ urgent requests for financial aid

[5] If you suspect you have been a victim of such scams, please do not hesitate to seek help and report. Dial 2122 3200 or visit our centre.

~350 words

Let's Think!

1. What do you know about online romance scams?
2. Do you think it is safe to meet online friends in real life?

More to Take Away

In 2018, the monetary losses associated with online romance scams made up about 92% of the total losses of cyber scams.

Looking into Grammar

Apposition can be used to offer additional information about a noun or noun phrase.

✓ James, our class's top scorer, (✗ James our class's top scorer) will be going to the University of Hong Kong.

? Underline a sentence in which apposition is used in the leaflet.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the leaflet. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. The main purpose of the leaflet is to _____.

- A. warn youngsters about online romance scams
- B. inform students that online romance scams are on the rise
- C. demonstrate that teenagers tend to have poorer judgment
- D. indicate the link between online romance scams and adolescence

1 Do not base your answer on a single relevant point.



2. The writer does NOT think _____.

- A. technology has had some influence on people's dating habits
- B. it is common for one to look for a partner
- C. looking for a romantic relationship online is unrealistic
- D. teenagers are the commonest victims of online romance scams

3. In paragraph 2, the writer's tone can be described as _____.

- A. sceptical
- B. pessimistic
- C. nervous
- D. concerned

3 Skim for words with positive or negative connotations.

4. Which of the following is NOT true?

- A. It seems improbable that online romance scams would go away soon.
- B. Female teenagers are more likely to be tricked.
- C. Online romance scams do not target only young adults.
- D. The gender distribution of the cases is not stated.

5. In paragraph 3, the writer _____ that _____.

- A. deduces...scam victims are usually shallow and reckless
- B. infers...youngsters tend to lack a sense of crisis and therefore fall victim to such scams more easily
- C. implies...appearance is all that matters in the eyes of teenagers
- D. states...dating websites are extremely popular among young people

Q5: One's inclination to make the mentioned 'naive' assumption can be indicative of one's lacking a sense of crisis.

6. In paragraph 3, the word 'gullible' means _____.

- A. not trusting
- B. careless and adventurous
- C. easily deceived
- D. unintelligent and immature



7. In paragraph 3, the word 'them' refers to _____.

- A. scammers
- B. female teenagers like Jane
- C. police officers
- D. teenagers

8. The Internet is _____.

- I. a world where good and evil coexist
 - II. full of potential dangers
 - III. suitable for only mature teenagers
 - IV. the root cause of all social media scams
- A. III only
 - B. I and II
 - C. I and III
 - D. I, III and IV



Self-evaluation
Checklist

Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the leaflet. For questions 1, 4 and 5, answer in complete sentences.

1. According to the leaflet, why are young people more likely to be the victims of online romance scams? Explain in your own words. (Any reasonable answers) **1** What are young people looking for?

It is because most of them seem to assume that people in the cyber world do not deceive, which clouds their judgment.

-  2. Look at the following pronouns and answer what/who they refer to in the leaflet.

Pronoun	Paragraph	Reference
it	para. 2	(i) the number of online romance scams
his	para. 3	(ii) the 20-year-old university student's

3. Determine whether each of the following statements is true, false, or undecidable because not enough information is given.

Statement	True	False	Not Given
(i) Dating apps stimulate people's desire for love.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
(ii) Adults tend to be more observant and rational than young people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
(iii) It is not true that students do not get duped.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

-  4. Why does the writer suggest that 'The Internet is a double-edged sword'? (Any reasonable answers)

It is because the Internet may benefit and harm its users at the same time.

Q4: Explain to students that a 'double-edged sword' means something that can bring about both positive and negative effects.

5. In your opinion, what would Jane have done if she had read this leaflet before? (Any reasonable answers)

I think Jane would have suspected that the male she talked to was using a stolen profile photo and that his father's needing surgery was a made-up story.

6. In each line, there MAY be a wrong word. If there is one, underline it and write a word that expresses the correct idea in the right-hand column. If not, put a tick (✓). (Any reasonable answers)

(i) Online romance scams are expected to grow as a trend as there	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(ii) has been a <u>modest</u> increase in the number of such scams in	rapid
(iii) <u>latest</u> years. The data collected demonstrated that there	recent
(iv) was a <u>triple</u> increase in the number of cases reported from	tenfold
(v) 2015 to 2018. <u>Children</u> are found to be the targets of	Teenagers
(vi) scammers as they are usually more trusting than adults.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of cyber threats from the word box.

blackmail

e-banking fraud

e-mail spamming

phishing

ransomware attack

sexting

identity theft

cyber stalking



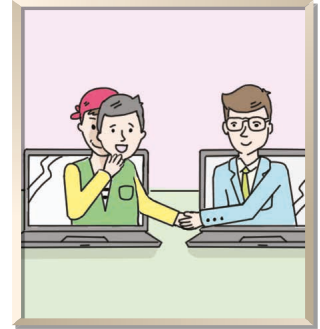
1. cyber stalking



2. e-mail spamming



3. ransomware attack



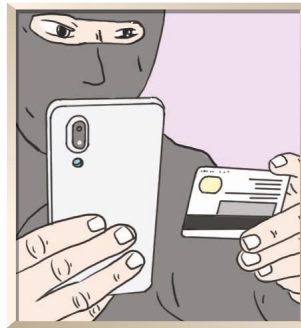
4. identity theft



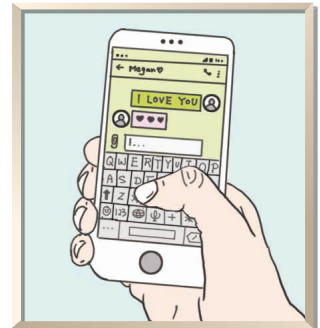
5. blackmail



6. phishing



7. e-banking fraud



8. sexting

Word Craft

Double-edged (Refer to P.128.)

- e.g. a **double-edged** law
 a **double-edged** argument
 a **double-edged** comment
 a **double-edged** decision

Let's Discuss!

1. What do you think of online dating? Explain your thoughts.
2. Do you think that scammers would feel guilty after luring victims into offering monetary assistance? Why or why not?