

Cupid on Call: Past and Present

1 The tradition of matchmaking has existed in many societies for thousands of years.

? **Who** arranged matchmaking for young people?
Ans: **The old generation.**(especially **parents**)

? **Why** did they arrange matchmaking?
Ans: **They didn't consider young people mature enough to find a suitable partner for life**

? **What** things would the parents and matchmakers take into consideration?
Ans: **Educational level, the compatibility of the social and financial status of the two families, etc**

? **What** could be preserved?
Ans: **Social Classes.**

2 Professional matchmaking firms using computer technology are playing Cupid these days.

? **When** did the age-old matchmaking system begin to be despised?
Ans: It began to be despised **in the 20th century.**

? **Why** did arranged marriages begin to be despised?
Ans: **Because more and more young people insisted on the right to seek their own partners.**

? **Why** are professional matchmaking firms using computer technology back on track?
Ans: **As modern life becomes more hectic and complex, people don't have time.**

3 The Internet is increasingly replacing personal encounters as a means of matchmaking.

? **What** methods do online dating services use to sort through user information?
Ans: They use "**scientific**" methods to sort through user information.

Scientific Methods ?
educational background
financial status
physical features

? **How** do the services work to find the best possible matches? **What** are the two steps?
Ans: **(Step 1)** Users need to fill out a long questionnaire with tests that determine personality traits and values.
(Step 2) The data can be used to recommend potential matches for clients.

4 In fact, online matchmaking is becoming a booming industry around the world.

What are the two examples?
Ans: **(EX 1)** A survey revealed Taiwan's market for online dating services has enormous potential.
(EX 2) The number of couples trying the knot through one online matchmaking giant accounts for 2% of all marriages in the U.S.

5 Despite its popularity, high-tech online matchmaking also gives rise to various problems.

? **What** problems might occur?
Ans: **(Problem 1)** Users lying in their profiles or setting their sights too high.
(Problem 2) Online friendship failing to translate into real-life compatibility.

★ **What** do they mean?
That is to say, someone who seems to have everything you're looking for may actually be boring or annoying in real life.
On the other hand, someone whose profile you ignore or delete because he or she doesn't meet your standards might be just the special someone you are looking for.

6 Unless you really know what you need in a partner and a relationship, these matchmaking "tools" might not guarantee a lifelong relationship that satisfies both of you.