

Love online

The classiest Italian restaurant in town. The top **destination** for winter sun. The best place to buy a new refrigerator. To find any of these things, chances are your first stop will be the Internet. Surely it seems only natural, therefore, to go online to look for love, too? Emma Carr, who runs a successful dating app, says, “We lead busy lives and technology helps us make the best possible use of our time. There’s no reason why it shouldn’t be used to smooth out the **rocky** road to romance.”

One of the most commonly heard criticisms of online dating is that it is **superficial** – that is, without actually meeting someone face-to-face, we are more likely to judge them based on their physical appearance. “But let’s be honest,” says Emma, “in real life, a lot of our **initial** attraction to someone is driven by the way they look. Think of online dating like walking into a virtual party. Remember, too, that someone’s profile photos tell us a lot about what is important to them.”

The other criticism is that it is the dating equivalent of an all-you-can-eat buffet. As the saying goes, there are plenty more fish in the sea – but just how many fish is *too many* fish? When presented with a seemingly **endless** number of potential partners, it can be tempting to keep filtering that pool down to the “ideal” man or woman. As a result, won’t we always be wondering whether there’s someone even better just another couple of clicks away?

“On the contrary, broadening someone’s dating horizon gives them a better chance of finding the right person. In the past, people were expected to marry someone from a similar background – husbands and wives were chosen based on criteria such as class, wealth, and race. Now, online dating plays a part in breaking down those **barriers** by making it easier for people from completely different backgrounds to get to know each other.” Emma points out. “Anyway, most people know that attraction isn’t something that can be defined by the filters on a dating app.”

1 Complete the sentences with the key words in bold from the text.

- a Joe didn't keep in touch with Laura after their first date. He thought she was _____ and cared too much about how she looked.
- b I thought he was a caring person, but apparently my _____ impression of him was wrong.
- c Bobby seems to spend _____ hours on dating apps yet never meets anyone he actually likes!
- d Their relationship has been _____ for a while, so they finally decided to end it.
- e Kim and Stephen come from very different backgrounds, but they've overcome the _____ and are celebrating their sixth anniversary next month.
- f Charles and Bonnie haven't settled on a _____ for their honeymoon yet – Charles wants to go to Italy while Bonnie prefers Thailand.

2 Talk to a partner and answer the questions.

- a Do you agree with Emma Carr that a person's profile photos on a dating app tell us a lot about them?
- b What are the pros and cons of dating apps?
- c Is it easier or harder to find a partner now than it was ten years ago?