

### **I. Match the words to their synonyms:**

1. moody
2. caring
3. traditional
4. suspicious
5. casual
6. terrified
7. fancy

- a. conservative
- b. emotional
- c. kind-hearted
- d. like
- e. relaxed
- f. scared
- g. unsure

### **II. Now put the words from Exercise I (1-7) into the following sentences:**

1. She doesn't know if she should marry him or not and she's .....of making the wrong decision.
2. He really looks after his girlfriend and makes sure she has what she needs. He's so .....
3. Try not to be nervous just because it's a first date. Just be .....
4. She wanted to wear a purple dress at her wedding, but her mother is very ..... and wants her to wear white.
5. She says they're just friends, but I'm ..... I think there may be something more.
6. Agnes said that she ..... me, but I am happily married!
7. He's been very ..... since his girlfriend moved away. It's difficult to know how he is going to react to anything.

### **III. Skimming**

**Read quickly through the text and decide which Letters (A – C) are written by someone ...**

1. who is married?
2. who has no brothers or sisters?
3. who is living with a parent?
4. who is in a long-distance relationship?

### **Love in the time of COVID-19:**

#### **You can't lock the heart down.**

We asked readers to tell us about their love problems during the pandemic. Here's what they had to say...

#### **Letter A: Joshua, 31**

Penny and I met online before the pandemic started. It started off really **casual**, but because we're both working from home, we talk every day now. We talk more than if we were both at work. She's in Vienna, Austria and I'm here in Bristol, UK. I have to say, I'm so happy with her, but we've never met in person! Being locked down has given us chance to really get to know each other. We focus on who we really are, without all the complications of normal life. She told me last night that I make her smile and that she likes me. When we can travel again, I want to go to Vienna and maybe ask her to marry me! But should I?

#### **Letter B: Kate, 29**

My husband, Alex, hasn't taken the lockdown well. He's been **moody** and hates being indoors all the time. He loves hiking and mountain-biking, so all of this makes him feel very unhappy. He hardly speaks to me. So, I've been phoning and texting a lot with my friend from work, Paul. He's been really **caring** and understanding. I think I'm in love with him. I have to admit that I've started wondering if I should leave my husband to be with him. Paul recently told me that he really **fancies** me. I don't know what to do.

**Letter C: Janet, 20**

My Mum died a few years ago, so it's just me and Dad at home together, as I've not been able to go back to university with the pandemic. Because I'm his only child, I'm also his favourite one, and he wants me to take over his business in future. There is a small problem, as I've met a much older guy called Tom online and we've been chatting. I feel like we're perfect for each other, but my Dad's very **traditional**. I hide and often don't reply to Tom's messages for ages so I don't make Dad **suspicious**. I'm **terrified** Dad will find out and I'm also worried that Tom will get bored. I don't want him to leave me. What do I do?

**IV. Understanding the text**

**Answer the following questions, true or false:**

1. Joshua started his relationship with Penny during the pandemic.
2. Joshua and Penny have kissed.
3. Penny hasn't said how she feels about Joshua.
4. Kate's husband enjoys being outdoors.
5. Kate has a good relationship with her husband.
6. Paul and Kate see each other in person.
7. Before the pandemic, Janet was at University.
8. Janet's father owns a business.

**V. Talking point**

**In pairs, answer the following questions.**

- What advice would you give to Joshua in Letter A?
- What advice would you give to Kate in Letter B?
- What advice would you give to Janet in Letter C?

**Discussion:**

1. How important is it for people to spend time with friends rather than family? Why?
2. Do you think it's better to show your feelings or to hide them?
3. Some people say that laughter is a good form of therapy. What do you think?

**VI. Extension activity**

**Read this extra letter about someone in lockdown.**

**Robert, 45** - After about the first month of lockdown, I started to notice my neighbour at the back of my house and she is just amazing. I had never seen her before because we were both working, but I started to see her every day. She's beautiful and I think she lives alone. In the summer, we talked in the back garden.

We got on really well and I really liked her. When it got colder, it was harder to see her. I really want to talk to her again. I don't want her to think I'm watching her, but I try to see her. I'm not sure what to do?

**What advice would you give to Robert?**