

This lesson is mostly built around snippets from Sweet Bobby podcast by Tortoise Media

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1. Have you ever experienced Internet scamming? What was it? Did you suffer any damage? Join some examples of Internet fraud/deception with their definitions.

identity theft

creating a fictitious online identity for the purposes of deception. This accounts are usually created in large numbers by a single controlling person or group. They are typically used for block evasion, creating false majority opinions, vote stacking, and other similar pursuits

work from home scam

this is a form of online deception that involves a fake identity to lure unknowing victims into a relationship

catfishing

to register for the scheme, you'll be asked to deposit a certain amount of money for job kit which is useful for the work. After the money is deposited, there will be no track of employers

lottery fraud

the fraudulent practice of using another person's name and personal information in order to obtain credit, loans, etc.

sockpuppeting/ sockpuppetry

fraudsters call you or send emails and messages stating you have won money. To receive it, you will be asked to transfer first some money online in the name of tax

Could you add more types of fraud to the list?

African catfish



Atlantic cod



2. Do you know where the term *catfish* comes from?

a) Read the sentences, try to put them in logical order, then listen and check

___ On the way the cod is kept alive, they are stored in big tanks on the ship. But by the time the cod gets to China, the flesh tastes bland and mushy.

___ One fisherman had a genius idea. If you could find a way to keep the cod swimming, then maybe you could improve the taste.

___ It sounds pretty unlikely, doesn't it? Wouldn't you just get one massive catfish left in the tank at the end of the trip?

___ Perhaps, unsurprisingly, it comes from a story about fish. And specifically about cod shipped from Alaska to China.

___ So, he put a catfish in the tank with the cod. Catfish eat cod, so now the cod had a reason to swim, and as a result, they stayed fresh.

b) Listen to this snippet and fill the gaps _____

It actually comes from a _____ filmed in _____, the one that _____ became the popular MTV show Catfish. In the film, husband of a woman who was _____ to be creating all these fake _____ online, he tells the story in order to _____ her actions. What he was saying was "like the catfish, his wife made life more interesting for the people she _____." So, maybe even the term catfish is a type of catfish – a positive spin on the behaviour that can actually have _____.

3. Read the excerpt from The Guardian article on the events covered by the podcast.

Drag and drop missing phrases into the correct places.

a handsome cardiologist

had been stolen

fell victim

wrapped imagination

never meeting in real life

Assi, who lives in London, _____ to a complex fraud that lasted eight years and involved up to 60 characters who only existed in the scammer's _____. At the centre was Bobby, _____ with whom Assi formed a close friendship that turned into romance despite _____. Bobby was a real person whose identity _____ by the scammer, eventually exposed as Assi's cousin Simran Bhogal.

Kirat Assi

For Assi, it all started in 2010, when she started talking to a cardiologist, called Bobby, via Facebook. As part of Britain's Sikh community, Assi describes her "very strong network of friends, cousins, aunts, and uncles", some of whom Bobby references in their conversations, as well as the claim that his brother used to date her second cousin to explain why she never questioned Bobby's identity.



4. Unjumble the questions, listen to the clip and answer them _____

a) /had been shot / when/ get a message to say / did Kirat/ that Bobby/?

b) _____
what / had been shot/ Bobby /happened to / after he/?

c) _____
/be alive again/ did he/ turn out to /how soon/ ?

d) _____
/put in/what/ was Bobby / programme/?

e) _____
/"resurrect" in/ did Bobby/what country /?

5. Listen and repeat every snippet, imitating in every possible way.

a) Bobby's declaration of love – that came four years after his first contact with Kirat. _____

- b) This wasn't some whirlwind love affair, this was a slow burn. _____
- c) Whoever was behind this deceit, they were patient. _____
- d) A few months later, on Valentine's Day 2015, Kirat and Bobby officially became a couple. _____
- e) And even then Kirat had reservations. _____

6. Listen to Kirat _____. What kind of feelings and thoughts did Kirat have back then?

What do the expressions relate to?

massive question mark

life expectancy

his next operation

granting his dying wish in a way

a very sick man